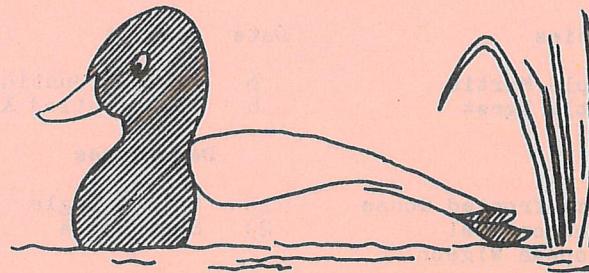


the lesser

Squawk



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Your National Audubon Society Chapter, February 1975, Volume XXVI No. 2

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Monthly Meeting-Tuesday, February 11, 1975 at 8PM

Charleston Museum Lecture Hall

PROGRAM

Film: The Baruch Story

FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1975

This month's trip will be all day to the Savannah Wildlife Refuge. Meet Julian Harrison at the Charleston Museum at 5:30 AM for an enjoyable day of birding.

Christmas Bird Census December 29, 1974

Forty people found a total of 151 species and 19,000 individual birds. This compares with 162 species and 13,000 individual birds last year. Better coverage of the area, particularly by boat, accounts for the increase in numbers of birds and perhaps the poor weather contributed to the lower species total.

The highlights were a Yellow-breasted Chat on Bulls Island by Peter Manigault, a Gull-billed Tern by Arthur Wilcox and Peter Manigault, and a female Wilson's Warbler by Perry Nugent. The Wilson's Warbler was studied for about five minutes about 8AM.

The boat provided by Kurt Laffin of South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department was greatly appreciated and enabled us to improve our coverage of shorebirds and waterfowl.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED 1975

4 FEB 1975

Bird Movements in February

Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
1	Purple Martin	6	Painted Bunting	10	Rough-winged Swallow
3	Cattle Egret	8	White-tailed Kite	11	Yellow-breasted Chat

Departures

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
3	White-fronted Goose	15	Golden Eagle	?	Dovekie
13	Cinnamon Teal	23	Snow Goose		Saw-whet Owl
	European Wigeon				

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

Harlequin Duck	Long-tailed Jaeger	Parula Warbler
Common Redpoll	Orange-crowned Warbler	Great Black-backed Gull
White-fronted Goose	Black and white Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Snowy Owl		

Geraniums

Although the word geranium doesn't conjure up images of February, the two species that are native to this area are already producing their foliage and by March will be in bloom. The showy flowered plants that are commonly offered for sale are botanically Pelargoniums. They along with our native species belong to the family Geraniaceae.

The most common species is *Geranium carolinianum*. It is a winter annual that often grows abundantly in lawns and other open areas. The pale pink flowers are small and hence rather inconspicuous. Much less common here is *Geranium maculatum* whose perennial rhizomes spread through the rich loam of hardwood forests. Its flowers are considerably larger and range from pale purple to strong pink. There is a site in Berkeley County where a large colony of these plants make an impressive spring display.

The word geranium comes from the Greek word geranos: a crane, it having been prompted by the plant's seed pod resemblance to a crane's head and beak. There are approximately 375 species of geraniums, distributed throughout the temperate regions of the world.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

The Sky-Watchers' Guide

From early dusk until dawn, the skies in February present fascinating viewing for serious observers, and, at least, breath-taking beauty for all, whether serious or casual.

As soon as the sun has set, two of the planets command the attention in the west: Venus, climbing higher into view each night, and Jupiter, moving nearer to the horizon from a position east of Venus. Finally, on February 17, the two will be in conjunction. After that date, Venus will continue to climb, and Jupiter, to move downward until at the end of the month, Jupiter will set by 7:00 p.m., while Venus will remain in view for another hour.

will also continue to be the mail address for Vice President Roland C. Clement, although he expects to spend far less time in New York because of his new responsibility for Latin American liaison; with that work, plus his post of Secretary for the Americas of the International Council for Bird Preservation, he expects to travel extensively.

A Solar Energy First. Connecticut has been awarded a Federal grant of \$130,700 to cover the cost of designing a solar energy installation to heat and provide hot water for 20 out of 40 units in a \$1-million housing project for the elderly. The project, to be built in Hamden, Ct., will be the first public housing or multifamily housing project in the country to utilize energy from the sun for heating.

Workshop Scholarships. Foreign students attending colleges or universities in the U.S. are eligible for three scholarships now available for two-week sessions at the Audubon Workshop in Wisconsin in the summer of 1975; chapters are asked to spread the word to appropriate university officials. For more information, students should write: Edward M. Brigham III, Director, Audubon Workshop in Wisconsin, Rt. #4, Red Wing, Mn. 55066. Deadline for application is April 1, 1975.

Train Urges Recycling. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell E. Train has urged industry to "wipe out waste....to win the war on inflation and pollution." Recycling of wastes in larger cities could generate "the equivalent of 400,000 barrels of oil a day...nearly a third of the Alaskan pipeline's projected flow." He asked that industry take a new look at reusable packages and other alternatives to the current \$19.5 billion worth of packaging material that produces 40-50 million tons of waste, accounting for 30-40% of solid waste annually.

Florida Swamp Victory. A Federal judge has ordered a Florida developer to restore a mangrove swamp by filling in drainage canals he dug, without permits, to build a trailer park on Key Largo. It was another sign that the era of reckless development and profiteering at the environment's expense is coming to a close in Florida.

Whoopers On The Platte. Two adult whooping cranes were sighted and photographed between two parcels of land of Nat'l Audubon's new Lillian Annette Rowe Bird Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska, Oct. 30-Nov. 1. It had been thought that whoopers sometimes use the sanctuary area as a migration stop-over point (in addition to the more numerous sandhill cranes and other wildlife there); now these pictures have removed any doubt that they do so.

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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.

As soon as it is dark, a third planet, - Saturn, - may be seen high in the east, shining with steady, yellow brilliance. A little to the northeast of Saturn, Castor and Pollux, the two brightest stars in Gemini are located. Pollux, also, is yellow, but it twinkles as it shines, and appears less bright. In 1610, Galileo, the first person to use a telescope astronomically, discovered through his crude instrument that Saturn presented a different appearance from the other planets. To him, it suggested a cup with two handles. Later on, better telescopes revealed that the "two handles" were the rings which surround the planet. In addition, we now know that Saturn is surrounded by ten orbiting moons. Most of them can be seen only through greater instruments, but it is possible to see Titan, the largest moon, through a two-inch telescope. Titan is actually larger than the planet Mercury, although it appears as a tiny point of light either east or west of Saturn at a distance of about five times the width of the rings as measured from the center of the planet. The period of Titan's revolution is about 16 days. Saturn is an enormous body  $9\frac{1}{2}$  times larger than Earth, but spectroscopic studies have shown that its density is only 70 percent that of water. In other words, if there could be a vast enough ocean to hold it, the huge planet would float on the surface! Ever since 1895, it has been known that the rings are made up of billions of rocks, but not until the last decade has there been consistent and accurate information concerning their sizes. Most of the rocks are only a few inches in diameter, and there is indication that they are composed of, or covered by ice. This accounts for their brilliant reflection of light. Some scientists believe that the rings were formed when an eleventh moon was shattered by the powerful gravitational force of the planet.

As the night advances, the sky becomes increasingly beautiful.. When facing south, Taurus may be observed to cross the meridian directly overhead, as Orion continues to maintain a defensive posture following closely just southeast of it. Sirius, sparkling with a myriad of colors, reaches the meridian about 8:00 p.m. at mid-month. Saturn will be high overhead, and directly north of Sirius. At the same time, observers with a clear, unobstructed view of the south, may be able to detect, low on the horizon, orange-red Canopus directly south of Sirius. The latitude of Charleston is the northernmost limit for viewing this star of the Southern Hemisphere.

North of Orion, and northwest of Gemini, Capella, the very bright star in Auriga, may be seen on the meridian.

In the northern sky, the Big Dipper now is completely in view, apparently balanced on the tip of its handle. It is easy to follow the "Pointers" in locating the North Star, which is directly on the meridian; then, by looking west of the North Star, Cassiopeia will be discovered flanking it in the opposite direction from the Big Dipper.

By 5:30 in the morning, all the winter constellations will have set, and the sky will give the appearance of a summer evening. Scorpius will be in view, low in the southeast, and not far from its brightest star, red Antares, the red planet Mars will be located. The name Antares means "Mars' Rival", and it does not take much imagination to understand why the Sky-watchers of ancient times gave it this name. The clue to identity of the planet is the fact that it shines with a steady light.

After the middle of the month, Mercury may also be seen as a "Morning Star" in the brightening glow of dawn.

Elizabeth D. Simons

Observations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
December 6	Horned Grebe	Stono River	Mrs. Francis Barrington
" 11	2 Red-breasted Mergansers	Stono River	Mrs. Francis Barrington
" 14	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Summerville	Edmund Cuthbert
" 19	Purple Finch	Riverland Terrace	Mrs. Francis Barrington
" 20	White-eyed Vireo	Riverland Terrace	Mrs. Francis Barrington
" 30	♂ Baltimore Oriole	Gadsden Street	Maurine J. LeCato
January 4-12	♂ Baltimore Oriole	Fort Royal Drive	Mr. & Mrs. John W. Horlbeck
early	4 Red-shouldered Hawks	Adams Run	Dot Glover
" 10	200 Gannets	Last Harbor buoy	Bill Elliott
" 13	Mature Bald Eagle	East Cooper River	Bill Elliott
" 15	Green Heron	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
" 20	4 Sandhill Cranes	South Island	Ted Beckett
	3 Baltimore Orioles	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
	100 + Avocets	South Island	Ted Beckett
	Orange-crowned Warbler	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
" 21	3 Purple Finches	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
" 22	Immature Black-throated Green Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Mrs. Francis Barrington

Ted Beckett also reports the pair of Bald Eagles have eggs which are hatching and there are at least 25 Purple Finches at the Garden since the first arrival on the 21st.

Mr. Francis Barrington also reports a Hermit Thrush eating apple and pear peels and cores and grain and bread from a feeder.

TALLY OF BELLEFIELD BIRD COUNT - 11/24/74

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>
Common Loon	13	Turkey Vulture	20	Spotted Sandpiper	1
Red-throated Loon	1	Black Vulture	5	Willet	2
Horned Grebe	13	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Greater Yellowlegs	19
Pied-billed Grebe	8	Red-tailed Hawk	17	Lesser Yellowlegs	7
Brown Pelican	33	Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Knot	1
Double-crested Cormorant	68	Bald Eagle	1	Dunlin	45
Great Blue Heron	23	Marsh Hawk	30	Dowitcher	49
Little Blue Heron	3	Osprey	2	Semipalmated Sandpiper	1
Common Egret	12	Pigeon Hawk	2	Western Sandpiper	2
Snowy Egret	6	Sparrow Hawk	16	Sanderling	16
Louisiana Heron	30	Bobwhite	1	Herring Gull	57
White Ibis	1	Clapper Rail	72	Ring-billed Gull	207
Mallard	10	Virginia Rail	1	Laughing Gull	22
Black Duck	423	Sora	1	Bonaparte's Gull	13
Blue-winged Teal	2	Common Gallinule	4	Forster's Tern	6
Shoveler	3	American Coot	8	Royal Tern	7
Wood Duck	38	A. Oystercatcher	21	Caspian Tern	20
Bufflehead	12	Semipalmated Plover	11	Black Skimmer	589
Hooded Merganser	33	Killdeer	6	Mourning Dove	22
Red-breasted Merganser	10	Black-bellied Plover	21	Barred Owl	3
		Ruddy Turnstone	2	Belted Kingfisher	34
		Common Snipe	2	Yellow-shafted Flicker	124

mammoth Corps of Engineers project is being planned for the main stretch of the Atchafalaya whose 90-mile long 15-mile wide floodplain corridor is still inhabited by only a few seasonal fishermen. The preliminary draft environmental impact statement for the project has been released and conservation forces, with major participation by New Orleans Audubon and Baton Rouge Audubon, are making up their stand. Protection of the Atchafalaya Basin and the problems involved will be a major program topic at the Audubon Convention this April.

CANADIAN DAM WOULD THREATEN LAKE CHAMPLAIN Four National Audubon chapters have testified at joint U.S.-Canada hearings by the International Joint Commission in opposition to various Canadian proposals for flood-control dams on the Richelieu River through which Lake Champlain empties into Canada near the Vermont-New York line. The Province of Quebec has allowed development of many new houses and vacation homes on the Richelieu floodplain, with little forethought for floodplain zoning. The proposed dams would back up water into the lake, causing flooding of its wildlife-rich marshes as well as other environmental problems there.

Green Mountain and Otter Creek Audubon in Vermont and Northern Adirondacks and High Peaks Audubon in New York, working with the Lake Champlain Committee and other organizations, as well as the states of Vermont and New York said at the hearings that they opposed any Canadian dam plans until completion of a 2-year, \$750,000 study/draft environmental impact statement to assess the important fish and wildlife considerations which have not yet been addressed. In a letter to the IJC, Audubon Executive Vice President Callison supported their position.

AIR FORCE TO GIVE UP BOMBING RANGE NEAR CRANE REFUGE The U.S. Air Force is closing down the Matagorda Island, Texas practice bombing range which has long concerned conservationists; the range lies on the edge of the wintering grounds of the critically endangered whooping cranes. A year ago, at the request of National Audubon and others (see Leader, 1/25/74), the Air Force agreed to suspend bombing runs there during the cranes' wintering season. Now the range is to be closed entirely, one of several military installations in various parts of the country being dropped as no longer essential to national defense.

This summer it will be turned over to the General Services Administration to be sold as surplus property. Federal agencies -- including the Interior Department -- have first priority for acquiring this property, and Nat'l Audubon hopes as much of it as possible will become a wildlife refuge; it would be a logical extension of Interior's nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where most of the cranes winter.

AUDUBON CHAPTERS HELP TO PROMOTE NEW NATURE CENTERS Audubon chapters continue to be good salesmen and good customers for the Society's Nature Center Planning Division. Leaders of the Boulder Audubon Society helped arrange an NCPD feasibility study for the Boulder (Colo.) Parks & Recreation Commission that may result in a nature center there. The Darien (Conn.) Audubon Society, with a special grant plus some of its own funds, has commissioned a similar study for the Town of Darien which it hopes will lead to the Town's undertaking a nature center. And in Kansas the Wichita Audubon Society plans its own center, to be named the Chaplin Nature Center, and has signed a contract with NCPD to lay it out.

WHEN IN DOUBT YOU SHOULD STILL SEND THOSE INQUIRIES TO NEW YORK Although the office of our new Vice President for Science, Dr. Joseph P. Linduska, is located in Washington (Leader, 12/27/74), general technical and scientific inquiries to National Audubon which don't necessarily need his personal attention should still be addressed to the New York office. There Richard L. Plunkett, now Assistant Vice President for Science, will be the co-ordinator and will see to it that such requests are handled directly or routed to the proper office. Audubon headquarters

out its many important programs, says Audubon Exec. Vice-Pres. Charles H. Callison, in an editorial in the forthcoming January Audubon. The few millions needed and authorized by the Act are insignificant compared with other spending programs, yet the outgoing Congress did not see fit to appropriate the full amount authorized.

Are Chickens Birds? Children can learn the answer to this and other fascinating questions from a new nature book series, the Golden/Audubon Primers, by Audubon Field Editor Frank Graham and his wife Ada. The four books are: Let's Discover Winter Woods, Let's Discover the Floor of the Forest, Let's Discover Changes Everywhere and Let's Discover Birds in Our World. Each has a "key" to provide the adult with background information to the stories about real children in real life situations, and has beautiful color photographs, including some by Audubon Editor Les Line. "Let's Discover" books are \$4.95 each and are published by Golden Press, Western Publishing Co., 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022

Convention Reminder. Nat'l Audubon's 68th National Convention, April 17-21, in New Orleans, promises to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Time is growing short, so don't forget to send in your registration forms soon if you plan to attend. Speakers and discussions will center on the theme: "Ecosystems and the Audubon Goals: The Gulf Influence" and there's an exciting series of field trips. For more information, write Nat'l Audubon Convention, at New York headquarters.

AUDUBON LEADER - January 10, 1975

CALLISON URGES LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF BAN ON USE OF POISONS FOR PREDATOR CONTROL; WOOL GROWERS ASSN HAS MOUNTED NEW DRIVE TO BRING POISON BACK

"If you have strength left in your writing arm," says Charles H. Callison, Audubon Executive Vice President, "write to President Ford and Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton in support of the Executive Order ban on use of poisons for predator control." In a letter sent to all chapter conservation chairpersons, Callison says strong Audubon support is needed now because the National Wool Growers Association has asked all its state organizations to get letters to President Ford urging an overturn of the ban.

Callison warns that Ford is expected to receive a set of alternatives to the ban within the next few weeks, and that the wool growers are pushing for a return of the "use of toxicants," which could mean Compound 1080 and strychnine, as well as the M-44 cyanide device, which is already being permitted under "emergency" and "experimental" conditions. The Wool Growers are trying particularly to get statistics from those who claim they have gone out of business because of coyote predation, but we doubt they'll find verifiable figures.

One example of how chapter efforts can help in the long fight to beat back attempts to kill the ban is the campaign run last winter by Sabine Audubon in southeast Texas. Mrs. Lynn Frink organized a mailing team and sent some 600 appeals for letters, along with a fact sheet, to women's organizations, garden clubs, schools, and other organizations throughout the area.

LOUISIANA'S VAST ATCHAFALAYA BASIN AN AUDUBON CONCERN The huge Atchafalaya Basin in Louisiana, floodplain area for all the Atchafalaya River and part of the Mississippi, and at 1.5 million acres one of the largest semi-wilderness areas still remaining in the U.S., is being cut to pieces helter skelter at an extraordinary rate with little or no forethought or planning. The land along the bays at the rim of the basin, which is being constantly built up by deposits of silt from the Mississippi, is being claimed by land developers. An average of 2.4 permits per day are applied for at the New Orleans Army Corps of Engineers office for dredging, channelizing, spoil deposits, boat slips, bulkheads, pipelines, canals, and oil structures. Almost all are given the go-ahead. And a

TALLY OF BELLEFIELD BIRD COUNT - 11/24/74 CONT.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>
Pileated Woodpecker	67	Robin	79	Rufous-sided Towhee	129
Red-bellied Woodpecker	83	Hermit Thrush	18	Savannah Sparrow	17
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Swainson's Thrush	1	Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	17	Veery	2	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	4
Hairy Woodpecker	14	Eastern Bluebird	27	Seaside Sparrow	60
Downy Woodpecker	11	Blue-gray		Vesper Sparrow	1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	45	Gnatcatcher	2	Slate-colored Junco	57
Kinglet	55	Golden-crowned Kinglet	313	Chipping Sparrow	8
Easter Phoebe	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Field Sparrow	20
Blue Jay	87	Yellow-throated Vireo	1	White-crowned Sparrow	
Common Crow	79	Solitary Vireo	11	Sparrow	10
Fish Crow	91	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	White-throated Sparrow	
Carolina Chickadee	176	Magnolia Warbler	1	Sparrow	195
Tufted Titmouse	40	Myrtle Warbler	571	Fox Sparrow	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	30	Yellow-throated Warbler		Swamp Sparrow	85
Brown-headed Nuthatch	37	Warbler	1	Song Sparrow	100
Brown Creeper	3	Pine Warbler	68	GRAND TOTAL	5691
House Wren	11	Prairie Warbler	6	TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES	131
Winter Wren	8	Palm Warbler	4		
Carolina Wren	118	Yellowthroat	33		
Long-billed Marsh Wren	5	House Sparrow	1		
Short-billed Marsh Wren	5	Eastern Meadowlark	38		
Mockingbird	23	Redwing Blackbird	255		
Catbird	17	Rusty Blackbird	3		
Brown Thrasher	21	Boat-tailed Grackle	85		
		Common Grackle	27		
		Cardinal	73		
		Purple Finch	2		
		American Goldfinch	55		

Person to Person

If "progress" threatened to rip out your home, gobble up the site, and leave you with nowhere to go, what would you do? No doubt you'd start writing letters, harranguing your local authorities, and letting the developers have a good piece of your mind. You'd fight!

But what if you're a bird and the old neighborhood starts changing? Since you can't write and the developers are bigger than you are anyway, you'd probably just move on

Gene Whitaker, a Soil Conservation Service biologist stationed at College Park, Md., noticed that progress was leaving fewer and fewer homesites for tiny phoebe and barn swallows, birds valued because of their appetites for insects.

The barn swallow and the phoebe long ago abandoned their natural nesting habitat in caves and under overhanging cliffs for the security of manmade structures. They attached their mud-and-grass nests to the rough beams of old wooden barns or the underside of wooden bridges. There they raised their young and took off on their daily flights to forage for the flies, beetles, and other insects which plague the farmer and home gardener.

Today wooden barns are becoming scarce and the old wooden bridges of rural America are being torn down and replaced by cheaper, smooth-surfaced pipe or box culverts.

The culverts improve roadways and drainage ditches for people, but the barn swallow and phoebe find it difficult to attach their nests to the slick-sided metal or concrete.

Whitaker decided to do something about the problem. He started by looking under numerous bridges to see what the birds themselves preferred as a home.

The SCS biologist then designed a simple, inverted T-support structure out of rough lumber that closely duplicated the nesting conditions he had observed.

In the summer of 1972, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control made 26 of these new structures and tested them in six different locations.

The first four went into a newly installed set of 60-inch corrugated metal pipes, which had replaced an old wooden bridge. When workers returned to the site 4 days later, barn swallows had nested in three of the structures and were already laying their eggs. All six nesting sites were used in 1973.

Delaware has now made it a statewide policy to install these or similar structures in all new culverts. Bird lovers in Maryland and New Jersey are working for a similar program.

Whitaker feels there's also an attractive private citizen aspect to his bird home crusade. Boy and Girl Scouts or other conservation-minded people can help by building and installing these structures in existing pipes or culverts, he says. Highway departments should be happy to give such groups permission. The Soil Conservation Service in Maryland can provide the design, and the biologist points out that the expense is low and the satisfaction high.

Progress doesn't have to mean disaster. Gene Whitaker feels that there's room for everyone in the environment—even if they're only 3 inches tall and plan to live in a culvert.

From 'U S D A' a biweekly publication of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for distribution to its employees.

AUDUBON LEADER - December 27, 1974

DON'T LET THEM TELL YOU THAT POLLUTION CONTROL COSTS ARE ONE OF THE CAUSES OF INFLATION: OR THAT WE 'CAN'T AFFORD' CLEAN AIR & WATER

Under new environmental laws industry is being required to spend more money on pollution control and the cost is presumably being passed on to the consumer. How much is this adding to the high cost of living? This year, according to the President's Council on Environmental Quality, pollution abatement costs amounted to only about seven tenths of one per cent of the Gross National Product. That's hardly enough to rate as a root cause of today's economic woes.

And don't forget the high cost of NOT cleaning up our air and water. The cost of pollution is difficult to pin down precisely, but most sources agree it runs to somewhere between \$6 and \$18 billion a year for health-related expenses (work Days lost, medical bills, etc., particularly from respiratory disease) property damage, crop damage, and so on. When you balance the savings from clean-up against its cost, the case for blaming environmentalists for the high cost of living disappears entirely.

NEW RIVER BILL FAILS; GRAND CANYON GIVE-AWAY-The House Rules Committee failed to

report out the bill asking study for wild and scenic river status for the New River, which is imperiled by a dam project at the North Carolina-Virginia border, and the state of North Carolina has now gone to court to stop the project from going ahead...The measure that sought originally to expand Grand Canyon National Park would instead create a net decrease in Grand Canyon parkland of 55,000 acres and establish the much-opposed land-transfer to the Havasupai Indians for economic purposes. Further, it would allow the Havasupai to issue hunting licenses for the big-horn sheep on the land transferred to them. The bill has been sent to the President for signature...The BLM Organic Act, amended beyond recognition to a hopelessly bad bill, never got out of the House Interior Committee...Killed in joint conference was a bill to control toxic substances, a measure which will be a conservationists' priority next year.

CONGRESS PASSES EASTERN WILDERNESS AND CUYAHOGA BILLS-A bill creating 19 "instant" wildernesses and asking consideration of wilderness status for 40 more areas was passed by Congress and sent to the President. Though it asks less than the original Senate-passed bill, it asks more than the House version and establishes an important new precedent for eastern wildernesses...Another bill setting wilderness status for a number of areas in National Wildlife Refuges and in National Forests also was passed...The bill establishing a Cuyahoga National Recreation Area, passed by the House, was then quickly pushed through the Senate. Thanks for shepherding speedy passage of this bill is due Senator Howard Metzenbaum and Representative John F. Seiberling, both of Ohio.

LAST WOLF SHOT IN 4-WOLF EXPERIMENTAL TRANSPLANT IN MICH.-The last survivor of the timber wolf transplant has been killed but the research biologists conducting the study feel that the experiment was still worth the time and funds spent on the project. All four wolves were shot, trapped, or run over within 7 months of being transplanted to northern Michigan (see Leader 1/25, 8/26/74). However, within that period they established pack identity (with the exception of a single female who remained a 'loner' and who was also the last survivor), established territory, and searched for food successfully. The wolves were transplanted to Michigan, where they are virtually non-existent, from Minnesota, home of the sole viable U.S. population of this endangered species. National Audubon helped fund the experiment. Though biologically successful, such a wolf transplant still needs far greater public sensitivity and education to the wolf's needs and real relationship to people before it can work.

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES NEW SANCTUARIES IN TEXAS AND FLORIDA-We have a new wildlife sanctuary in Texas, a 126-acre tract including Sidney Island and surrounding waters in the Sabine River, along the Louisiana border. The island, which the Society is leasing from the State of Texas, is used by a number of species of wading birds but is particularly important as a rookery for roseate spoonbills...And we have signed a management agreement with the State of Florida to protect Town Islands-Longboat Key as part of our sanctuary holdings in Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay's mangrove islands are particularly important to the endangered brown pelican.

DYE-MARKED CANVASBACK SIGHTING REPORTS NEEDED-Central Midwest Regional Rep Myron Swenson is again aiding the Fish & Wildlife Service by serving as a headquarters for receiving reports of sightings of dye-marked canvasback ducks (see Leader 3/8/74). Sightings are needed this year for dye-marking now going on at LaCrosse, Wis., and Keokuk, Iowa, on the Mississippi River to determine the birds' movements. Send sighting reports with color of marking, location and date; total number of canvasbacks in flock, and your name, address, and phone to: Nat'l Audubon, Route 1, Box 19, Mauckport, Indiana, 47142.

"Dollars to Save Wildlife." The Endangered Species Act of 1973, "the nearest thing yet to a Magna Charta for wildlife preservation," is in danger of becoming a meaningless law if Congress does not appropriate the funds necessary to carry