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THE LESSER SQUAWK  
Charleston Natural History Society  
1212 Taliaferro Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Address Correction Requested

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MAGNOLIA GARDENS  
RT. 4  
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29407

The Charleston Natural History Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members of Audubon who live in the Charleston area automatically become members of CNHS. A portion of the annual dues paid to Audubon are returned to CNHS to cover operating expenses.

CNHS normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except June, July, August, and December) at 8:00 P.M. in Baruch Auditorium.

One field trip a month is scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday to any of a variety of local natural areas.

THE LESSER SQUAWK welcomes any written contributions from the membership. The deadline for each issue is the 15th day of the preceeding month.

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## the lesser Squawk



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April 1977

APRIL SPEAKER: Miller White

FIELD TRIP

DATE: April 12, 1977

Float Trip  
April 23

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

Four Holes Swamp to Givhans Ferry

PLACE: Baruch Auditorium  
Gadsden & Calhoun  
Street.

Mr. White, district fish biologist with the S. C. Marine and Wildlife Resources Dept., will speak on a very interesting topic: those introduced plant and animal species in the United States -- how they were started, the problems they have generated and how they are being combated. The biologist will illustrate his talk with a slide show.

For those members who have canoes or Folboats, we will have a float trip from the Highways 178 bridge on Four Holes Swamp (the river) down to the Edisto River and hence to Givhan's Ferry. I'm told the trip will only take half a day, but plan to spend all day on the river. Bring lunch and rain gear. We will meet at the intersection of highways 178 and 78, just outside of Summerville at 8 a.m.

DAVID HUFF

### SPRING BIRD COUNT

May 1  
Meet at 6:30 a.m. at  
Gregorie's Service  
Station, Hw. 17 N.  
and 41

The Spring Bird Count, sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club, will be held May 1. Participants will spend eight hours in the field. If you're planning to attend, call Julian Harrison prior to the count so field parties can be assigned ahead of time.



EDITOR'S

NOTEBOOK

Last Friday night, we decided to invite a screech owl to our yard. We'd heard them call during the past couple of weeks. So, we opened the back door of the house, placed one of our speakers just outside and played a beautiful rendition of a screech owl call, recorded on one of our bird call records. David played the call a couple of times, then we listened. It took only a couple of plays before we heard an answer in the distance. After several repeats, the answers kept getting louder and louder. Finally, when the bird seemed fairly near, a friend of ours scanned nearby trees with a flashlight. Sure enough, right above us we saw the tiny rounded form.

As soon as the light hit him, the owl flattened down against the tree trunk and, after a minute or so, flew into the night.

We have used recordings before-one afternoon on a white-throated sparrow. That time, we placed the speaker right out under the trees. The tiny bird kept turning his head to one side and then the other to see if he couldn't see that other bird. He almost came right down to the speaker!

All the wildflower enthusiasts should find plenty of activities to keep them happy this month.

BOBBIN HUFF

## YOUNG NATURALISTS' NATURE WALK

On the 16th of April we will sponsor a nature walk for children ages 7 - 12 at Magnolia Gardens on Highway 61. The group must be limited to 20 children so advance registration will be required. We will be at the Gardens from 9:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. Brown bag lunches may be brought. Larry Thompson and Susan Roche will lead the group and ask that all children wear old clothes and tennis shoes.

Note to parents: We cannot assume responsibility for transportation of the group so we must meet at the main entrance of Magnolia. Car pools may be formed between individuals and parents are welcome to join us in assisting in the activities. Please call me prior to April 15th at 766-8026, to register your child.

SUSAN ROCHE

## BIRD STUDY GROUP

This month we will be going back to I'on Swamp for migrating Warblers. Parula, Black-throated Green and Hooded Warblers are already here and more species will arrive soon so the trip should give us more interesting birding. Meet April 9 at the Charleston Museum by 7:00 a.m. for an enjoyable half day of bird study.

The CNHS policy is rain or shine and the trip is always on regardless of the weather. In March we saw a Roughlegged, several Red-shouldered, and 2 red-tailed Hawks. In addition to the Hawks there were several Rusty Blackbirds, one Osprey, one Orange crowned Warbler, 5 bluebirds, many

Send your observations to me at 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S. C. 29407. Be sure to include the date and location as well as the names of all observers and any other information that might interest our readers.

PERRY NUGENT

## BIRD MOVEMENTS IN APRIL

### Arrivals

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

### Departures

2	Whistling Swan	22	Water Pipit
3	Old Squaw	24	Bufflehead
5	Virginia Rail		Winter Wren
6	Glaucous Gull	26	Blue Goose
7	Roughlegged Hawk		Parasitic Jaeger
8	Ipswich Sparrow		Louisiana Water Thrush
9	Golden-crowned Kinglet	27	Broadwinged Hawk
11	Baltimore Oriole		Solitary Vireo
13	Henslow's Sparrow		Purple Finch
14	Brown Creeper	28	Whip-poor-will
	Pheobe		Redbreasted Nuthatch
16	Common Merganser		Palm Warbler
	Robin	29	Rusty Blackbird
17	Raven	30	Pintail
18	Canvasback		Bluewinged Warbler
20	Common Goldeneye	Early	Greater Scaup
21	Pine Siskin	Late	Shorteared Owl
	Brownheaded Cowbird		

The following have been seen at least once during April:

White-tailed Kite	Yellowheaded Blackbird
Blackneck'd Stilt	Dickcissel
Goldenwinged Warbler	Lark Bunting
Baybreasted Warbler	Lapland Long Spur



High in the east, orange-red Arcturus shines with fiery brilliance. This is the herald announcing the approach of the summer constellations not many weeks hence. The observer who stays up until midnight at this time, will see the sky as it will appear at

8:00 p.m. in mid-June.

Mars, a "Morning Star", rises in the early dawn, and by April 15, Venus will also appear and remain in view after Mars fades in the brightening daylight.

ELIZABETH D. SIMONS

#### OBSERVATIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Feb. 19	Osprey	Wakendaw Lake	Charles J. Geilfuss, III & Donna M. La-Brasca
Feb. 23	Avocet	Hickory Bay	Jay Schuler
Mar. 4	1000+ Cedar Wax Wings	U.S. Veg. Lab	Perry Nugent
Mar. 10	200 Cedar Wax Wings	Cumberland & Church Streets	Laura & Max Singer
Mar. 13	Orange crowned Warbler	I'on Swamp	Gardner Miller, Jeremy James, Perry Nugent
	1000 White Ibis	"	"
	5 Rusty Blackbirds	"	"
	7 Red Sholdered Hawks	"	"
	2 Redtailed Hawks	"	"
	Roughlegged Hawk	"	"
	Osprey	"	"
	Solitary Vireo	"	"
	6 Bluebirds	"	"
Mar. 15	1 Parula Warbler	U.S. Veg. Lab	Perry Nugent
Mar. 16	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
Mar. 17	4 Cattle Egrets	U. S. Veg. Lab	Perry Nugent
Mar. 20	6 Ospreys	Fairlawn Plantation	Dennis Abbott, Perry Nugent
	Swainsons thrush	"	"
	Hooded Warbler	I'on Swamp	"
	25 Blackthroated Green Warblers	"	"
	2 Henry's Elf fins	Fairlawn Plantation	Perry Nugent

What happened to your observations for March? I will be looking for more in April since migration is going well and should produce some exciting finds. How about reporting sightings other than birds. Is anyone studying insects? If you are, you might be interested in the rare butterfly in the above list.

pine and yellowthroated Warblers and one solitary vireo. This is an example of how good birding can be after rain and is the reason for our policy.

PERRY NUGENT

#### WILDFLOWER WEEKENDS

Speaking of wildflowers, the S. C. Division of State Parks, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, has scheduled its Wildflower Weekends for April 16 and 17 and April 23 and 24.

The first weekend will be devoted to Lowlands wildflowers and the second to highland blooms.

Lowland trips will include the Beidler tract of Congaree Swamp, Poinsett State Park, Rivers Bridge State Park, Woods Bay State Park and Hunting Island State Park. Also, Hitchcock Woods, Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, Beidler Forest, Four Holes Swamp and Huntington Beach State Park.

Trips planned for April 23 and 24 include Station Falls, Paris Mountain State Park, Trotters Shoals, Kings Mountain State Park and Harmon Creek. Also, the Chatooga River, Table Rock State Park, Parsons Mountain, Broad River Scenic Area and Forty Acre Rock.

At each location, designated leaders will be present to provide information on wildflowers. Each night there will also be evening programs at nearby colleges and state parks.

For a schedule and registration blanks, write Wildflower Weekends, Programs Section, Division of State Parks, 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia, S. C. 29201.

#### LOWCOUNTRY WILDFLOWERS

Richard Porcher is offering a short course this spring at the Citadel on Lowcountry wildflowers.

The class, which will begin April 7, will cover plant identification, the natural history of the coastal plain, recognition of native plants with special emphasis on orchids and insectivorous plants and native plant communities in the field.

The four-week course will consist of four three-hour evening classes and three field trips on Saturday morning. Transportation will be furnished. The text for the class will be Dr. Wade Batson's "Genera of the Eastern Plants".

The cost of the course is \$35, which includes registration, transportation on field trips and use of microscopes.

Talk to Richard immediately if you are interested in attending.

#### BEAR'S BLUFF COUNT

The Spring Bird Count will be held at Bear's Bluff Laboratory May 29 at 7 a.m. This will be a half-day count. A light lunch will be served. All interested persons should call Alston Badger at 559-0371 (day) and 795-1875 (night).

#### LEAST TERNS

Anyone noting the arrival of Least Terns in the Charleston area should contact Susan Roche at 766-8026 or Dennis Forsythe, the Citadel, at 577-6900, Extension 2268. Please record the date birds are seen and the location.



## NATURAL AREAS

The Southeastern Regional Office of National Audubon has just printed a pamphlet called, "Natural Areas of Charleston, S. C."

The publication lists spots in the Lowcountry where one can find birds, wildflowers, and shells. It also suggests locations for canoeing, hiking and pursuing wildlife photography.

Each point of interest includes complete directions explaining how to get there, detailed descriptions and picnic or camping facilities.

For your free copy of this pamphlet, write the National Audubon Society, Southeastern Regional Office, P. O. Box 786, Charleston, S. C. 29402.



## PESTICIDE CAUTIONS

Another free pamphlet available from the office is "Pesticide Dos and Don'ts", published by National Audubon. The pamphlet offers helpful advice on the most biologically safe methods of controlling pests in the household, on domestic animals, in the garden and woodlands.

Writes the author Ian C. T. Nisbet, "Chemical pesticides are overpromoted and overused through-

out the world. Probably half the pesticide use in agriculture and 80 to 90 percent in homes and gardens is unnecessary and wasteful. Recognizing that indiscriminate use of pesticides is a contributing factor in environmental pollution, more people are becoming interested in creating and maintaining a healthy environment with little or no chemical pesticides. Some persons, such as organic gardeners, prefer to use no pesticides at all and have surprisingly few pest problems."

However, if you do have a serious pest problem, the pamphlet pinpoints the safest products and treatments.

Nisbet points out that all pesticides damage wildlife and no pesticide is totally safe. He lists illegal products and other ones still on the market which are not safe. Special instructions for using herbicides, rodenticides and funicides are also included.

The pamphlet should be in the hands of every South Carolinian. For your free copy, write the Southeastern Regional Office right here in Charleston.

## NEW SQUAWK DEADLINE

In order to meet production deadlines, I'm requesting contributors to get their information to me by the 15th of the month. This is necessary to ensure the paper is received by members prior to each month's meeting.

I also welcome members' accounts of personal experiences or information they think might be of interest to other society members.

## THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

The moon, this month, has special significance for several reasons. On April 3, it will be Full, rising a few minutes after the sun sets, about 6:30 p.m. The path which it follows will lead it into a part of the earth's shadow a few hours later, as a partial eclipse takes place. It will first become decidedly noticeable about 10:30 o'clock, when a curved "bite" appears on the east side of the moon's face. The moon will not become completely immersed in the shadow, but its progress can be observed as the curve moves westward, and finally disappears shortly after midnight.

The peoples of ancient times regarded the moon with awe, because it appeared to be larger and more brilliant than any other heavenly body visible in the night sky, and because its progress from west to east was accomplished in the shortest time. They watched it change, each night, from a thin crescent just after sunset until two weeks later when it became a brilliant disc appearing above the opposite horizon; and then, they observed it diminishing through the next two weeks until it disappeared from view. Always, a day or two after that, it would reappear in the west following the sunset. For the Babylonians, therefore, the moon became an instrument for measuring time. The word, "month", (from the same source as "moon"), denoted the period between the appearance of the "New Moon" and its next re-appearance. Since each such month covers approximately 29 1/2 days, and a complete year is composed of 365 1/4 days, the ancient lunar, or "moon" calendar sometimes had 12, and sometimes 13 months in a given year.

While the Hebrews were in captivity in Babylon, they probably adopted their captors' method of measuring time, and used it to mark the dates of their religious observances. Thus, Passover, an eight-day celebration, was set to begin on the day of the Full Moon that occurred nearest to the Vernal Equinox. Because Jesus' Resurrection took place on the Sunday of Passover week, the early Christians set the commemoration of Easter, the most joyous occasion of the year, to be celebrated on the Sunday following the Full Moon which should occur on or after the 21st of March. This year, 1977, Passover begins on April 3, and Easter falls on the eighth day of Passover, April 10.

During that same period, Mercury may be observed in the afterglow following the sunset. On the evening of Easter Day, Mercury will reach its greatest eastern elongation, not setting until after 8 o'clock.

Saturn, by that time, will be on the meridian, and Jupiter will be in the west, moving toward its setting.

At mid-month, by the time it is completely dark, Leo the Lion will be overhead, straddling the meridian, as it follows Saturn by about 15 degrees. In the north, the Big Dipper will be high in view, with the Pointers located on the meridian, and half-way between the horizon and the Pointers. Polaris, the North Star may be found. All the bright stars of winter are now in the western part of the sky, preparing to leave the scene until late next fall.