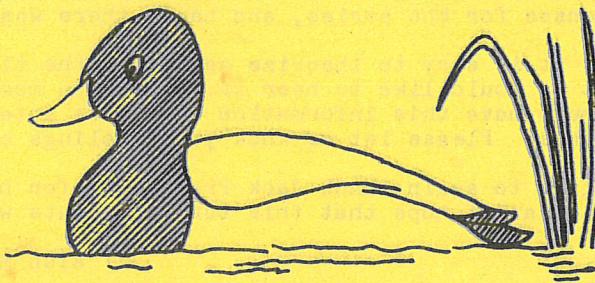


the lesser

Squawk



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Your National Audubon Society Chapter, October 1974, Volume XXV No. 9

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

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

PROGRAM

Speaker: Thomas S. Kohlsatt

Topic: South Carolina Heritage Trust Program



Mr. Kohlsatt is Co-ordinator of South Carolina Inventory of the Natural Conservancy. He will present slides and conduct an informal session on the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program. He wishes to discuss informally with local people the areas of interest to them.

This is the first meeting of the year and a good attendance will get us off to a nice start.

FIELD TRIP - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

A short trip to the Mt. Pleasant Causeway to study shorebirds will begin at 7:30 A.M. in front of the Charleston Museum. Julian Harrison and Perry Nugent will be your leaders. Come join them for a short bird trip to one of the better nearby birding areas.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The National Audubon Society's Southeastern Regional Workshop is scheduled for November 1, 2, and 3, 1974 in Atlanta, Georgia. It will provide an opportunity for chapter leaders and members at large throughout the Southeast to meet with each other as well as many members of the National Audubon Society staff. Several workshops and panel discussions are scheduled on chapter interests, activities, and projects, and representatives of all chapters are expected to attend. For further information, contact your chapter president.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was with deep regret that the Executive Committee found it necessary to cancel the Audubon Wildlife Film Series. Up to one week before the first film, only 25 tickets had been sold. A minimum sale of 170 tickets was necessary to allow us to meet expenses for the series, and hence there was no alternative to this action.

I suppose it is easy to theorize as to why the tickets for the film series did not sell, but we would like to hear from you, the membership, why you did not support us? We must have this information before we attempt to schedule another series such as this. Please let me know your feelings on this subject.

I would like to again thank Jack Pratt, Jr. for his great effort in arranging the film series and I hope that this turn of events will not be discouraging.

Alan M. Bills

September Field Trip

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and late-blooming Orange-fringed Orchids were two of the treats provided to those enthusiastic CNHS members who participated in the shortday field trip on September 14, 1974. With the mud flats at Moore's Landing as the ultimate target for the day, several initial stops were made at promising places along Sewee Road and also at the freshwater pond near the Landing entrance. In addition to the orchids, many fall flowers were in bloom in the open pine savannas along the road. Characteristically, this habitat also provided close studies of Bluebirds, Brown-headed Nuthatches, a Wood Peewee, and the Woodpecker to mention only the more interesting species. The Red Cockaded was seen at the nesting colony near the old sawdust pile where five individuals of this endangered species were observed, two at very close range. At the edge of a small water-filled borrow pit near the nesting colony, two tiny recently metamorphosed Barking Tree-frogs glistened like two green and gold gems as they sat on the leaves of a small shrub in the early morning sun. The morning's activities were rounded out with leisurely views of shorebirds from the concrete pier at Moore's Landing. Pelicans, Oystercatchers, Willets, and a solitary Yellowlegs were a few of the species taking advantage of the mud flats exposed by a rapidly outgoing tide.

Those present on the trip were:

Nancy Chirich	Duncan Pringle
Coots Donaldson	Sandra Reinhardt
Emily Grimbll	Rosa Strait
Gerald Muckenfuss	Karen Sadler
Teddy Muckenfuss	John Thornbury
Lisa Muckenfuss	

Julian R. Harrison

Only a Dead Snake

This afternoon I lost a valued ally. My next-door neighbor's maid killed a large Yellow Rat Snake. Of course, to her it was a "Water moccasin". Brought to me for identification, I am convinced it was the same Rat Snake previously and frequently noted in my yard, where its presence was occasionally betrayed by extra-noisy Blue Jays. Here gardeners had been instructed to leave it unmolested. It seemed rather unafraid, although if handled roughly, would bite in self-defense. These snakes tame quickly, and with proper care make good pets.

If you find unwanted, harmless, snakes on your premises, is it too much to urge that it be captured unharmed, and released in a suitable area? Obviously, poisonous

Philatelic Corp., 48 W. 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10036

Forest Mining Regs Show Promise Nat'l Audubon's Rocky Mountain Representative Robert K. Turner has commented on the proposed U.S. Forest Service rules relating to mining on National Forest lands. Although the proposed rules leave too many loopholes, they would present a significant challenge to the mining industry and encourage reclamation and control of further abuses.

A Case In Point The Aluminum Company of America is among the canning and bottling companies that have opposed Oregon "Bottle Bill"-type legislation that would, in effect, make aluminum cans as well as other non-returnable containers obsolete. Conservationists have been saying that, among other things, throwaway cans are a waste of metal. Now Alcoa, not surprisingly, reports a shortage of aluminum. It intends to cease production of household aluminum foil - but to go right on making throwaway aluminum cans.

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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.

snakes must be killed, as a safety precaution.

Rat snakes feed mainly on rats, mice, and birds. (Some people, including the undersigned, feed on poultry and game birds). Several snakes, including rattlers and moccasins, can prove effective controllers of house rats (largely Norway).

The great amount of damage done by rats has often been pointed out, and any householder can estimate the damage and nuisance he suffers from their presence. Thus some aid from Rat Snakes, when present, should not be refused. Acknowledged is the fact that these snakes, given the opportunity, will take chicken eggs on occasion. I believe this means, per snake, an average of two hen eggs per week, during the laying season. Cost? Say eight dozen eggs at fifty cents a dozen. That totals four dollars. Does that sound high? Did you ever call a professional exterminating company? And, what could possibly be more professional than a live Rat Snake?

Years ago, in keeping a small flock of chickens for table use, I not only tolerated and protected the few local rat snakes, but brought home and released, over two or three years, at least a dozen Rat, Corn, and Pine Snakes. These were surplus snakes donated to the Charleston Museum's live collection. While we were deprived of a few eggs from time to time, we benefitted greatly by insuring a nearly rat-free yard.

On one occasion, the presence of a large, handsome, Corn Snake in the rear portion of a tool draw drew piercing, heart-rending shrieks from a lady toolborrower. It was noted too that a sizeable rat snake proves a good deterrent to unwanted stray cats. Our pet cat soon learned to ignore, or at least not court, the seldom seen snakes.

Many people fear and hate snakes of all kinds. With some this even appears natural and unavoidable. (This reaction strongly applies in many cases of people versus people). Perhaps this attitude will be overcome only by consideration, thoughtfulness, and knowledge.

Not for one moment am I advocating that anyone handle or even closely approach an unknown snake. If you are not positive of its identity, leave it strictly alone. Here it may be of aid to point out that our poisonous snakes (the rattlers and moccasins), excluding the brightly-colored little Coral Snake, have (1) broad heads (as have many harmless water-snakes) and a pit on the side of the head, between and below the eye and nostril. (2) Our rattlers and moccasins have vertical pupils and in our harmless snakes the pupil is round. (3) A further distinction occurs in the rows of scales on the underside of the tail. In these poisonous snakes these scales are in one row (one row - one word - poisonous). In all of our harmless snakes the scales beneath the tail are arranged in two rows (two rows - two words - not poisonous). Question: Who is going to look under a live snake's tail? Perhaps only qualified herpetologists and half-wits. But surely in a case of snake-bite, and with the snake dead, a careful checking can prove a great relief or serve as an urgent warning for quick action.

However, before becoming unduly alarmed consider the following report (1967): North Carolina showed 19 cases of snake-bite per 100,000 people annually: next was Arkansas, 17: Texas, 15: Georgia 13: West Virginia, 11; and Mississippi and Louisiana, 10. I do not have figures for South Carolina, but believe they would fall between those for North Carolina and Georgia. That is, about 15 per 100,000 people.

In this area the poisonous Coral Snake is seldom seen, unless dug up by chance. A small (usually under twenty inches long), brightly colored snake with black, yellow, and red bands, with the anterior portion of the head black. The Coral Snake should not be confused with the smaller Scarlet and Scarlet King Snakes. Both of these are marked somewhat like the Coral Snake, but have red snouts. Both are harmless.

Yes, I am certain I lost a valued ally this afternoon.

E. Burnham Chamberlain
Emeritus Curator
The Charleston Museum

Jacquementia

Blooming now, is a rather strange (although by no means the strangest) member of the morning-glory family (Convolvulaceae). Its unusual feature is the clustering of its flowers in a dense head of bright green sepals and leafy bracts, the former being very hairy: so that the entire fifty-cent-sized structure somewhat resembles a verdant powder-puff. The sky-blue flowers open at staggered intervals throughout several days, which renders the plant less than showy.

Jacquementia tannifolia, due to its infrequent occurrence and unassuming status in our flora, seems to have no common name, at least not in this area. It is an annual plant to be sought along fields and roadsides, where its twining stems wind through low growth. It is decidedly uncommon in S. C., but is found in much of the American tropics, where, presumably, it is more abundant.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

The Sky-Watchers' Guide

Perhaps some of our Sky-watchers, in early July, were vacationing in north central or northeastern North America. And, perhaps, they experienced witnessing a spectacular display of the Northern Lights.. What a thrill it must have been for them! This display was caused by giant sunspot activity, in which millions of tons of solar material were spewed into space. Charged particles of this material became trapped in the earth's magnetic fields surrounding the North and South Poles, and were quickly funneled downward where they interacted with and excited the molecules in the upper atmosphere. The beautiful, pulsating lights were thus produced.

The month of October is usually one of the pleasantest for Sky-watching. Much of summer's humidity is dissipated, so that cloudiness and rain are less likely to interfere, and cooler temperatures prevail. Those with keen eyesight may get a last glimpse of Mercury before twilight in the evening. On October 1, Mercury will reach its greatest eastern elongation, setting about 45 minutes after the sun. Soon after that date, it will be lost to sight for the rest of the month.

By the time it is dark, only one planet will be in view. There will be no mistaking Jupiter, the brightest object in the sky, except for the moon. About 35 degrees northwest of Jupiter, one of the bright stars of the Summer Triangle, - red Altair in Aquila, the Eagle, - will be located. Of the other two, Deneb in Cygnus the Swan will be on the meridian, and Vega in Lyra will be west of Deneb.

As the hours of the night go by, the constellations, together with Jupiter and the moon, move slowly on their curved paths across the sky from east to west. The Square of Pegasus, with Andromeda extending north-eastward from its upper left corner, climbs higher toward the meridian. There are only three fairly bright stars in Andromeda, (about as bright as the North Star). The one that is shared with the Square of Pegasus, represents her head; the second one, her body; and the third, her feet. Beyond her feet is Perseus, the A-shaped figure made up mostly of faint stars. More about these two constellations, next month.

By 11:00 P.M. during the first week in October, and progressively earlier as the month advances, bright Capella in Auriga will move higher into view in the north-east. At the same time, Saturn will appear above the horizon in the constellation

We are still a small committee but have lots of determination. We have chosen the preservation of the remaining sea islands as our project. All of our time and effort is reserved for this crucial situation. However there are so many other areas that need our attention as mentioned in the letter from Carlyle Blakéney. Certainly there are many of you who are well informed on one or more of these situations. We feel sure that somewhere among our 450 members, several people would enjoy studying one of these projects. What we need is a subcommittee to study any environmental issue that appears in our area. I urge you to get involved. It is amazing what a few interested and informed people can do. We should have more information in the Squawk about different issues. Perhaps you could submit an article to the Squawk each month informing the membership of a certain issue. Otherwise there are always hearings to attend as well as meetings. Nature needs more friends. It is our duty to safeguard the rights of nature. Please let me know if you are interested in giving some time or in writing an article which would help us all to better understand any environmental issue.

Anne Pratt

On Friday, October 4, tune your radio to 89.3 FM at 6:30 to hear Anne Pratt speaking on the Charleston Natural History Society.

"Audubon Leader" - September 6, 1974

Progress on Public Lands Bill The House Public Lands Subcommittee has accepted some environmentalists' suggestions on its mark-up of the bill to authorize a set of guidelines for safeguarding many of the nation's public lands. The dangerous provisions that could have decimated many of America's National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and National Monuments have been taken out, though National Forests would still be subject to a new review provision. However, the bill is still log-jammed and the Subcommittee is thus holding up the Eastern Wilderness bill, endorsed by environmentalists and passed by the Senate as well. Only further degradation will ensue if these bills are allowed to die and then go through another year or two of legislative bickering.

Bad Amendment on Big Cypress Swamp Just before the Congressional recess, Senator Henry M. Jackson (Wash) was able to have the Senate Interior Committee kill an amendment that would have debilitated the House-passed H.R. 10088, the bill to establish a Big Cypress National Preserve. The amendment would have cut federal funding from \$116-million to \$40-million, increased the state of Florida's share beyond its pledge, and required a state land use plan for Big Cypress before the Federal funds would be made available. The amendment was offered by Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, Jr. (La.). H.R. 10088 was thus reported without the amendment; conservationists must work to beat back the amendment if it gets to the floor.

Five Poachers Caught Red-handed With 'Gator Hides Two men from North Carolina delivering 258 alligator hides to three men in a New Orleans warehouse have been caught and arraigned with charges ranging from \$60,000 to \$300,000 fines and possible jail sentences. They were in flagrant violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Lacey Act for possession of illegal hides and for transporting them across state lines. Warrants are being served on two more men in North Carolina. A \$50,000 refrigerated tractor-trailer rig was also seized.

Stamps Honor Protection Efforts The Bahamas is honoring the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Bahamas National Trust with four stamps based on photographs of native birds by Alexander Sprint IV, Nat'l Audubon Research Director. The Trust has taken over Nat'l Audubon's longstanding management of West Indian flamingo protection efforts in recent years, and Sprint now acts as consultant. First day covers are available from the Trust (Box 4105, Nassau, Bahamas) for a minimum donation of \$1.25. Souvenir sheets are 94¢ each from the Intergovernmental

culty.

8/13

to

8/26 Female summer tanager in yard. At first she was interested in bird bath and feeder, eating grain and sections of orange. Later she was more interested in yellow jackets coming from a nest in ground. The tanager acted like a fly-catcher. More power to her with the yellow jackets!

Peg and Ted Metcalf

The Osborn Report

August 21 15 Pelicans at Edisto Beach
 22 Shrike, Bluebirds, Parula Warbler (singing)
 23 Shrike, Kingfisher
 24 At our pond late P.M. Immature Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Bluebirds
 30 Female Summer Tanager on empty feeder at 7 P.M. Undisturbed by our presence on other side of open window.

Sept. 17 Shrike is still in yard. Was scolding at sunrise. Mississipi Vite overhead at same altitude as 2 Black Vultures.
 2 Wood Ibis at pond mid-day.
 18 2 Kestrels on power line in front of house
 19 2 Kestrels have claimed pasture for their territory just as two did last winter
 20 Mid-day walk through field, woods and around pond listed:

Anhinga	Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher
Immature Little Blue heron	Flicker	Bluebirds (2 families)
Heard Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Starling
Kestrel	Blue Jay	White-eyed Vireo
Solitary Sandpiper	Crow	Red-eyed Vireo
Mourning Dove	Chickadee	Palm Warbler
Bobwhite	Titmouse	Yellow Throat
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Wren	Summer Tanager (female)
Heard Barred Owl	Mockingbird	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
		2 small alligators in pond

Dot Glover

Conservation Committee

The following is an excerpt from a letter from our Southeastern Regional representative:

"In reference to the chapter's significant actions related to conservation, I would like to strongly urge that the leaders and membership more deeply involve themselves. As you know, the National Audubon Society does not limit its interest to ornithology but is involved in a diversity of conservation related matters. The chapter system was founded with one of the prime intentions being that these groups would work on local and state conservation issues in support of the National Audubon Society's objectives. There are a number of worthy projects in your area, such as Manoa Metals, Charleston Area Transportation System (CHATS), and the Santee Diversion Canal. I urge your chapter to follow such projects and constantly urge membership involvement through newsletter reports."

The Conservation Committee of the Natural History Society was formed one year ago.

of Gemini, the Twins. Since both Capella and Saturn are yellow in color, and brighter than the surrounding stars, their identity should be unmistakable. They can be distinguished by the fact that Capella, a star, sparkles; and Saturn, one of the planets, shines with a steady light.

The other two planets are lost to view, this month, since they have moved into the glare of the sun.

Elizabeth D. Simons

Savannah Wildlife Refuge, July 20, 1974

Seven birders met at the headquarters building of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge about 7 A.M. ready for an interesting morning in search of Purple Gallinules and King Rails. As most of you know there is a 5 mile series of roads on dikes that are set up as a nature drive for public use. The drive goes through a great variety of marsh habitat and some wooded areas. There are several canals that cross the roads where open water can be seen.

The first canal on the nature drive was where we began our search for Purple Gallinules. Before we were out of the cars two of these beautiful birds were observed in the grasses at water's edge. While standing on a water control gate, several more flew across the water, some within a few feet of a medium size alligator. In some small trees and shrubs on the right bank a pair of Orchard Orioles were catching insects perhaps to feed young. To the left of the canal is a road on a dike which allows easy access to an area of floating aquatic plants. Most of these plants are low growing kinds with clumps of grasses, lotus and waterlilies on them. This habitat seemed to be ideal for Gallinules and Herons during the summer. We saw Great Blue, Little Blue, Louisiana and Green Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, and Least Bitterns which could be studied as much as we liked and afforded us a great opportunity to learn much about each species. Both Common and Purple Gallinules were feeding in, around and on the lily and lotus pads. One very blue Purple Gallinule stood on a blue green lotus leaf that was directly under a beautiful yellow flower. The red bill with yellow tip and the light blue shield on the forehead of this bird were clearly visible as were the bright yellow legs. This particular scene was gorgeous. Many of the Gallinules had fuzzy black chicks with them and some half grown birds were often nearby.

Further along the nature drive is a large metal tepee where you can drive to the marsh edge and watch the activity which today was a family of Purple Gallinules including 2 adults, 2 half grown young and 3 fuzzy chicks. The immature Purple Gallinules are light brown while the immature Common are gray with a white side stripe.

The sky was very cloudy and rain seemed to be in the wind, so it was decided to head toward the section of road which goes through a stand of very nice mixed hardwoods. This must have been the sight of an old house because there are several cement posts on the ground in front of a large cistern which is always full of water. We had hoped to see many small birds here, but except for cardinals, Blue Jays, Kingbirds, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and a Hummingbird, the activity was rather slow. There is a large Oak near the cistern that has a Honey Bee hive in it which is always buzzing. The hole is a little above eye level making the hive easy to observe.

Next the road goes through several small wooded islands in the marsh. This is a good place to see warblers and buntings, but on this occasion the silhouette of an Indigo Bunting and a Painted Bunting were all we saw.

Along the east side of the drive, the Corps of Engineers is constructing a fresh

water control system which hopefully benefits the refuge and surrounding areas as much as it does the Engineers.

At the beginning of the construction area two Night Hawks were flying through a heavy mist. These interesting birds are more commonly seen at dusk, but sometimes fly during midday.

The ditch to our left was open except for some water lilies near the edge. At one point a Snowy Egret and a Mallard could be seen at the back of open marsh beyond the ditch. At another open area a Pectoral Sandpiper flew toward us, then turned and went back into the marsh.

In a grassy marsh at the intersection of a dike and the nature road are several Wood Duck boxes. Today one female Wood Duck was on top of her box. Between us and the Duck was a very large Ward's Heron. This particular specimen was surely one of the biggest light phase Great Blue Herons I have seen. An open pool of water directly in front of us had many lily pads at its edge where some Gallinules were feeding. There were several young birds of varying sizes. One group of black chicks had white tipped bills which was not typical of the others we had seen. Peterson says the young King Rails have white on the bill, so perhaps these white billed young were Kings.

About 11 A.M. we completed the Nature Drive and returned to the headquarters area where we continued to study birds along dikes behind some barns. There were more Gallinules, some Red-winged Blackbirds, two more Night Hawks, and an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

The birding was good as always at the Refuge, but there was a noticeable lack of Warblers, Hawks, and herons. Probably this was due to the threat of rain, but perhaps the high concentration of noxious gasses in the air was a factor. There were some factories on the horizon toward Savannah that were obviously pouring large amounts of chemicals into the air. It is disgusting to know big business is so inconsiderate of others it continues to pollute the air we breathe. I wonder if the poor quality of the environment around factories such as these is an indication of the quality of product produced inside? Hopefully this situation can be cleared up in the near future.

Perry Nugent

Bird Movements in October

Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
2	Gannet	10	Red-necked Grebe	21	Ring-necked Duck
	Red-breasted Merganser		Golden-crowned Kinglet		Henslow's Sparrow
	Brown Creeper	11	Common Scoter	22	Whistling Swan
	White-throated Sparrow		Bonaparte's Gull	23	Long-eared Owl
4	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13	Solitary Vireo	24	Surf Scoter
	Western Kingbird		Savannah Sparrow	25	LeConte's Sparrow
	Kirtland's Warbler	15	Red-throated Loon		Horned Grebe
5	Green-winged Teal		Yellow Rail	26	Short-eared Owl
	American Avocet	16	Snow Goose		Snowy Owl
	Ruddy Duck	17	Common Loon	29	Hooded Merganser
7	Canada Goose		Robin		Dovekie
8	Purple Finch	19	Rusty Blackbird	31	Canvasback
9	White-crowned Sparrow	20	Lesser Scaup		Greater Scaup
					Pine Siskin

Departures

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
6	Black Rail	19	Black-throated Green Warbler	27	Swainson's Thrush
9	Black Tern		Louisiana Waterthrush	28	Upland Plover
14	Acadian Flycatcher	20	White-rumped Sandpiper		Least Tern
	Roseate Spoonbill		Stilt Sandpiper		Cliff Swallow
	Summer Tanager		Least Bittern		Parula Warbler
15	Wilson's Petrel	22	Wood Thrush		Yellow Warbler
	Rough-winged Swallow		Blackburnian Warbler		Kirtland's Warbler
	Hooded Warbler		Northern Waterthrush	30	Pectoral Sandpiper
	Blue Grosbeak	23	Mississippi Kite		Eastern Wood Pewee
	Lark Sparrow	24	Kentucky Warbler		Sandwich Tern
16	Gull-billed Tern	25	Northern Phalarope		Tennessee Warbler
	Eastern Kingbird		Black-billed Cuckoo		? Purple Gallinule
17	Wilson's Plover	26	Great-crested Flycatcher		Roseate Tern
			Chestnut-sided Warbler		

Observations

Date	Observation	Location	Observer
Sept 2	Albino Tree Swallow	Boy Scout Camp Rd. Wadmalaw	Charlie Davis
3	Worm-eating Warbler	Sullivans Island	Mrs. Lewis Simons
4	Yellow Warbler	Sullivans Island	Mrs. Lewis Simons
5	Black & White Warbler	Sullivans Island	Mrs. Lewis Simons
6	Solitary Sandpiper	Nativity School-James Island	Margie Harrison
7	Restart	Fort Johnson Estates	Margie Harrison
8	2 Blackpoll Warblers	Sullivans Island	Mrs. Lewis Simons
18	Hooded Warbler	Fort Johnson Estates	Margie Harrison
22	Merlin	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
23	Red-necked Grebe	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	Merlin	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
	Kestrel	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
26	Yellow Warbler	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	Bobolink	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	3 Red-shouldered Hawks	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent

More from Ted Beckett:

There are large numbers of Blue-winged Teal, Palm and Pine Warblers in the area now, and Pied-billed Grebes are beginning to arrive. The Roseate Spoonbill is still on Kiawah. A nest of alligator eggs hatched September 15 on a Magnolia Gardens dike.

Editors Note:

The albino Tree Swallow is very interesting to me because I saw one over my house last year at about this same time. Do any of our readers know about the occurrence of albinos in swallows? Are there any records of albino birds living more than one year and perhaps breeding? I would welcome your thoughts on these two questions and any observations that you find interesting.

Observations From Battery Point, James Island

8/19	Two immature wood ibis feeding in creek
8/10	Brown thrasher entangled in large spider web. He was caught for some time. When Ted went to help him, he made a supreme effort and flew off with diffi-