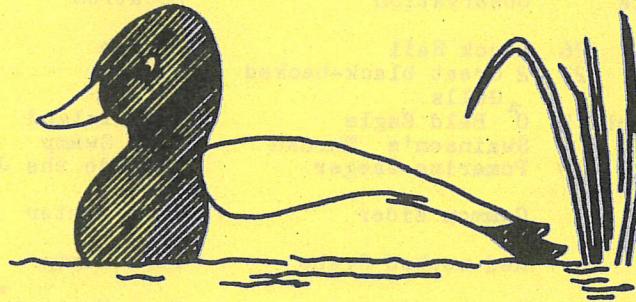


the lesser

Squawk



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Your National Audubon Society Chapter, April 1975, Volume XXVI No. 4

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, April 8, 1975 at 8PM

Charleston Museum Lecture Hall

PROGRAM

Slide Presentation on Congaree Swamp by John Cely

FIELD TRIP, SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1975

This month's trip will be to I'on Swamp Road-Willow Hall Road-Big Wambaw Swamp area of the Francis Marion National Forest. It will be a general purpose nature trip for birds, flowers, salamanders and any other types of flora and fauna that we find interesting. While primarily a half day trip, it is believed several groups such as the bird study group, might spend the afternoon studying that part of the lowcountry wildlife they are most interested in. Meet Julian Harrison at the Charleston Museum at 6:30 AM, bring lunch, bug juice and spend as long as you care to enjoying a spring day with mother nature and some of her most avid fans.

Spring Bird Count - 1975

The annual spring bird count will be held this year on Sunday, 27 April 1975. All members of the Society and their guests are invited to participate. The assembly point will be Gregorie's Service Station at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 17 and S.C. Hwy 41 north of Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 AM. Participants should bring lunch, rain gear, and plan to spend about eight hours in the field. The spring bird count is sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club, and unlike the Audubon Christmas bird count, no special fee is required of either members or guests. The same count circle is censused as at Christmas time, and participants will be grouped into 7-9 field parties, each headed by at least two experienced birders. In order that field parties may be assigned ahead of time, members and their guests who wish to participate are asked to notify Julian Harrison (795-1694) by Wednesday, 23 April 1975.



		<u>Observations</u>	
Date	Observation	Location	Observer
Jan 26	Black Rail	Kiawah	David Chamberlain
27	2 Great black-backed Gulls	Kiawah	David and Burnham Chamberlain
March 7	♂ Bald Eagle	Bear Island	Thomas Reeves
8	Swainson's Thrush	I'on Swamp	Pete Laurie
9	Pomarine Jaeger	Outside the Jetties	Dennis Forsythe and Company
	Common Eider	Fort Sumter	Dennis Forsythe and Company
	Red-necked Grebe	Fort Sumter	Dennis Forsythe and Company
20	Common Eider	Fort Moultrie	Julian Harrison's Class
	♂ Bald Eagle	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent and Robert Cuthbert
22	Swallow-tailed Kite	Fairlawn Plantation	Perry Nugent and Pete Laurie
	many Black-throated Green Warblers	I'on Swamp Road	Pete Laurie and Perry Nugent

Ted Beckett reports that the Fulvous tree ducks and a pair of Bald Eagles are still at Magnolia Gardens. He also has seen 3-4 Ospreys at the Garden.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Astronomers of today have the means of transporting us far out into space where we may see and learn about things not dreamed of by people of an earlier day. Yet, the amazing instruments developed for that purpose, - binoculars, telescopes, spectrometers, and radio telescopes, - would never have been invented without the two basic requirements which every serious Sky-watcher must have: a pair of good eyes, and comprehensive imagination. With only these tools, our pre-historic ancestors observed the night skies and discovered the beauty and orderliness that served to guide their daily living.

It is not likely that any Sky-watcher who was out-of-doors on the night of the Full Moon in February failed to observe the spectacular beauty of Earth's satellite as it rose in the east. A keen-eyed photographer, endowed with imagination, shared with newspaper readers his experience the next morning, when he watched the setting of the moon just as the sun rose above the opposite horizon.

The moon, one-fourth the size of our planet, is Earth's nearest neighbor in space, at a distance of 240 thousand miles. The light which reveals its beauty is not its own, but that of the sun which it reflects.

The sun, a million times larger than Earth, is a medium-sized star located 93 million miles distant.

As soon as the sun has set, Venus shines in the western sky, like a brilliant jewel against the afterglow. Often called Earth's "sister planet", Venus is only slightly smaller than Earth, and is nearer to us than any of the others. The carbon dioxide clouds which surround it catch and reflect with dazzling brilliance the light of the sun.

However, the first astronauts to reach the surface of Mars will be awe-struck by

lorado are sponsoring a "Grassland Institute" June 16-22 from Crow Creek Camp-ground on the Pawnee National Grasslands in northeast Colorado. The Institute will consist primarily of field work, which will relate historical, cultural and artistic views of the prairie, as well as its natural history. It is open to 40 persons, at least 18 years of age, who need not be Society members. For details write: Dr. Jim Wright, 1227 S. Quince Way, Denver, Colo. 80321.

Useful Directory. National Audubon's Nature Center Planning Division has just published the third revision of its Directory of Nature Centers and Related Environmental Education Facilities, listing 550 public and private facilities nationwide and in Canada. Cost is \$3 from the Nature Center Planning Division.

Youth Conservation Corps. The U.S. Depts. of Agriculture and Interior will again sponsor the Youth Conservation Corps, in which 8,500 boys and girls 15-18 will work on conservation projects around the country for an 8-week summer session. The jobs, which start in Mid-June, are in YCC camps on federal, state and territorial lands; pay is minimal. Some states have early deadlines, so apply now. To apply, write: Youth Conservation Corps, P.O. Box 2975, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Help for Condors. Hopper Mtn. National Wildlife Refuge, former 1,800-acre Hopper Ranch, has been established by the Fish & Wildlife Service to insure continuation of safe feeding grounds for the California Condor adjacent to the existing 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary (Los Padres National Forest) Ventura County.

The Baton Rouge Audubon Society has an offer for people who are coming to the New Orleans convention and who can come a day early or stay over for a look at the Atchafalaya Basin. Members of the chapter are prepared to take small parties by canoe into this fascinating swamp and marshland for day trips; there may be small charges to cover costs. Make your own arrangements directly with the chapter president, Clyde C. Lockwood: write him at Baton Rouge Audubon Society, Box 18635, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803, or talk to him at the Convention Hospitality Room.

SOUTH EAST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE

The South East Coast Environmental League will sponsor an Energy-Resources-environment Symposium at The Citadel, Charleston, S. C., on Friday, April 11, 1975, beginning at 12:30 P.M.

The aim of this meeting is to provide up-to-date environmental information about the South East Coast to students, educators, citizens, businessmen and governmental agencies; and all interested persons, and/or groups are invited to attend. For further information call: Dr. Richard D. Porcher, Jr., The Citadel, Charleston, S. C. - 803-577-6900

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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.

U.S. District Court Judge Charles Richey ordered the SEC to consider passage of the rules for the benefit of "ethical investors" in a suit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and two other public interest groups against the SEC, which had denied their request for disclosure of such information. Written public comments are invited until May 14 c/o George A Fitzsimmons,

GOVERNMENT'S TWO TOP ENVIRONMENTALISTS TO SPEAK AT CONVENTION

The two highest-ranking environmental officials of the United States Government will be among the speakers at the National Audubon Convention April 17-21 in New Orleans. Russell E. Train, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency will address the general session Saturday morning and Russell W. Peterson, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, will be the speaker at the banquet on Sunday.

Come learn from the experts about the wildlife and environmental resources of the Gulf Coast, come on field trips and see for yourself. For more details, read the ad on pages 102-3 of the March issue of AUDUBON, now in the mail. Then choose your field trips, fill out the registration coupon and mail it in.

WE TESTIFY IN BATON ROUGE AND IN WASHINGTON ON DDT Clyde C. Lockwood, President of Baton Rouge Audubon, and Maureen Hinkle, pesticides monitor in Washington for National Audubon and the Environmental Defense Fund, have testified in opposition to Louisiana's emergency request to spray 2.25-million tons of DDT on about 450,000 acres to control the tobacco budworm on cotton. Lockwood pointed out that the request did not show alternatives had been sufficiently considered. Among other things he cited the harmful effects of DDT on wildlife and the problems of atmospheric spread of DDT. Hinkle also pointed to 1974 crop failures that were not related to the budworm; other agriculture methods that have destroyed the pest; harmful effects on human health, and the setbacks such widespread "emergency" use would cause to integrated pest management. "All witnesses at the 1972 DDT hearings agreed that DDT is incompatible with integrated control since it both kills beneficials and conveys resistance in pest species to the less persistent insecticides, thereby requiring ever greater applications of pesticides. To grant this 1975 request is to go backwards a decade," said Hinkle.

NAT'L CONFERENCE ON URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN NYC The National Audubon Society is one of the sponsors of the National Conference on the Urban Environment to be held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in New York City April 1-2. Urban, civil rights, labor and environmental leaders will participate with the goal of forming options for cooperative citizen action to improve urban areas in the United States. Russell Train, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, will be the luncheon speaker April 2. In ten simultaneous workshops, a mayors' forum, and general sessions, the participants will discuss such problems as environmental health, housing, air pollution, recreation/open space, urban environmental education, and population.

There will be follow-up regional meetings September-December of this year, and the findings will be presented to the 1976 United Nations "Habitat" Conference on Human Settlements to be held in Vancouver, Canada. NCUE Chairman is Rene Dubos. Registration is \$25.00, and National Audubon chapters and members in the greater New York area have been alerted. This is an important conference and one of the first of its kind; for registration information, write NCUE National Bureau, Council on the Environment of New York City, 51 Chambers Street, New York 10007 (212) 566-0990.

Grasslands Study. The Denver Audubon Society and the University of Northern Co-

a much more brilliant object than Venus. At a distance of 186 million miles from the sun, these astronauts will see what appears to be a magnificent double star. The "double star", in reality, will be the earth with its moon. The water, which covers almost 3/4 of Earth's surface, reflects even more dazzlingly the brilliant light of the sun.

Once more on Earth, let us watch the April sky as the evening light fades. At the beginning of the month, the only other planet that we shall be able to see at this time is Saturn, high in view and near the meridian. During the last week of the month, Mercury will appear low in the west at twilight. Venus will be much higher, not setting until after 10:00 p.m. (All times mentioned are Eastern Standard).

At mid-month, Leo the Lion is straddling the meridian, as Gemini, Orion, and brilliant Sirius approach their setting.

In the east, the kite-shaped figure of Bootes is now in good view, with the first magnitude orange-red star, Arcturus, in the "tail". More about this constellation, next month.

For beginning Sky-watchers, April is an excellent time to locate the North Star by the "Pointers" in the bowl of the Big Dipper, since all three stars are on the meridian from 9 - 11 o'clock at the beginning; 8 - 10 on the 15th; and 7 - 9, at the end. The Big Dipper, made up of seven fairly bright stars, appears to be upside-down, with the tip of its curved handle pointing eastward. This is the most conspicuous part of the much larger constellation of Ursa Major, the Great Bear. It requires imagination to see the Bear, for most of the stars are faint. The Dipper represents the animal's haunches and tail. Apparently, the Bear is walking along, with three feet down, and one held up out of view on the other side of its body. The three paws are indicated by three pairs of stars in a row, extending diagonally from northwest to southeast. The middle pair are a little south of the zenith, which, when one faces north, gives the Bear the appearance of walking upside-down!

Two of the planets are "Morning Stars", this month. Between 3:00 and 3:30 o'clock, Mars will rise south of east, and will remain in view until the first faint light of dawn. By the middle of the month, Jupiter, which was lost to view in March, will appear about an hour before sunrise, and earlier each day thereafter.

As we identify Mars by its reddish color and its steady light, we may conjure the sight of the earth as if we would be looking toward home from that distant neighbor!

Elizabeth D. Simons

New Population of the Mud Salamander Discovered

On 9 March 1975, Derrill Seavey and Roger Lambert located a population of the Mud Salamander, Pseudotriton montanus, on a seepage slope in the vicinity of Summerville, S. C. The Mud Salamander is rare in the lower Coastal Plain of our state; only three other populations are known. This population is the second to be located in the Summerville area, and is a particularly encouraging find, for the first (discovered by Roger Lambert a few years ago) occupied a site that is now a housing development. It is to be hoped that the habitat of the present population can be conserved, and/or that other populations in relatively protected areas can be found.

A First Hand Osborn Report, March 15, 1975

The sun was peaking over the trees as we began searching for interesting flora and fauna at Dot and Leonard Glover's ranch. In their front yard was a lovely large live oak that looked like bird heaven although it was quiet. Nearby were a few pines from where a Yellow-throated Warbler was signing reveille, although reluctant to show off his new spring suit in the cool early morning.

After trying in vain to find the bugler, we began walking a dirt road toward a hunt camp behind Dot's house, stopping to admire a group of chokeberry bushes in full bloom, the interesting arrangement of cow cakes and fire ant condominiums in the pasture, and to wonder where the birds were. The lack of birds was short lived. At the hunt camp the trees were full of birds including Goldfinches, Yellow-throated and Myrtle Warblers, Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers, Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Bluejays and one lovely Bluebird who sat at the top of a tree giving us an idea of things to come. There were White-throated Sparrows and Towhees near the clubhouse and dozens of Robins looking for breakfast as we passed through a gate into the pasture. One Robin had a mottled white and orange breast, which he seemed ashamed of and tried his best to keep us from observing. While we were watching this unusual bird, a Parula Warbler sang from a tree near the gate, but flew before it was clearly seen by our group. Soon several Parulas, the first of 1975, could be heard, but none were seen. On our right what sounded like a Mockingbird was singing in the brush. To our surprise a Brown Thrasher flew to a tree top and sang an aria that would have been hard for its singing cousin to duplicate. Further along the woods' edge, two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were busy working the tops of oak trees, that were in front of a large dead pine which appeared to be the home of a pair of Redheaded Woodpeckers. In a few minutes the trees were alive with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Myrtle Warblers, Chickadees, Titmice and Gnatcatchers. Deep in the brush a Solitary Vireo was singing and flitting from limb to limb making it difficult to observe him.

The morning was turning into a lovely day and since we could hear Pine, Yellow-throated and Parula Warblers singing along a road at the corner of the field, we decided to try walking in that direction. Unfortunately, most of the birds were on the east side of us which meant looking into the sun to see them. However one small drab bird flew across the road behind us, which Dot and I watched for several minutes, concluding from the olive back, greenish yellow lightly streaked breast and lack of wing bars that it was an Orange-crowned Warbler.

At the gate to a lovely pond we could hear a White-eyed Vireo calling from deep in the brush and see many Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warblers catching insects from the brush, grass and Mosquito Fern in the pond. Mosquito Fern is the little green and red plant that we saw floating on the pond. Across the pond a Green Heron was playing "hide and seek" as were a Kingfisher and a Great Egret. In a tree by the first bend in the dike was a very brilliantly colored Bluebird. His feathers were extremely blue and orange. Several Wood Ducks flew up as we walked along and four Hooded Mergansers circled and came by us at close range.

Near the back right corner of the pond a Yellowthroat modeled his new spring outfit for all to see, accompanied by the distant song of a Red-shouldered Hawk. Another White-eyed Vireo played "Peek-a-boo" in the swamp below the spillway and a Chickadee could be seen going in and out a hole in a broken tree. Four Little Blue Herons came over our heads, lit in a dead tree and people watched until we left. In a few minutes Turkey Vultures, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks began soaring high on thermal air currents.

Our return to Dot's house was along a wooded road where birds were strangely quiet, however several spring flowers and plants made the walk interesting. Many small

Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

LAND USE MEASURES INTRODUCED; HOUSE HEARINGS MAR/APR Rep. Morris K. Udall (Ariz.) has introduced H.R. 3510, the Land Use and Resource Conservation Act of 1975. It is a streamlined version of the Land Use Policy and Planning Act opposed by industry and development interests and defeated on the House Floor last year. Modeled after the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the new bill would initiate a voluntary system of land use planning and would provide federal grants for states to develop and administer land use programs. States would have to meet certain criteria over a six-year period to qualify for aid. State plans must include procedures to deal with areas of critical state concern, prime food and fiber lands, key facilities, developments of regional impact, energy supply, and conservation. State advisory councils including elected local officials would be set up.

The bill is intended to balance environmental and development concerns and it aims at a compromise with last year's legislation. Environmentalists generally endorse the bill, though they would like to see some provisions strengthened. It is hoped that the compromises will prevent delays in mark-up and allow early passage. Hearings are scheduled for March 16/17, 24/25 and two days in early April by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

PUBLIC WORKS JOBS BILL COULD WAIVE IMPACT STATEMENTS The House Committee on Public Works and Transportation is rushing work on H.R. 3067, the Emergency Public Works Acceleration Act, which would permit the elimination or reduction on various procedural requirements for highways, dams, and other public works projects, including mass transit. As drafted, the bill would give federal agency heads authority to waive the National Environmental Protection Act's impact statement requirements and other procedural safeguards, although the sponsors contend that is not its intent. Hearings were held March 12/13 and quick action is expected on the bill.

Though environmentalists are in full sympathy with the bill's objective of relieving unemployment, they contend that environmental laws need not be undermined for the sake of employment and are urging that H.R. 3067 be rewritten to meet this concern. Committee Chairman: Rep. Robert E. Jones (Ala.), House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20510.

REP. LEGGETT INVESTIGATES F&WS LAW ENFORCEMENT Representative Robert L. Leggett (Cal.) new Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and Environment, House Committee on Merchant Marine & Fisheries, is investigating the notorious problem of lack of funding in the law enforcement divisions of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In a letter to Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton dated February 19, Leggett tells of meetings with conservationists and sportsmen and their charges among other things of enforcement planes grounded for lack of funds for gas, dismissal of law suits for lack of funding to pursue them, and subsequent abuses of hunting laws when word of the enforcement division's problems got out. "I find these charges profoundly shocking," said Leggett, and he asked Secretary Morton for a "detailed and comprehensive report" on the Fish & Wildlife Service's law enforcement program. "If the conditions alleged to me are true," he wrote, "then we have an alarming situation that demands appropriate and immediate corrective action." Representative Leggett succeeded Rep. John D. Dingell (Leader 1/24/75) as chairman of this important wildlife protection committee.

S.E.C. CORPORATE DISCLOSURE HEARING SET FOR APR. 14 The Securities and Exchange Commission will hold a public hearing April 14 in Washington, D.C. to consider adoption of new rules requiring corporations to report annually on the environmental effects of their activities, on their equal employment record, and on other areas.

Tenn., where there was no nearby airport and the droppings were not so close to human dwellings. And, finally, we completely reject the argument that blackbirds must be controlled to protect agriculture; there are other ways to reduce the farmer's losses.

In short, we did not oppose spraying in one exceptional case, but that does not mean we approve of such a measure as anything but an emergency last resort.

Cetacean News. The National Whale Symposium, a public conference to explore past, present and future relationships of men with the great whales and other cetaceans, will be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, November 9-12 1975. Elvis J. Stahr, president of Indiana U. prior to becoming Audubon president, will speak there November 9. Nat'l Audubon and its Indiana Sassafras chapter are sponsors, along with other national conservation organizations. For information, write: The National Whale Symposium, 605 S. Fess St., #3, Bloomington, Ind. 47401; phone (812) 339-1484...." In Search of the Bowhead Whale" is a visually exciting 16mm color film on the bowhead's plentiful past and precarious present. Rental is \$30 per showing from the National Film Board of Canada, 1251 6th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10009.

Setback for Clean Air. The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. ruled against Environmental Protection Agency regulations for a phase-down reduction of lead in gasoline that had been scheduled early this year. The suit was filed by four gasoline additives manufacturers and the National Petroleum Refiners Association; the court's majority opinion said there was insufficient proof that lead emissions cause a significant hazard to human health. EPA is considering responses.

Coyote vs. Sheep Study. Kansas farmers and ranchers are suffering economic loss from coyote predation on sheep. With the assistance of a two-year \$20,725 Nat'l Audubon grant (from Whittell funds), Kansas State University (Manhattan) biologists will study coyote damage control and help develop livestock management recommendations.

AUDUBON LEADER - March 14, 1975

NATIONAL AUDUBON AIMS A QUESTION AT MR. MORTON: IS INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SETTING THE STAGE FOR EXPLOITATION OF ALASKA'S ARCTIC WILDLIFE RANGE?

Is the Interior Department setting the stage for transfer of the Arctic National Wildlife Range to the Bureau of Land Management so this magnificent wildlife area can be more readily opened to pipelines and other exploitation? That's the question our Executive Vice President Charles H. Callison puts squarely in a letter sent this week to Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton.

Last month Morton approved transfer of three wildlife ranges from the Fish & Wildlife Service to BLM, a decision which National Audubon has protested and urged him to reconsider. (The three are the Charles Sheldon, Charles M. Russell and Kofa ranges; for background, see Leader, 6/2/74 and 7/26/74.) And in a recent trip to Alaska, Callison found it is common belief on the part of Federal employees and concerned citizens there that Alaska's Kenai National Moose Range is next on the list for transfer to BLM.

In the letter Callison asks: "Is this all really stage setting for similar action affecting the Arctic National Wildlife Range in order that pipelines may be driven more readily through that great wildlife and wilderness reservation and its minerals exploited without consideration of wildlife and wilderness values?" The currently proposed route for an Alaska/trans-Canadian gas pipeline would cut across the Arctic Range. Support our stand with your own letter to Secretary Morton,

Sundews were found in one area. The Sundew is one of the "meat" eating plants that captures insects in a sticky red substance that occurs on its leaf hairs. A strange plant which consisted of a thin stalk about three inches high with a bright yellow flower on top was observed growing near the Sundews. It is one of the terrestrial Bladderworts which has subterranean stems and leaves with small bladders used to catch tiny animals. Several lovely Crabapples added color to the landscape.

While walking through a field several Tree swallows and 60 - 70 White Ibis flew over us. On the ground were several Meadowlarks and many sparrows. One Kestrel divided his time flying from one side of the field to the other and sitting in tree tops wagging his tail.

Back at the house we found Song, Field and White-throated Sparrows feeding along a hedge row and the Yellow-throated Warbler we had heard earlier was really performing in his spring finery. He seemed to think the giant live oak was his stage and he was the only one capable of using it.

This half day trip under the guidance of Dot Glover was very enjoyable and we wish to thank her for allowing us to see and enjoy the flora and fauna of the Glover ranch. Special thanks go to the dog and the calico cat who added an interesting bit of color to our hike. My count was 51 species of birds which, along with the unusual and interesting plants, the fellowship with C.N.H.S. members and guests, and Dot's hospitality made this a lovely morning observing some more of Mother Nature's fine work.

Perry Nugent

Sweetleaf

The creamy, scented blooms of sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*) grace the early spring forests and call our attention to this small tree or shrub which represents a family primarily common to Asia and Australia. In fact, the sweet-leaf is the only member of its family in the U.S., being found from Delaware to Texas and inland to elevations of 3,500 ft. This semi-evergreen plant prefers moist soils, particularly those on the edges of swamps and pine savannas.

Its common name stems from the use of its sweet-tasting leaves as a masticatory, which was once employed on hot summer days. The name *symplocos* means a connection, referring to the united bases of the stamens. *Tinctoria* means of the dyers but none of my references gave any use of this plant as a dye substance.

There are about 300 species in the family *Symplocaceae*, and all belong to the genus *Symplocos*. An easily cultivated species is *S. paniculata*, a native of China, Japan and the Himalayas. It bears fragrant flowers which are followed by bright blue berries that are said to be very attractive to birds.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

Bird Movements in April

Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
1	Solitary Sandpiper	8	Sandwich Tern	19	Gray Kingbird
	Swainson's Warbler	10	Purple Gallinule	21	Swainson's Thrush
	Yellow Warbler		Bobolink	22	Red Phalarope
	Blackpoll Warbler	12	Black-throated Blue Warbler	23	Black-billed Cuckoo
3	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	13	Gray-cheeked Thrush	24	Chestnut-sided Warbler
4	Cliff Swallow	15	Cape May Warbler	27	Kirtland's Warbler
	Indigo Bunting		American Redstart	28	Bank Swallow
6	Blue Grosbeak	17	Magnolia Warbler	Early	Scarlet Tanager
7	Worm-eating Warbler	18	Blue-winged Warbler	Mid	Gull-billed Tern

Departures

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
2	Whistling Swan	16	Robin	27	Broad-winged Hawk
3	Old Squaw	17	Raven		Solitary Vireo
5	Virginia Rail	18	Canvasback		Purple Finch
6	Glaucous Gull	20	Common Goldeneye	28	Whip-poo-will
7	Rough-legged Hawk	21	Pine Siskin		Red-breasted Nuthatch
8	Ipwich Sparrow		Brown-headed Cowbird		Palm Warbler
9	Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	Water Pipit	29	Rusty Blackbird
11	Baltimore Oriole	24	Bufflehead	30	Pintail
13	Henslow's Sparrow		Winter Wren		Blue-winged Warbler
14	Brown Creeper Phoebe	26	Blue Goose	Early	Greater Scaup
16	Common Merganser		Parasitic Jaeger	Late	Short-eared Owl
			Louisiana Waterthrush		

The following have been observed one or more times during April in our area

Golden-winged Warbler	Black-necked Stilt	Dickcissel
Bay-breasted Warbler	Lapland Longspur	Lark bunting
White-tailed Kite	Yellow-headed Blackbird	

AUDUBON LEADER - February 28, 1975

CALLISON SCORES OFF-SHORE OIL PROGRAM AS 'ILL-CONCEIVED, MISLEADING': INTERIOR MOVES TOWARD LEASES IN CALIFORNIA AND ALASKA BUT IS BLOCKED IN EAST BY SUIT

At hearings on the proposed expansion of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing, Executive Vice President Charles H. Callison voiced the Society's strong objections. Although the U.S. "needs urgently to narrow the gap between domestic energy, production and consumption," both now and in the long run, he said, "the National Audubon Society objects to the ill-conceived plan as described in the draft environmental impact statement. We object because it will mislead the public into thinking government is doing something to solve the energy problem when in fact government has not even formulated a realistic energy policy or implemented obvious and practical methods of conserving energy."

Callison was speaking at the Trenton, New Jersey hearings of the Bureau of Land Management. Hearings were also held in California and Alaska. At all three hearings conservationists, states and counties almost all objected to the program for various reasons, particularly lack of time to plan. Callison pointed to

25¢ to 10¢ a ton, permit mining in National Forests, and allow for waivers of reclamation standards by mining companies. Some 70 amendments incorporating the Administration's proposals and some oil companies' suggestions will be debated in the House Committee mark-up alone.

The fate of the legislation may be in the hands of the newly elected Representatives and Senators who will provide a swing vote. Attention is being focused on educating these new members and reminding former supporters about the complex issues involved. It seems likely that the big battles will come on the floor rather than in committee and the House floor fight could begin by the middle of March.

IMPACT STATEMENT ON DREDGING IN S.C. STILL INADEQUATE The Army Corps of Engineers held hearings February 20 in South Carolina on the permit application and final environmental impact statement for dredging in Port Royal Sound by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company. National Audubon challenged the statement once again as inadequate. We have fought the ill-conceived project step by step from its inception. Audubon Washington Representative Cynthia Wilson testified at the hearings, saying the statement fails to discuss and evaluate the direct and indirect primary and secondary effects of the proposed project. It also fails to discuss reasonable alternatives. She said that since South Carolina is still in the midst of planning for its coastal zone, we urge the Corps not to make a decision until South Carolina's coastal zone plans are completed. The decision is expected to go before Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway within two months' time.

AERIAL SHOOTING OF WOLVES PLANNED IN ALASKA AGAIN

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game plans to kill from 50 to 80 per cent of the wolves in a large area south of Fairbanks by shooting them from the air. Officials say the moose population is depleted and should be protected and allowed to recover. As the Leader went to press, a temporary court injunction was preventing the Department from going ahead with its plan.

The Alaska Conservation Society questions whether the moose population is really lower than it should be, and says that pending further study the Fish & Game Department should close the area to all hunting, rather than taking the "extreme measure" of aerial shooting of wolves. Perhaps the worst feature of the plan, says the ACS, is that it might lead to similar programs in other areas of Alaska where there are "real or imagined shortages of game animals." Support for their position could go to Gov. Jay Hammond, State Capitol, Juneau, Ak, 99801.

NATIONAL AUDUBON'S STAND ON ARMY'S BLACKBIRD SPRAYING The blackbird roost at Fort Campbell, Ky., where the Army killed a large number of starlings, cowbirds, grackles and red-winged blackbirds by spraying them with a wetting agent, was located close to a military housing area and also close to two airports, one military and one civilian. In the opinion of National Audubon's scientific staff, this roost presented a genuine threat to human health (through disease) and safety (possible plane crashed), and the Society therefore did not enter an objection to the Army's spraying plan. But it is important that our stand in this one case not be misconstrued.

To begin with, the Fort Campbell problem never should have happened. The roost developed because the Army set out 15,000 acres of pines in what is normally a hardwood area, making an attractive roost-site for blackbirds. Our long-run solution--which we strongly urged on the Army--was to thin those pines. Secondly, we insist that destroying roosts is, at most, justifiable only in a very few cases where there is no other feasible way to protect human safety and health. National Audubon entered formal objection against the Army's plans to spray another roost, in Milan,

threats to fisheries and other coastal industries and resources "because the Departments of Interior and Commerce haven't had the time to inventory them or design ways to protect them." He scored the "unseemly haste" in view of the fact that states are still in the early stages of planning under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

U.S. Geological Survey Should Do the Drilling

He asserted that the alleged competition in bidding becomes "a joke" because the oil companies that are going to bid know far more than the U.S. Government about the prospects for discovery and production. He urged that the plan be withdrawn and suggested that instead, the U.S. Geological Survey or another appropriate agency "be geared up as quickly as possible to do the exploratory drilling required to find out where the oil and gas deposits really are," and that this be accompanied by studies needed to prepare an "adequate" statement of the environmental impacts of development.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton was forced to withdraw his call for tract nominations for oil leasing on the Atlantic coast because of a legal agreement which barred any go-ahead on the government's oil leasing plan in the Mid-Atlantic pending the outcome of a suit now before the Supreme Court. The suit was filed by 12 coastal states contesting federal ownership of the oil and gas off their coastline as per Colonial charter. On the Pacific coast, however, the Department of the Interior has announced tract selections and in Alaska, tracts will be selected for nomination for leasing by the time you read this. A final environmental impact statement on the overall accelerated leasing plan is anticipated, which will take into account the objections raised at the hearings.

PRESIDENT FORD RELEASES \$2-BILLION IN IMPOUNDED HIGHWAY FUNDS; SUPREME COURT RULES WATER CLEAN-UP IMPOUNDS ILLEGAL: FULL \$9-BILLION AVAILABLE THIS YEAR

To help stimulate jobs, President Ford has ordered release of \$2-billion in the Highway Trust Fund that was impounded by former President Nixon. The money, it is reported, will go mostly for repair and alterations and completion of the federal highway system. States have the option to use the funds for mass transit instead of highways. They are reported to be lobbying Congress for full funding for highway projects to create extra jobs but a similar push is not being made in the mass transit area.

On another impoundment front, the Supreme Court has ruled that former President Nixon's impoundment of water cleanup funds was illegal under the Clean Water Act of 1972 on a suit filed by the states of New York and others for the sewage treatment construction funds due them. The Supreme Court action now makes the full \$9-billion that was impounded available (see Leader 2/14/75). President Ford has announced that \$9-billion will be allotted in fiscal 1976 and the Environmental Protection Agency will work to have the funds fully contracted by mid 1977.

NEW CONGRESSMEN BEING EDUCATED ON STRIP-MINE BILL Sponsors of the environmentalist-backed strip-mine bill, 'H.R. 25, S. 7' are hopeful of speedy action by the House and Senate Interior Committee, but it may be in for some rough sledding. This is the bill that was passed last year but pocket-vetoed by President Ford. Generally acceptable to environmentalists--although there are some areas environmentalists would like to see strengthened--it includes reclamation fees for restoration of abandoned mines, reclamation standards, protection of alluvial valley floors and natural water supplies, acceptable provisions for surface owner consent as a requirement for mining subsurface coal, and a ban on mining in National Forests. The Administration has submitted a bill (H.R. 3119 and S. 652), which would drop the provision requiring surface owner consent, reduce reclamation fees from 35%