

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

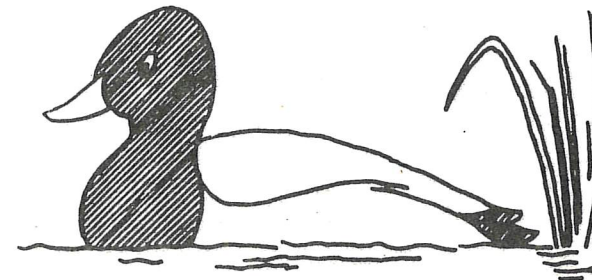
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Mr & Mrs T A Beckett III
Magnolia Gardens Rt 4
Charleston S C 29407

the lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S. C. by THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.,
Your National Audubon Society Chapter, November 1975, Volume XXVI No. 8

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, November 11, 1975
Monthly Meeting at 8 P.M.
in Charleston Museum Lecture Hall

The November program will be a slide-lecture by Jay Schuler, a well-known Naturalist from McClellanville. This is Jay's second appearance in as many years. His program last year on "Fiddlers and Swans" was well received by the Society. This year his program is entitled "Food Chains" and many of the organisms referred to in his lecture are to be found in the marshes and woods of our Coastal Plain. This program should be extremely educational, especially to high school and college students studying biology and ecology.

Richard Porcher
Program Chairman

Sunday, November 16, 1975
Field Trip to Greentree Reservoir - Francis Marion National Forest
Field Trip Leader: Richard Porcher
Meet at 8 A.M. at Charleston Museum

Sunday, November 23, 1975 - Bellefield Bird Census

On Sunday November 23, the Bellefield bird census will once again take place and for those who have missed it in the past let me say that it is perhaps our most enjoyable field trip. Thanks to the kindness of Ms. Severin our host, we are permitted absolute freedom on the 70,000 acre estate that has been enjoyed by presidents, prime ministers and paupers alike.

It will be open to all who write Dr. Harry Freeman a postcard. His address is 1340 Bluebird Dr., Mt. Pleasant, S. C.

We will leave the Sea Island Shopping center Int. Hwy. 17 and 703 at 6 A.M. and be met at the Hobcaw house at Bellefield at 7:30. There will be assigned count areas and served coffee and pastries. Following the day's count a happy hour will be provided by Ms. Severin. See you the 23rd.

List of Future Field Trips

December 13 Birding in the Pawley's-Litchfield area

December

20 -21 Camping on Bulls Island

21 Christmas Bird Census with Jay Schuler - McClellanville area

28 Charleston Natural History Society Census with Julian Harrison

January 4 Pawley's-Litchfield Christmas Bird Census with Pat Probst

Details will follow in the next Squawk. Make plans to join us on one of the bird counts.

David Huff
Field Trip Chairman

"Brawny Australia"

The Charleston Museum invites you to attend a film-lecture to be shown at the Charleston Municipal Auditorium on Sunday, November 9, 1975 at 8:00 P.M. For persons who are not members of the Charleston Museum there will be admission fee of \$2.50 per adult and \$1.00 per child.

Topic of film lecture: "Brawny Australia"

Speaker: Ken Armstrong

Cities... Sidney, Cairns, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Darwin:

Industry, copper, iron, gold and opal mining, animal husbandry, wine manufacture; Natural History - wildly contrasting ecology...historic sites, festivals, recreation, and the Great Barrier Reef, above and below water.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM & LECTURE

"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

After being elected president of CNHS last May, I attempted to acquaint myself with the history of the organization. I found, however, that the written records of the Society are scattered, and that no concise, written history exists. I decided, therefore, that as my major contribution to the Society as president, I would initiate steps to ensure that a history of CNHS be written. I approached one of our most venerable members, Elizabeth Simons, and asked her to undertake the task. She has agreed to do so. In order to assist Elizabeth, I must arrange to collect all documents, papers, pamphlets, etc., that relate to the history of CNHS and make them available to her. If any members of the Society have such

retary of the Interior to contract with state and local law enforcement officials rather than give enforcement authority to Bureau of Land Management personnel. The Subcommittee is expected to complete mark-up by the end of this month.

At oversight hearings October 3 on the National Wildlife Refuge System, Washington Rep. Cynthia Wilson charged the Fish & Wildlife Service's new reorganization plan is "fragmentary" and is resulting in fewer personnel on the refuges. She also opposed the plan to turn management of some refuges over to states...Rep. John F. Seiberling (O.) has introduced H.R. 9540, a bill that would halt mining in National Monuments such as Death Valley by repealing statutes where mining is allowed so that the Secretary of Interior can buy these areas out as parks.

FOREST SERVICE RESUMES SALE OF TIMBER IN SOUTH-The Forest Service has resumed limited sale of the timber it had withdrawn from the market in response to a federal Court of Appeals decision that clearcutting is illegal in National Forests. Only dead and dying trees will be cut, as per the guidelines of the court decision. Additional sale of timber within four Mid-Atlantic states may be forthcoming. Meanwhile, legislation for timber management reform, including updating of the old 1897 Organic Act, is now being drafted. Conservationists are seeking specific guidelines for clearcutting: restrictions against such cutting along streams and drainages, a ban on clearcutting on steep slopes and clearcutting of mixed hardwoods, and limitations on size of clearcuts. A bill will be submitted within the next month or two attempting to cover these and other proposed timber reforms, including attempts to change hardwood forests to softwoods in the type of pine monoculture programs National Audubon has long opposed.

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS TO BE PUBLISHED IN LESSER SQUAWK IS THE 20TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH!

OFFICERS

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

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

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Conservation: Robert Payne

Program: Richard Porcher

Membership: Ann Pratt

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THE LESSER SQUAWK is published by the Charleston Natural History Society
Editor: Perry E. Nugent, 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S. C., 29407
Phone 556-3841

documents in their possession, or know the whereabouts of any such documents, could you please call me and I will arrange to have them delivered to Elizabeth.

It is also my goal to have the history published so that it can be made available to members. Mr. Don Herold, director of the Charleston Museum has offered the services of the museum's printing equipment to assist in this task. I think it appropriate that the Museum and CNHS jointly engage in this effort to produce a history of CNHS since the activities of the Society have been closely associated with the Museum for many years.

Richard D. Porcher
President

Bird Movements in November

ARRIVALS					
Date	Species		Date	Species	Date Species
1	Sprague's Pipit	7	Gadwall	25	Double-crested
	Fox Sparrow	12	Fulvous Tree Duck		Cormorant
2	Broad-winged Hawk		Great Black-backed	24	Common Merganser
3	White-winged Scoter		Gull		Saw-whet Owl
	Ipswich Sparrow	16	Bufflehead	28	Common Teal
4	Common Golden Eye		Golden Eagle		European Teal
	Snow Bunting	17	Rough-legged Hawk	30	Brant
5	Parasitic Jaeger	19	Glaucous Gull	?	Horned Lark
6	Old Squaw	20	Red Crossbill		
		21	Raven		

DEPARTURES

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

The Sky-Watchers' Guide

November skies have much to offer Sky-watchers, whether or not they are equipped with binoculars or telescopes.

By the time it is dark, at mid-month, two planets may be seen. Approximately 30 degrees above the eastern horizon, the brightest object in view will be Jupiter. It is now in good position for telescopic observation, and those instruments with 60 mm aperture will reveal the famous Red Spot that has baffled astronomers for generations. The Pioneer missions have proven that the giant planet, (larger than all the other planets put together), is composed mostly of turbulent gases, and the Great Red Spot is a violent storm that waxes and wanes, but never disappears. This year, it promises to be brighter than usual. About an hour later, Mars will appear close to the horizon, northeast of Jupiter. As Mars climbs higher into view, it will be noticed that it is growing steadily brighter than it has been during the

past weeks. This is because the earth, moving through space at twice the speed of Mars, is catching up with its neighbor planet, and thus reducing the distance between them.

Between Mars and Jupiter shines Aldeberan, the "Red Angry Eye" of Taurus, the Bull. The Bull's face is formed by a V-shaped group of stars, which, with the exception of Aldeberan, are rather faint. Extending some fifteen degrees northeast of the face are two stars that represent the horns of the Bull, and about ten degrees to the west of it is a very faint cluster of stars. This beautiful little group is the Pleiades, or "Seven Sisters".

The Square of Pegasus is now high overhead, just west of the meridian. The head of Andromeda, (mentioned last month), is the star in the upper left hand corner of the Square, and at this time is on the meridian. Her body and feet extend north-eastward, and at right angles from the middle star are two very faint ones. These represent her outstretched arm. Quite close to the end of the arm, a faint blur of light may be caught by the naked eye. This is the most distant object visible without optical aid. Through binoculars, this looks much brighter, and a large telescope will reveal its identity. This famous "Nebula in Andromeda" is another galaxy, similar to our Milky Way Galaxy. The two are separated by a distance of two million light-years.

By 10:00 p.m., another planet will come into view, as Saturn emerges above the northeastern horizon. It will continue to shine through the rest of the night, until at dawn, it will fade in the western sky.

For hardy Sky-watchers who may be fortunate enough to keep vigil throughout the night, November offers a bonus in a meteor shower known as the Leonids. From midnight until dawn on the 17th and 18th, these fiery visitors may be seen suddenly appearing from a northeasterly direction. They enter the earth's atmosphere at a speed of 44 miles per second, and thus are entirely consumed, with none ever having been known to plummet to earth. Because of their extreme heat, many are tinged with green or blue, and some leave long trails that might even last for several minutes. About 4:00 in the morning, when they are most numerous, they will appear to be emanating from the constellation, Leo, which will then be above the horizon. It is believed that these meteors are debris from the surface of a comet which was first seen in 1366. The comet and its particles, most of which continue to travel together near it, take 33½ years to complete their orbit. Thus great showers occur only at such intervals. The latest spectacular shower took place in 1966, but each year, there are enough individual meteors to give breathtaking thrills to the observer.

Venus is still a "Morning Star". On November 7, it will reach its greatest western elongation, rising about 3½ hours before the sun. During the two days of greatest meteor activity, Venus will vie with the "falling stars" in the pre-dawn display of exquisite beauty.

Elizabeth D. Simons

The Asters

November is certain to bring frost; hence the aptness of the name "frost weed" for certain of the asters which linger in flower long after many another plants have been rendered to some brownish hue by the icy coatings of late fall. Some of our area's asters bloom earlier, but the majority, like their relatives the chrysanthemums, are long night plants, and so produce their flowers under the influence of ever lengthening nights.

The stiff-leaved, frost and starved asters are three particularly common species

AUDUBON LEADER - September 26, 1975

IT'S TOO LATE TO TRY TO CHANGE THIS FALL'S WASTEFUL DUCK-HUNTING LIMITS, BUT AUDUBON WILL SUE TO END FUTURE USE OF 'POINT SYSTEM'

In a letter to Acting Secretary of the Interior D. Kent Frizzell, Audubon President Stahr has served notice on the federal government that the Society intends to "proceed with legal action" to prevent future use of the "point system" for setting bag limits for duck hunters. This year's regulations, which allow hunters to take up to ten legal ducks a day (Leader, 9/12), "remove all doubt about the necessity of abandoning the unworkable point system," wrote Stahr.

Stahr explained that the Society was withholding action this fall because the federal regulations were announced at the eleventh hour. A law suit now, he said, just as the hunting season is about to start, could cause "great inconvenience and confusion" for the state wildlife agencies bound by the federal regulations.

The so-called point system assigns different numbers of points to different species of waterfowl -- more points for the less plentiful species, less for the more common ones -- and when the system was first put into effect seven years ago National Audubon had high hopes it would prove to be a workable way of directing hunting pressure to the more common species. But in practice it has encouraged violations (for instance, an unscrupulous duck shooter who shoots a bird and then discovers it is a high-point species may merely throw it back in the marsh so he can take home a larger number of low-point birds). This fall's high bag limits can be expected to magnify such violations.

AUDUBON LEADER - October 10, 1975

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' PROPOSED WETLANDS PROTECTION PLAN UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT; IT'S OPPOSED BY DEVELOPERS, FORESTERS

The Army Corps of Engineers on July 25 issued its proposed regulations for protection of wetlands. They are acceptable to environmentalists and the Administration needs all the support it can get. They would not curtail farmers' plowing operations, as had originally been asserted by the Corps (see Leader 5/23/75). The Corps' proposed program is generally the "broad application" of Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act favored by conservationists. It sets a three-phase, two-year timetable for extending the present regulations for dredge disposal well into wetlands adjacent to rivers, streams, and coastal waterways, thus controlling unchecked and needless land-fill.

The Corps prepared the regulations as the result of a court case filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Wildlife Federation. The permits would be issued according to guidelines drawn up by the Environmental Protection Agency, which supports the proposed regulations.

However, powerful political interests--forestry, agriculture, development--have been attacking the regulations at Corps hearings on the program which were held across the country last month. In Congress, some 30 amendments to Section 404 have been submitted to the House Public Works Committee, all of which would seriously weaken the program. The Committee will be holding hearings on the Corps program in November. Letters to President Ford in support of the Corps wetlands protection program are very much needed.

BLM ORGANIC ACT BEING WEAKENED; OTHER D.C. NEWS--The draft of the BLM Organic Act now being worked on in the Public Lands Subcommittee in the House is becoming more and more unacceptable to environmentalists. A number of weakening amendments have been adopted, including a proposal for law enforcement which would direct the Sec-

in bloom now. The starved aster is more likely to be seen on damper sites; the other two prefer drier fields. They often occur in large numbers; so that their flowers of white, blues and lavender form banks of cool colors, appropriate to the fading of botanical display into the relatively sombre-hued winter.

Along marsh edges you may find a large sprawling aster that almost climbs through the myrtles and other palustrine denizens. Its large flowers are a beautiful pinkish-purple. Growing in the upper reaches of the brackish marshes are at least two species that tolerate occasional inundations by sea water. Aster squarrosus, which is common on the pine barrens, has one of the bluest flowers and is one, protected by the deep grasses, that lasts the longest into late fall.

There are almost 600 species of asters in the world, being found natively on all continents except Australia. Most of the garden varieties are hybrids with parentage from cooler climates and thus don't, as a rule, thrive here. The name aster comes from the Greek word Astron, meaning star.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

		Observations	
Date	Species	Location	Observer
September 20	21 Queen Butterflies	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Sandwich Tern	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 White Peacock Butterfly	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	3 Black-throated Blue Warblers	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	3 Northern Waterthrushes	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	2 Yellow Warblers	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
	1 Northern Oriole	Capers Island	Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
October			
	4	2 Great Black-backed Breech Inlet Gulls	Perry Nugent
		1 Northers Water- thrush	U.S. Veg. Lab. Perry Nugent
		100,000 Rough-winged & Tree Swallows	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
		4 Cape May Warblers	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
		1 Black-throated Blue Warbler	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
		1 Merlin	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
		1 Northers Water- thrush	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
		8 Queen Butterflies	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent
		35-40 White Peacock Butterflies	Capers Island Pete Laurie & Perry Nugent

Date	Species	Location	Observer
October			
13	1 Merlin	U.S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
17	1 Bald Eagle	US-17 Ashepoo River	Pete Laurie
22	1 Lincoln Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Cr.	Perry & Cris Nugent
	1 Yellow rumped Warbler	2260 Dallerton Cr.	Perry Nugent
24	2 Ospreys	U. S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent

Account of September Field Trip to Mesophytic Hardwood Forest near Huger

Eleven members and guests accompanied Richard Porcher, leader of the trip, to one of his favorite botanical spots in the Francis Marion National Forest. Their reward was one of the most botanically significant field trips conducted by CNHS in recent years. A colony of Three Birds Orchid, *Triphora trianthophora*, was found in the mesophytic hardwood forest along Huger Creek, Berkeley County. The only other time this orchid had been reported from the Coastal Plain region of S. C. was by Dr. H. W. Ravenel, a distinguished botanist from St. John's Parish, Berkeley County (and great, great grandfather of Richard Porcher). Dr. Ravenel collected one specimen of Three Birds Orchid along the Santee Canal in Berkeley County in the mid 1800's. This specimen is on deposit in the Charleston Museum Herbarium, and according to available records, was the only record of its occurrence in the Coastal Plain region of S.C. The finding of a colony of Three Birds Orchid in the mesophytic hardwood forest along Huger Creek represents a botanically significant addition to the present knowledge of vascular flora of the Coastal Plain. As an additional note, the native habitat of Three Birds Orchid is damp woods and thickets of the mountains, and in S.C. can be found in Pickens and Oconee counties.

In addition to the discovery of Three Birds Orchid, numerous species of rare or unusual vascular plants were observed by the group in this unusual habitat (the mesophytic hardwood forest along Huger Creek is a relic community that migrated from the Appalachians, and exists only in scattered areas in the Coastal Plain). Observed were: the orchids Shadow-witch, Green Adder's Mouth, Autumn Coral Root, and Crane-fly; a saprophytic vascular plant, Indian Pipe; a parasitic vascular plant, Beech-drops; and Jack in the Pulpit. Since the spring wildflowers in this site are also exceedingly varied and showy, I will arrange with the Field Trip Chairman a return trip in the spring.

Richard D. Porcher

Canadian Bird Study

The Canadian Wildlife Service is conducting an extensive program of banding and color-marking shore birds in James Bay and the Maritime Provinces. Colored leg bands and feather dyes will be used this year to mark the birds.

Bird watchers are asked to report sightings of marked birds to:

Dr. R.I.G. Morrison
Canadian Wildlife Service
2721 Highway 31
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3
Canada

Details of species, place, date and marking should be reported.

Phillip S. Morgan