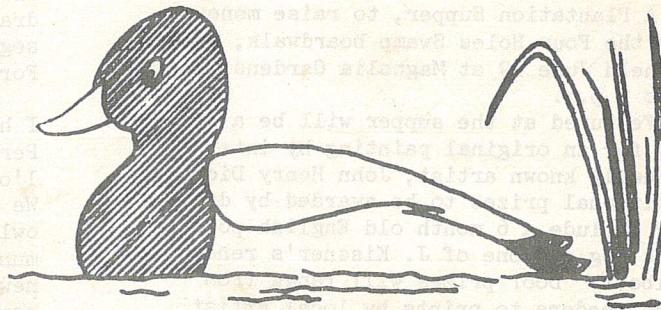


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## **Squawk**



- Volume XXVII, No. 6

June 1976

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

There are no monthly meetings scheduled during the summer months of June, July, and August, as has long been the custom of the CNHS. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on the second Tuesday in September. Please note this change - in the past the first meeting of the year was in October, but at a recent executive committee meeting it was decided to hold the season's first meeting in September.

### **NEW OFFICERS**

At the May monthly meeting the entire slate of proposed officers were elected unanimously. They are:

Vice president- Ann Pratt  
Sec-Tres- Steve Walker  
Members at Large- Bobbin Huff, Susan Roche, Coots Donaldson, Mary Reed, Robert Payne, Pete Laurie, Alan Bills.

Richard Porcher will continue to serve the remainder of the two year term of president.

### **FIELD TRIP**

Field Trip Chairman David Huff has planned a single summer field trip to Poinsett State Park near Sumter on July 17.

Located near the Wateree River, Poinsett State Park has cypress swamps in the river bottoms and hardwoods along the hills: a blend of mountain and coastal plain terrain with flora and fauna indigenous to both regions.

Mr. Huff suggests that this trip may present an excellent opportunity to practice some nature photography and advises photographers and would be photographers to bring their equipment for an informal seminar.

CNHS members and guests who wish to participate in this summer field trip should meet at the Charleston Museum at 7:30 on the morning of July 17. A caravan will be formed for the two hour drive to the park. As always one should bring lunch, insect repellent, and rain gear. Mr. Huff promises to have us home for supper.

## SUPPER TO BE HELD

A Plantation Supper, to raise money for the Four Holes Swamp boardwalk, will be held June 19 at Magnolia Gardens from 6 to 9 p.m.

Featured at the supper will be a drawing for an original painting by internationally known artist, John Henry Dick. Additional prizes to be awarded by drawing include a 6 month old English pointer bird dog and one of J. Kissner's renowned Folbots. Door prizes will range from bird feeders to prints by local artist Anne Worsham Richardson.

All proceeds from the supper will be donated to the National Audubon Society for construction of an educational boardwalk in the Society's new Four Holes Swamp Sanctuary located 35 miles northwest of Charleston.

Menu for the supper will be barbecued chicken, cole slaw or potato salad, dessert and soft drinks. Beer also will be available.

A single \$5.00 ticket covers admission to Magnolia Gardens, supper, and a chance at all the door prizes. A separate raffle will be held that evening for the John Henry Dick painting, the bird dog, and the Folbot.

Tickets can be purchased at the following outlets: Grant City North Piggly Wiggly, South Windemere Piggly Wiggly, Meeting St. Piggly Wiggly, Broad Street Piggly Wiggly, Dumas and Sons, and Carolina Prints and Frames.

Members wishing to volunteer to help sell tickets or serve at the supper, call Polly Holden at 795-1124 (home) or 577-0430 (work). Anyone requiring transportation to the supper should contact Richard Porcher at 884-9474 (home) or 577-6900, ext. 2203 (work).

## SPRING BIRD COUNT

This year's Charleston Spring Bird Count, sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club, proved something of a success despite a disheartening lack of participants. A total of 161 species were seen during the May 14 day-long count.

The count area, identical to that used on the Audubon sponsored Christmas Bird Count, is a 15 mile diameter circle, drawn to include Bull Island and a large segment of the Francis Marion National Forest.

As in each of the past several years, I had the good fortune to accompany Perry Nugent in the always productive I'on Swamp area south west of Awendaw. We arrived early hoping to hear some owls. Already on the scene was Dr. Edmund Farrar, a quietly efficient birder, new to the Charleston area. Over hushed conversation in the soft dawn we soon discerned the hooting of both a great-horned owl and several barred owls. Screech owls we missed as we often do.

A little after sunup we were joined by Sarah Taylor and Teddy and Gerald Muckenfuss, all old hands at the business of bird counts.

The day remained cool and overcast with an occasional hint of showers - an altogether excellent day to bird. By car and on foot we pried the little logging roads listening for unusual songs and scanning the tree tops for movement. I made a brief sortie into the pine barren domain of chigger and tick to confirm the call of an unusual black-billed cuckoo. Later, at what first seemed to be a deserted little pond in an old borrow pit, we spotted a spectacularly hued purple gallinule, as it stepped lightly across the lily pads on long yellow toes.

Several days earlier Dr. Farrar twice had seen a Swainson's warbler along a low, wet stretch of I'on Swamp Road. He thought he again could locate this elusive species, particularly with the aid of a cassette recording of its song. But all our listening, searching, and playing of the tape was not to be rewarded on count day. We finally had to give up.

At noon we stopped at an open area, and like clockwork the kites, five swallow tails and a Mississippi, arrived to interrupt our sandwiches and coffee. By late afternoon our group had tallied a respectable 85 species, without seeing any unusual warblers or a single sparrow.

Pete Laurie

## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

(The following is the first of a series of columns by CNHS member ANN T. ADKINS to help explain the related issues of coastal zone management and tidelands legislation, ED.)

### What Is It?

Coastal Zone Management, in simplest terms, is a program which provides for the wise and balanced use of coastal zone resources. While protecting these resources for their ecological, cultural, historic and esthetic values, a coastal zone management program must also take into consideration the economic and social needs of coastal residents.

### How Did It All Begin?

Recognizing a real need for the beneficial use, protection and proper development of coastal zone resources, the United States' Congress, in October 1972, passed the Coastal Zone Management Act (Public Law 92-583). Under this act the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to make grants to coastal states for the purposes of: (1) development of management programs, (2) administration of management programs and (3) establishment of estuarine sanctuaries. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce was selected to provide guidance and support to the 34 eligible coastal zone states and territories whose decisions to participate in coastal zone management programs are strictly voluntary.

### South Carolina's Response

In August 1973 former governor, John C. West, in response to this new federal law, created the Coastal Zone Planning and Management Council. The council is chaired by State Senator, James M. Waddell, Jr., and is composed of the directors of all state agencies which have an interest in coastal zone matters as well as one at-large member who represents environmental concerns.

This council was charged with two principal tasks: (1) the drafting of enabling coastal zone management legislation and (2) the formulation of a comprehensive management plan. Without the passage of enabling legislation a management plan or program will not become a reality.

Since its creation the council has drafted and supported legislation. Council staff in Columbia and Charleston have accumulated a tremendous amount of data on coastal zone resources - data which will be organized and used in the development of a management program. Much of this data has been gathered through projects such as these: (1) Natural Resources Inventory, (2) Bottom Tidal Currents Study, (3) Public Beach Access, (4) Tidal Benchmark Study and (5) Computer Mapping. This impressive data base will be the core of the management program and will enable land and water use decisions to be based on scientific fact rather than blind emotion. At present, this data base and a future management plan are in jeopardy for the General Assembly has not yet passed the enabling legislation. If "coastal zone" or "tidelands" legislation is not passed during this legislative session, South Carolina will lose, in August 1976, all federal funding without which the coastal zone planning program cannot be administered.

Ann Townsend Adkins  
Information Specialist  
Coastal Zone Planning Office

## THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Only two planets are visible in the evening sky during June. By the time it is dark, Mars and Saturn will be approaching the northwestern horizon. Saturn will set first, about thirty minutes ahead of Mars. At this time, Saturn is much the brighter of the two, because on May 21, Mars reached its greatest distance away from the sun - 155 million miles, and also because Earth, on its constant merry-go-round race, outstripped its fellow planet many weeks ago, and is receding from Mars.

Since December, the earth has travelled half-way around the sun. Maintaining its inclination toward the North Star as it moves on a counter clockwise course, it is now causing the northern hemisphere to be inclined, also, toward the sun. For this reason, the days have been steadily increasing in length, and the nights growing shorter. On June 21, at 1:24 a.m., Earth will reach the southernmost point on its orbit. The sun will rise in the northeast shortly after 5:00 a.m., and set in the northwest about 7:00 p.m. This is known as the Summer Solstice. The farther north one travels at this time of year, the longer the hours of daylight become; finally, in the Arctic Regions, there will be no darkness at all for several weeks.

After the lingering twilight disappears into the night sky over Charleston, only a few brilliant stars may be seen. The constellations of winter now have all gone, and those of summer have taken their places. Although not as sparkling as most of their predecessors, these constellations have a soft beauty of their own. About 8:00 p.m. on the 15th, fiery red Arcturus will be close to the meridian, and almost directly overhead. Leo, the Lion is moving head-downward toward the northwestern horizon, followed by Virgo with the first magnitude star, Spica, located some 20 or 25 degrees southwest of

Arcturus. Now, just completely above the southeastern horizon, the constellation, Scorpius the Scorpion has come into view. This figure really looks like the creature for which it was named. A curve of rather faint stars slanting to the right form the body and tail of the arachnid. One very bright, red star dominates this curve. It was called by the ancients, "Antares", meaning "Mars Rival", because of its color and brightness. This star is a red giant, more than 300 times larger than our sun. The figure is completed by a small curve of three stars at the upper end, representing the claws of the Scorpion. Later in the night during June, or earlier in the evening next month, two stars apparently close together may be seen at the tip of the tail. These suggest the poisonous stinger.

High in the northeast, another brilliant star may be found. This is Vega.

When facing north at this time, one can see both the Big and Little Dippers, the former apparently tilted on the edge of its bowl, and the latter, balanced on the tip of its handle, (Polaris).

Just as there are two "Evening Stars" in June, this year, (Saturn and Mars), there are also two "Morning Stars". Jupiter rises about 2:00 a.m. on the 15th, and Mercury, which reaches its greatest western elongation on June 13, rises about an hour and a half before the sun on that date.

During vacation periods throughout the summer, Sky-watchers should be able to observe the dependable progress of the constellations, four minutes earlier each night, across the sky; and also, the varying behavior of the individual planets. With the North Star as a pivot, the other stars all appear to move in concentric circles around it. The planets are always located near the ecliptic, the path which the sun appears to travel. Although not visible during June, Venus will return into view in late July, soon after sunset.

Elizabeth D. Simons

## SPRING COUNT: SPECIES LIST

Charleston Bird Count Compiler Julian Harrison supplied *The Lesser Squawk* with the following list of birds seen on the count:

Horned Grebe, 4; Brown Pelican, 190; Dbl.-cr. Cormorant, 60; Anhinga, 30; Great Blue Heron, 46; Green Heron, 39; Little Blue Heron, 32; Cattle Egret, 58; Great Egret, 97; Snowy Egret, 59; Louisiana Heron, 50; Black-cr. Night H., 22; Yellow-cr. Night H., 8; Least Bittern, 21; American Bittern, 2; Wood Stork, 26; Glossy Ibis, 6; White Ibis, 289; Mallard, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 8; American Wigeon, 1; Wood Duck, 57; Turkey Vulture, 19; Black Vulture, 9; Swallow-tailed Kite, 11; Mississippi Kite, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 8; Red-shouldered H., 12; Osprey, 23; Bobwhite, 20; Turkey, 1; Clapper Rail, 19; Sora, 3; Purple Gallinule, 5; Common Gallinule, 48; American Coot, 32; Am. Oystercatcher, 95; Semipalmated Plover, 13<sup>40</sup>; Killdeer, 2; Bl.-bellied Plover, 211; Ruddy Turnstone, 14; Whimbrel, 87; Spotted Sandpiper, 227; Solitary Sandpiper, 7; Willet, 52; Greater Yellowlegs, 18; Lesser Yellowlegs, 37; Red Knot, 10; Least Sandpiper, 54; Dunlin, 149; Dowitcher, 152; Semip. Sandpiper, 52; Western Sandpiper, 13; Marbled Godwit, 1; Sanderling, 48; Herring Gull, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 83; Laughing Gull, 182; Gull-billed Tern, 17; Forster's Tern, 2; Common Tern, 120; Least Tern, 55; Royal Tern, 280; Black Skimmer, 121; Rock Dove, 47; Mourning Dove, 39; Ground Dove, 5; Yel.-billed Cuckoo, 34; Bl.-billed Cuckoo, 2; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 11; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Common Nighthawk, 7; Chimmey Swift, 46; Ruby-th. Hummingbird, 22; Belted Kingfisher, 8; Common Flicker, 12; Pileated Woodpecker, 46; Red-bellied Woodp., 78; Red-headed Woodp., 25; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Red-cock. Woodp., 8; Eastern Kingbird, 61; Great Cr. Flycatcher, 162; Acadian Flycatcher, 30; Eastern Wood Pewee, 79; Tree Shallow, 491; Bank Swallow, 2; Rough-wg. Swallow, 20; Barn Swallow, 445; Purple Martin, 6; Blue Jay, 56; Common Crow, 68; Fish Crow, 51; Carolina Chickadee, 86; Tufted Titmouse, 98; White-br. Nuthatch, 2; Brown-hd. Nuthatch, 46; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 117; Long-bill. Marsh W., 4; Mockingbird, 29; Gray Catbird, 7; Brown Thrasher, 21; American Robin, 1; Wood Thrush, 23; Veery, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 17; Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher, 190; Ruby-cr. Kinglet, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Loggerhead Shrike, 8; Starling, 42; White-eyed Vireo, 131; Yellow-th. Vireo, 7; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 97; Black-and-white W., 2; Prothonotary Warbler, 41; Swainson's Warbler, 2; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Northern Parula, 205; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-th. Blue W., 2; Yellow-rumped W., 25; Black-th. Green W., 55; Yellow-throated W., 209; Chestnut-sided W., 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 425; Prairie Warbler, 44; Ovenbird, 1; La. Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Com. Yellowthroat, 61; Yellow-br. Chat, 12; Hooded Warbler, 113; Am. Redstart, 2; House Sparrow, 5; Bobolink, 2; E. Meadowlark, 8; Red-wg. Blackbird, 197; Orchard Oriole, 17; Northern Oriole, 2; Boat-tailed Grackle, 194; Common Grackle, 50; Brown-hd. Cowbird, 27; Summer Tanager, 94; Cardinal, 180; Blue Grosbeak, 7; Indigo Bunting, 15; Painted Bunting, 70; Am. Goldfinch, 2; Ruf.-sided Towhee, 62; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Bachman's Sparrow, 8; Chipping Sparrow, 7; White-th. Sparrow, 19; Swamp Sparrow, 1.

Field Observers: Alston Badger, Ted Beckett, David Chamberlain, E. B. Chamberlain, Lynn Childers, E.C. Clyde, Teague Coleman, Robert Dunlap, Edmund Farrar, Julian Harrison, Bobbin and David Huff, Michael Hull, Curt Laffin, Pete Laurie, David Lourie, Gerald and Teddy Muckenfuss, Perry Nugent, Olgerts Puravs, Tom Reeves, Richard Roach, Susan Roche, Sarah Taylor.

## Bear's Bluff Spring Bird Count

Twenty-three participants enjoyed the first annual Bear's Bluff Spring Bird Count held on May 9. According to compiler Austin C. Badger, the count produced 104 species. An orange-crowned warbler seen by Perry Nugent was the day's most unusual bird.

Bird Movements in June

Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species
1	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	16	Roseate Spoonbill
14	Sooty Tern	17	Bridled Tern

Departures

1	Bairds Sandpiper	10	White-rumped Sandpiper
2	Sora Rail	13	Black-billed Cuckoo, Cedar Waxwing
3	Northern Phalarope	17	Knot
4	Solitary Sandpiper	18	Gannet, Tree Swallow
5	Horned Grebe, Blackpoll Warbler	22	Common Tern
6	Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Shoveler, Avocet, Sharp-tailed Sparrow	23	Red-breasted Merganser, Snow Bunting
7	Surf Scoter		Marbled Godwit
9	Bonaparte's Gull		

The following have been seen one or more times during June:

Sooty Shearwater	Bobolink	Least Bittern
Western Grebe	Ruddy Duck	Gadwall
Red Phalarope	Greater Shearwater	Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-winged Scoter	Gray Kingbird	

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 E. Nugent

				<u>Observations</u>			
Date	Species	Date	Observation	Location	Observer		
1	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	16	Roseate Spoonbill	Mar 27	1 male Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Francis Marion NF	E. Farrar
14	Sooty Tern	17	Bridled Tern	Apr 4	1 male Redstart	Magnolia Gardens	E. Farrar & M. Hull
				10	1 Black-necked Stilt	Magnolia Gardens	E. Farrar & M. Hull
					Many Blk.-th. Green Warbler	Francis Marion NF	E. Farrar, M. Hull & C. Geilfuss, Jr.
					Eastern Turkey	Francis Marion NF	E. Farrar, M. Hull & C. Geilfuss, Jr.
1	Bairds Sandpiper	10	White-rumped Sandpiper				
2	Sora Rail	13	Black-billed Cuckoo, Cedar Waxwing		2 Redstarts	Lake Marion	N. Martinez
3	Northern Phalarope				1 Eastern Kingbird	Lake Marion	N. Martinez
4	Solitary Sandpiper	17	Knot		1 Black & White Warbler	Lake Marion	N. Martinez
5	Horned Grebe, Blackpoll Warbler	18	Gannet, Tree Swallow		Pair and a young Wood Ducks	Black River, east of Goose Creek	E. Farrar
6	Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Shoveler, Avocet, Sharp-tailed Sparrow	22	Common Tern				
7	Surf Scoter	23	Red-breasted Merganser, Snow Bunting		26 50 Bobolinks	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
9	Bonaparte's Gull		Marbled Godwit		28 7 Solitary Sandpipers	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
					5 Spotted Sandpipers	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
					9 Swallow-tailed Kites	I'on Swamp	P. Nugent, P. Laurie, S. Taylor, G. & T. Muckenfuss
							" " "
					1 Mississippi Kite	I'on Swamp	" " "
					1 Purple Gallinule	I'on Swamp	" " "
					2 Black-billed Cuckoos	I'on Swamp	" " "
					1 Brown Creeper	I'on Swamp	P. Nugent
					1 Solitary Vireo	I'on Swamp	P. Nugent
					5 Water Pipits	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
					1 Bank Swallow	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
					2 Yellow Warblers	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
					3 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers	2260 Dallerton Cir	P. & C. Nugent
					3 to 2 Wood Stocks	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent
					17 1 Mississippi Kite	U.S. Vegetable Lab	P. Nugent & F. McGuire

The Colicroots

In late spring and early summer one finds the colicroots blooming in great profusion, particularly out on the extensive savannah lands, but also sometimes on the verge of moist hardwood forests. The first to bloom is *Aletris farinosa*, and it is followed shortly by *Aletris aurea*. The former bears scapes of closely set, small, white flowers that can scarcely be confused with any other, except perhaps ladies'-tresses orchids which a close examination readily separates. *Aletris aurea*, as its trivial name implies, has yellow blooms, which are of a rich, butter hue. *Aletris obovata* (also white-flowered) is known only from Beaufort county in S. C.,

but is common in Florida. The scapes of *Aletris*, as a rule, range from 17" to 25" tall, and at their bases are clusters of oblanceolate, pale green leaves with margins often tan colored.

Colicroots or stargrasses are found in North America and Asia, there being about 8 species in the eastern U. S. The common name colicroot is, of course, a reference to putative medicinal qualities. *Aletris* stems from aletron, meaning meal (*farinosa* also means meally), alluding to the glutinous projections that coat the outside of the petals. They belong to the large, diverse family Liliaceae.

Edmund R. Cuthbert