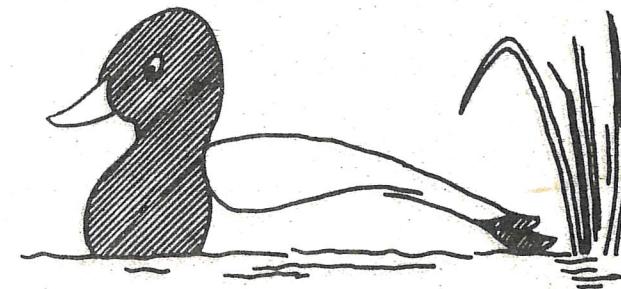


the lesser

# Squawk



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Your National Audubon Society Chapter, December 1975, Volume XXVI No. 9

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE LESSER SQUAWK  
HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY DECEMBER 10, 1975

#### MEETING

There is no monthly meeting in December

Tuesday, January 13, 1976  
Regular Monthly Meeting at 8 P.M.  
in Charleston Museum Lecture Hall

Topic: Great Cats of Africa  
Speaker: John Henry Dick

CNHS Christmas Bird Count December 28

Christmas Bird Count - Charleston Area

This year the count will be held on Sunday, December 28, 1975. CNHS members and their guests who wish to participate should contact Julian Harrison by Friday, December 19, 1975. The Charleston count circle is centered near the intersection of Highway 17, and Moore's Landing Road. All CBC circles have a diameter of 15 miles. Charleston's is drawn to include Porcher's Bluff to the south, Awendaw at the north, marshes, estuaries, mud flats, and coastal islands to the east, and Cainhoy to the West. Large portions of the Francis Marion National Forest are included within this circle. Participants will be grouped into 8-10 field parties, each headed by at least one experienced birder. CBC rules require that each count last at least 8 hours. A participation fee of \$1.00 is required of each participant (by National Audubon Society). CNHS pays this fee for any of its members who participate, but not their guests. If you plan to bring guests, please remember this fee. All fees are used to support the publication of American Birds which reports the results of the CBC and other data submitted by members.

We will assemble Sunday, December 28, 1975, at Gregorie's Service Station at the intersection of S.C. Hwy 41 and U.S. Hwy 17 north of Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch, rain gear (which I hope we won't need!), and help us surpass last year's record of 150 species.

J. R. Harrison

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr & Mrs T A Beckett III  
Magnolia Gardens Rt 4  
Charleston S C 29407

Additional Bird Counts for those who wish to attend more than one.

Sunday December 21, 1975 - McClellanville Bird Count will take place. Those interested in participating, contact Jay Shuler - 1-337-3380

Sunday, January 4, 1976, the Litchfield, Pawley's Island Bird Count will take place. The Count area includes North Litchfield Beach, Pawley's Island and Brookgreen Gardens. Interested persons should write or call Pat Frost, P.O. Box 336, Pawley's Island, S. C. - 1-237-4929.

#### DECEMBER CAMPING TRIP

CNHS has secured a permit to camp on Bull's Island Friday and Saturday nights, the 19th and 20th of December. The camping area has firepits, running water and toilets. Also, a truck may be provided to carry gear the 3/10 mile from the dock to the camping area. There will be a \$5.00 per person fee for the boat trip. You may come on Friday or Saturday, but please contact me (386-6911) about a week before the trip so I can schedule the boat and possibly aid you in your choice of supplies.

David Huff

#### Litchfield-Pawley's Island Field Trip

There will be a birding field trip December 13 to Litchfield Beach. This is an excellent area for ducks and shore birds and very good practice for the upcoming Christmas bird counts. We will leave from the Charleston Museum at 6:30 a.m. and be met at the entrance to Huntington Beach State Park by our host, Pat Probst.

#### "Kangaroos Can't Be Cornered"

by Lionel Hudson

This film about Australia will be presented in Duckett Hall Auditorium at The Citadel, on Monday, February 2, 1976 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available from Alan M. Bills (873-0481) at a nominal donation of \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students. The number of tickets is limited due to the size of the auditorium, so please get your orders in early.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Often we are inclined not to become involved in conservation efforts because it seems inevitable that vested interest of bureaucracies (of which South Carolina has her share) will prevail. Perhaps in many cases this is true; but not always. In Nebraska, recently, the Mid-State Reclamation Project, an irrigation project that would have greatly reduced the flow of the scenic Platte River, was soundly defeated at the polls. More than \$5.7 million had been spent on project planning and promotion by the Bureau of Reclamation and its local sponsor. Three separate citizen organizations formed to counterbalance the lopsided push for the project. One of these groups, the SAVE THE PLATTE COMMITTEE, publicized the threat of the project to a 150-mile stretch of the river, pointing out that the natural flow of the river is vital to waterfowl which depend upon the island-studded river and associated wetlands during migration stopover periods. In the final analysis, by exposing the false and exaggerated claims made by the promoters of the project, an informed citizenry voted against the project.

I use the Platte River fight to demonstrate that Citizen's groups, when well organized, can be successful in confrontations with vested interest of bureaucracies. Today in South Carolina we are witness to projects comparable to the situation

Count-down of birds seen on the trips. Under the direction of Ted Beckett.

#### Sunday:

Field trips can be arranged or birding on your own.

#### Rainy Saturday:

Trips can be arranged to the Charleston Museum & other points of interest.

#### FORM for PRE-PAYING

PRE-REGISTRATION: Individual \$2.00 Family \$3.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

If you attend the meeting you must register. Those not pre-registered may register in Duckett Hall 119 Friday, 3:00 - 8:00 or on Saturday.

PELAGIC TRIP: Leader - Dennis Forsythe. \$10.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This trip may be repeated Saturday afternoon if there is enough demand for it.

BANQUET: Coward Hall, The Citadel. \$4.50 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Happy Hour - The Citadel Alumni House - 6:00-6:30 pm

Make checks to: Dennis M. Forsythe. TOTAL Inclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### OFFICERS

President: Richard D. Porcher, Jr., Biology Department, The Citadel, Charleston S. C., 29409

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

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Publicity: Coots Donaldson

THE LESSER SQUAWK is published by the Charleston Natural History Society  
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Phone 556-3341

WHOOPING CRANE BULLETIN. All eight of the new whooping cranes fledged this year in Canada have arrived safely at their wintering grounds at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, in Texas. It was the largest number of young to be added since 1969, and, with 48 adults, this brings the flock's total to 56. Last year 49 whoopers returned, of which only two were newly fledged young.

And of the nine chicks born this spring from whooping crane eggs transplanted to sandhill crane nests at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho in an experimental attempt to start a second wild flock of whoopers (see Leader, July 11, 1975), six have arrived safely with the sandhills at their wintering grounds at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico.

1975-76 WINTER MEETING, CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DATE: 30,31 January & 1 February 1976.

PLACE: The Citadel - Department of Biology, Charleston, South Carolina

HEADQUARTERS: Duckett Hall 119.

REGISTRATION: \$2.00 per individual, \$3.00 per family. Pre-registration is encouraged. Please use the form on the back for your convenience. Those not pre-registering may do so from 3:00 to 3:00 Friday PM and on Saturday in Duckett Hall 119.

PROGRAM: Friday Evening:

Duckett Hall Auditorium (DH 101) at 8:00 PM

Speaker: Mr. Stan Langston will give a slide talk on the "Birds of the Charleston Area".

Saturday Field Trips: Outlined and under the direction of Ted Beckett.

1. Pitt Street Causeway-Sullivan's Island for waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, etc.
2. Magnolia Gardens for waterfowl, waders, waterbirds, landbirds.
3. Francis Marion National Forest for landbirds, including the Red-cockaded woodpecker.
4. Offshore boat trip-leader, Dennis Forsythe-8:00 to 12:30. Party fishing boat "JJ". Cost is \$10.00 per person. Please use the form on back. Trip may be repeated in the afternoon if there is enough demand for it. May see Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Ocean ducks, Gulls, Terns, & (maybe) Jaegers.
5. The first three trips will definitely be repeated in the PM.
6. Other trips may be scheduled if demanded.

Saturday Evening:

Happy Hour - 6:00 - 6:30 in The Citadel Alumni House.

Banquet - 7:00 - Coward Hall. Cost \$4.50 per person. Please use the form on the back for your convenience.

Speaker: John Henry Dick, Wildlife Artist, will give a slide talk from one of his many trips abroad. This will follow the banquet and will be in the Duckett Hall Auditorium (DH101)

Business Meeting of CBC: No specific items will be discussed but will include items the membership may wish to introduce.

with the Platte River. To be apathetic is to allow, in many cases, needless destruction of valuable natural resources. To become involved may result in exposing some projects for what they really are: grandiose projects conceived by self-serving bureaucracies which have lost contact with the public which they are supposed to represent. The Charleston Natural History Society, with the backing of the National Audubon Society, can play an important role in the environmental movement in South Carolina. All that is needed is more involvement from the membership.

The Sky-Watchers' Guide Richard D. Porcher, Jr.

Winter officially arrives on December 22, at 6:46 a.m., when the earth reaches the northernmost point on its journey around the sun. It will be nearly 7:00 a.m. when the sun will rise on that day, farthest south of east. During the day, it will describe its shortest arc of the year, and its setting south of west will occur about 5:00 p.m. By 6:00 o'clock, twilight will have faded into darkness. December, therefore, offers Sky-watchers the greatest number of hours for observation, and the most spectacular parade of heavenly bodies.

Four of the planets take their positions along the ecliptic, during the evening hours, from southwest to northeast. Before twilight has vanished, Mercury may be seen near the horizon in the middle of the month, and higher each evening thereafter until at the end, it will remain in view for an hour after sunset.

On December 15, just as the sun sets, Mars will appear over the opposite horizon. Just a week before that, Earth will have "caught up" with Mars, reducing the distance between the two to 52 million miles. Since Earth will continue speeding on its way, the distance will widen steadily after that date until Earth completes another orbit. Therefore, during these December nights, the red planet will be at its brightest. By the time it is dark, Mars will be well in view.

Jupiter, near the meridian at dark, is the brightest object high in the south.

The winter parade of constellations has already begun, with Taurus and the Pleiades leading, now well in view in the east. Orion, the Hunter follows closely, just to the southwest of Mars. At first, Orion appears recumbent, but as the night advances, he will gradually rise to an upright position. Three stars in a row represent the belt of the Hunter. Two first magnitude stars, one red and one blue-white, indicate, respectively, his right shoulder and his left heel; and likewise, two other stars, - one, of the second magnitude, and the other, of the third magnitude, - his left shoulder and his right knee.

About ten degrees to the northeast of Mars, Saturn will rise by 7:30 p.m. at mid-month. Thus, by locating each of the planets in order, the observer will be able to trace the ecliptic, - the path through which the sun, the moon, and the planets all appear to travel.

About 5 o'clock in the morning, when Orion is setting in the west, Venus will be seen shining brilliantly in the southeast. On the 18th of the month, the Full Moon will also be approaching its setting, north of west.

Elizabeth D. Simons

The Breech Inlet Excursion

As anyone who was there can verify, a gig in the hand does not guarantee a flounder in the water. 18 October proved a fascinating evening for observing the sea life of our coastal waters, but admittedly some 25 CNHS members would like to have seen at least one Trinectes maculatus burrowing in the sand in the shallow waters.

Our common flounder was seen only once by David Huff and Perry Nugent.

The other sea life that was observed was brought to shore with a seine net provided by Bill Booth. Many members took part in the process and brought to shore such interesting marine life as our common blue crab, many squid, gar fish, and hermit crabs. These may all seem like very common forms of sea life, but when they are studies and compared with all the other diverse organisms in the marine ecosystem, various adaptations can easily be seen. The flounder, *T. maculatus*, hides itself so well in the burrows of sand that it can come into shallow waters at low tide and not be seen. Our common blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus* uses its back flippers, which are modified appendages, for the rapid swimming that it uses for its survival. The squid, *Loligo vulgaris brevis*, camouflages itself when it dispels the inky substance from its posterior end to deter predators. The gar fish of the genus *Strongylura* uses its long mouth to insure the capture of its food. *Clibanarius vittatus* the most common of our hermit crabs has the obvious adaptation for protection; the old gastropod shells that it may use during its lifetime will protect its soft, slow moving body against its enemies.

Other observations included a stone crab, a common bryozoan which form a community of small animals not visible individually to the naked eye, the red sponge, various small fish, and many fascinating isopods--those little creatures that scurry over the rocks at low tide.

It proved to be a fascinating evening for all CNHS members and guests and the good turnout will warrant another such evening field trip for the future.

Susan Roche

Bird Movements in December

Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species
Dec. 15	White-fronted Goose	29	Purple Sandpiper

Departures

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
1	Common Night Hawk	10	Least Bittern	10	Dovekie
3	Yellow-crowned Night Heron		White Pelican	?	Golden Plover
6	Bobolink				

The following birds have been seen one or more times during December in South Carolina

Mute Swan	Long-tailed Jaeger
King Eider	White-winged Dove
Sandhill Crane	Burrowing Owl
Yellow Rail	Rufous Hummingbird
Long-billed Curlew	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Lapwing	Great-Crested Flycatcher
Baird's Sandpipers	Vermilion Flycatcher
Red Phalarope	Wood thrush
Thick-billed Murre	Gray-cheeked thrush

Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Hooded Warbler
Western Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Lark Sparrow

SENATE GOVT. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERING LOBBYING BILL SIMILAR TO INJURIOUS HOUSE BILL OPPOSED BY MANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; LETTERS TO CONGRESSMEN URGED

The Senate Government Operations Committee is considering S. 2477, the Lobbying Act of 1975, which attempts to set regulations for public disclosure of so-called "lobbying" activities and contains practically all the extremely serious implications of H.R. 15, the House bill opposed by the National Audubon Society. H.R. 15 is also opposed by numerous other non-profit organizations from health and welfare organizations to other environmental groups.

Both bills would establish an elaborate system of requirements for written reports covering contacts of every kind, not only with Congress and Congressional employees but with officials of all the scores of departments and agencies of the executive branch of the federal government all over the country. The time lost and paperwork involved, and the resultant expense, would preclude or discourage citizen organizations from seeking information or expressing viewpoints on issues with which they are concerned.

There are some non-profit organizations which feel these bills are so ridiculous there is no need to worry about them. However, support for the bills is growing because they make a good surface impression. Therefore, they should be taken seriously enough to justify dropping a short note to your senators and congressman, stating that H.R. 15 and S. 2477 are on the wrong track. A fresh and more rational approach to disclosure of lobbying should be developed, and these bills simply dropped. They are too unfair to not-for-profit organizations to be cured by patchwork.

USDA DECIDES TO RESUME THE MIREX FIREANT PROGRAM The U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided to resume the controversial aerial mirex-spraying program which it halted last spring, saying Environmental Protection Agency restrictions guiding the program made it impossible to do the job. USDA had no explanation as to why it felt it could resume the fireant control program now, under the same conditions. However, the Allied Chemical Company, sole manufacturer of mirex, has said it will not make any new supplies unless current EPA informational hearings on mirex are suspended. EPA has also agreed to consider an experimental use permit to test a new two-thirds diluted formulation of mirex, said to be less environmentally harmful. At the hearings (where the Society is a party, represented by the Environmental Defense Fund), increasing evidence is coming to light that mirex is cancer-causing in experimental animals as well as environmentally harmful to non-target species. There's been no indication the hearings will be halted.

Value of Dead Trees. Regional U.S. Forester Theodore A. Schlapfer, of Region 6 (based in Portland, Ore.) has set a policy that merits the thanks of conservationists. He has ordered that in timbering operations in his Region adequate numbers of dead and defective trees be left standing for cavity-nesting birds and animals; he notes that at least 43 such species are found in Region 6.

Mexican-American Wildlife Agreement. The U.S. and Mexico are establishing co-operative programs and study teams on problems of mutual concern in endangered species, migratory birds, law enforcement, wildlife management training and unique ecosystems. In the U.S. the programs will be co-ordinated by the Fish and Wildlife Service; in Mexico, by that nation's wildlife agency, Fauna Sylvestre.

It's an Ill Plant That.... The water hyacinth, that strangler of subtropical waterways, may prove to be a valuable pollution fighter and an energy source as well. The fast growing plants can absorb cadmium, lead and other heavy metals while metabolizing the nitrates and phosphates of sewage effluent, reports a research team at NASA's Space Technology Laboratories in Mississippi, and the plants can be fermented to yield fertilizer and organic gas usable as fuel.

has already been widely distributed where it is needed, but a limited number of copies is still available from: Raptor Research Foundation, Zoology Dep't - 167 WIBD, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 84601.

Watch For These Falcons. The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology is anxious to get reports on 16 captive-bred peregrine falcons released in the experimental re-established program for the eastern U.S. (Nat'l Audubon is prime contractor for this U.S. government-funded program). If you see a falcon with a blue legband, call the Lab: (607) 256-5056.

A Wildlife Career? The Wildlife Society has updated its highly informative leaflet, "A Wildlife Conservation Career For You"; it lists a broad diversity of opportunities, tells what backgrounds are required, etc. Available in limited quantities without charge from the Leader; the leaflet includes information for ordering larger quantities direct from the Wildlife Society.

Return of the Puffin. There was a high rate of success last summer in the first transplant in the program to re-establish the common puffin at an island in Muscongous Bay, Maine, where these seabirds formerly nested, reports program director Stephen W. Kress. Of 94 chicks imported from a healthy colony in Newfoundland and raised by scientists at the Maine island, all but three were successfully fledged. The work is being done under grants from National Audubon and its Joint Scientific Program with the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

AUDUBON LEADER - November 21, 1975

TWO RESOUNDING CONSERVATIONIST VICTORIES THIS MONTH: CENTRAL NEBRASKA VOTERS KILL MID-STATE RIVER PROJECT; HOUSE PASSES WILDLIFE REFUGE BILL BY 341 to 10

In a conservationist's victory over the nation's boondoggle water resource programs, voters in central Nebraska chose 8,826 to 6,935 to kill the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-State project to channelize and divert the Platte River. The matter came to a test at the local level because Nebraska state law requires a referendum by voters in the districts affected on renewing the charter of the local sponsoring organization. "It is too bad more of these costly and ill-advised projects pushed by federal engineering agencies could not be decided by the people, instead of by port-minded politicians," commented Audubon President Elvis J. Stahr.

The \$178-million project, long opposed by National Audubon and its Nebraska chapters, would have dried up most of the Platte, diverting it for irrigation purposes. However farmers' benefits would have been minimal because most farms already have their own pump irrigation systems. Further, diverting the river would lower the water table which the present irrigation pumps depend upon. The project would also have destroyed environmentally valuable river land, including a 1074-acre National Audubon sanctuary, which are the heart of the historic area of the Platte used as a staging area each spring by two thirds of North America's sandhill cranes.

A Victory For Wildlife Refuges In a conservationist's victory on Capitol Hill, the House of Representatives by 341-10 passed H.R. 5512, the bill to protect the National Wildlife Refuge System from land-grabbers and halt the jurisdictional transfer of three game ranges to the Bureau of Land Management (see Leader 11/7/75). The House shouted down an amendment offered by Representative Sam Steiger (Ariz) intended to "gut" the entire purpose of the bill by killing the provision to have all National Wildlife Refuge units administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service. Particular credit goes to Representatives R.L. Leggett (Cal.); E.B. Forsythe (N.J.), and also to J.D. Dingell (Mich).

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 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

A Bay Holly and Others

One of the most beautiful sights of December is a mature plant of Ilex cassine var. myrtifolia filled with shiny red fruit glistening above a tan sea of panic grasses out in a savanna-land bay. These hollies, now considered a variety of the more broad-leaved I. cassine are common in the countless bays of the coastal plain, where they grow in standing water throughout much of the year. In parts of Black-Tom Bay, for instance, they occur in great numbers. When brought into cultivation they frequently succumb to spittle bugs, who also are the chief pests of the numerous cultivars of the Japanese holly, I. crenata. The typical I. cassine (dahoon holly) seems much less numerous, being found occasionally in bays and along the edges of brackish marshes and ponds.

The most famous holly of western culture is I. aquifolium (English holly) which was used in the ancient Roman saturnalia and by the Teutonic tribes to welcome in the sylvan spirits for the winter. With the ascendancy of Christianity the use of holly boughs was absorbed into the new religion's winter holy day of Christmas. A concentrated decoction of I. vomitoria leaves (yaupon) was said to have been used by the Indians in conjunction with a spring cleansing ceremony called a busk. I. vomitoria, as well as I. glabra (inkberry) and I. cassine contain caffeine and were used by the colonist as a tea.

There are about 300 species in the family Aquifoliaceae of which some 280 are in the genus Ilex. Most are found in Central and South America and Asia, but they are also represented in Africa, Australia and the one species (English holly) in Europe. The word Ilex was taken from the name of another plant of ancient fame: Virgil's holmoak (now Quercus ilex) has leaves resembling a holly's and hence the name ilex became associated with the European species of holly and the plant, an oak, that Virgil and his contemporaries called ilex. The foliage of the holmoak was ceremonially important in pre-Christian times and this was another impelling reason to associate the two plants of symbolic use in our earlier culture.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

#### An Ipswich Sparrow

Sunday - out on Lighthouse Point on Folly Beach, I had an Ipswich Sparrow under observation at 10-12 feet for over ten minutes. The bird was very pale in color but distinctly marked with streaks on the breast to the lower portion of the belly. The head markings were of the following:

Cream colored eye stripe  
Thinner line of cream-light buff  
color on top of crown  
Lightly colored around the eye area

Its tail was barely notched and the tail feathers were very uniform in color. The tail appeared fairly wide and the bird preened with the tail spread at times. The size was very close to 6". The habitat was sand dunes with thick bushes of wax myrtle, sea oats, and thorn bushes. The bird was observed in excellent light at around 2:00 P.M.

Susan Roche

#### The Four Hole Trip

The Four Holes Swamp trip October 25, after many stalls, finally started half an hour late and for this I apologize to Norman Brunswig, the manager. We lost little extra time however in discovering the true attributes of this virgin wilderness. We split into two groups, mine with Norman, and the canoe group with another warden who set off, hoping to find water.

My group entered through what is to be the information center. We started down through the high ground covered by loblolly and Walter's pine and moved through the beech woods to the typical river bottom of overcup oak, gum, ironwood and buckeye. At the lowest level, we came to the bald cypress and tupelo gum at the center. The knees of the cypress here are so old that many have lost the shape of an inverted cone -- and all the large trees have had their tops knocked out by lightning when they outgrew their neighbors.

I know to some it seems odd to enjoy wading around in boot-deep mud, but most of my party elected to travel deeper into the swamp to view some of the largest cypress in the world. We waded across two sloughs and spent an hour sitting on a moss-covered log and gazing at trees so big and so old that all else was forgotten. I found myself in a medium without time or season with only the wind and birds reminding me that this was only minutes, and not centuries.

That log also turned out to be the most amazing place to watch birds. We sat there and watched...nuthatches, creepers, titmice and chickadees, a downy and red-headed woodpecker fed near as a pileated called off in the distance and still they came -- Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green warblers, an American redstart and the second yellow-billed cuckoo of the day. Then, thin old 61 came out of the swamp and we all took ourselves home.

Talking later with the canoe group, I was glad they found water deep enough for their boats. I gathered they also left with a feeling of awe for our new Audubon treasure, the Francis Beidler Memorial Forest.

David Huff

#### Greentree Reservoir

On a particularly beautiful day, November 16, about 15 members of the CNHS took

a stroll in the woods at Greentree Reservoir, the Francis Marion National Forest. With the warm sunlight and carpet of leaves, the trip turned into a series of "naps" there among the beeches and oaks. Ah life!

There were fewer birds than I expected, but the other fields of biology had a field day. One of the children found the nest of a golden mouse hung from vines with the mouse staring out and indignantly wishing that everyone would leave. We found a large cocoon and will have to visit to see what emerges in the spring. Also, we chanced upon a yellowjacket nest lately robbed by a skunk -- probably the only animal that can stand the pain of the bees. We walked awhile in a dry stream bed and there picked up a deer's antler that had been gnawed by squirrels, a rather common habit and two of the largest pieces of Indian pottery I've ever found. Seemingly, as a reward for leading the trip, Richard found a new plant, (Ditch stonedrop), at least one "the master" had never found before.

David Huff

#### Observations

Date	Species	Location	Observer
Oct. 27	1 Nashville Warbler	James Island	Pete Laurie
28	1 Canada Goose	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
Nov. 1	2 Broad-winged Hawks	I'on Swamp	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Orange-crowned Warbler	I'on Swamp	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
2	1 Swainson's Thrush	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
* 4-8	4 Blue Geese	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
15	1 Avocet	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Cooper's Hawk	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Swainson's Thrush	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	2 Virginia Rails	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Parula Warbler	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	4 Common Loons	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	12 Redheads	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	17 Knots	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	3 Queen butterflies	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Brewer's Blackbird	Magnolia Garden	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
17	2 Woodcocks	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
24	1 Sharp-shinned Hawk	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
	200 Water Pipits	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
	1 Barn Swallow	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent

\* I took Cris and the kids to see the geese on the 8th and found feathers and 3 shot gun shells. Someone had shot them that morning.

Report your observations to the editor!! Surely there are more people studying nature and observing unusual flora or fauna than Pete and I.

Perry Nugent

AUDUBON LEADER - October 24, 1975

Eagles and Powerlines. In what has turned out to be a heartening success story, conservationists (including Nat'l Audubon), power companies and regulatory agencies in 1972 joined in a program to reduce unintentional electrocution of raptors on high-tension power lines, particularly golden eagles in the Rocky Mountain states. Specific engineering designs for reducing these deaths are now described in a booklet, "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Powerlines." The booklet