

CNHS OFFICERS

Pres: John Reed  
Vice-Pres: Teddy Muckenfuss  
Secy.Treas.: Emily Grimball

Members at Large: John Donato,  
David Chamberlain, David Huff,  
Polly Holden, Steve Walker,  
and Richard Porcher.

THE LESSER SQUAWK is published monthly  
by the Charleston Natural History  
Society, Inc. Editor: Bobbin Huff,  
28 - 21st Avenue, Isle of Palms, S. C.  
29451, Ph: 886-6911. Circulation  
Manager: Teddy Muckenfuss, 1212  
Taliaferro Ave., Charleston, S. C. 29412,  
Ph: 795-4436.

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

Address Correction Requested

T. A BECKETT III  
MAGNOLIA GARDENS  
RE: 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.

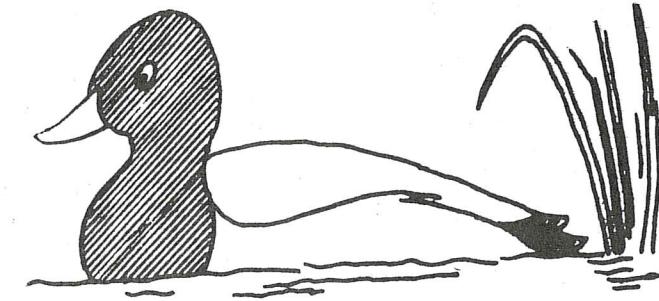
CNHS normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except June, July, August, and December) at 8:00 P.M. in Baruch Auditorium.

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.

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chas., S. C.  
Permit No. 349

## *the lesser Squawk*



Volume XXVIII, No. X

November 1977

### SEISMOLOGIST TO SPEAK

Dr. Joyce Bagwell, earthquake specialist at Baptist College, will discuss earthquake recording devices at our meeting Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. in Baruch Auditorium, Calhoun and Gadsden Streets. Parking is available on Gadsden Street.

### PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB PLANS

Nov. 22 the photography group will coordinate efforts in setting guidelines for slide shows to be used for CNHS speakers' bureau.

Jay Shuler, our fellow conservationist from McClellanville, will speak. We will meet at Porter-Gaud at 8 p.m. in the Upper School.

A field trip is planned for Dec. 4 to Bull's Island. We will gather at Moore's Landing at 7:45 a.m. for a day's trip. Bring a bag lunch. The fee for the boat ride over to the island is \$5.00.

### BIRD STUDY GROUP FOR NOVEMBER

The CNHS has a great many members in the Summerville area and it seems that they must continually travel to Charleston to go on a field trip. Well, this month's study group will be right next door: College Park.

College Park is located near Ladson and in lieu of instructions on how to get there, meet at the parking area in front of Baptist College at 8 a.m. or at the Charleston Museum at 7:30 a.m. Saturday Nov. 12.

We will be in an area new to us in birds and plants. I've been there often but never had time to do any birdwatching. Let me say only that the habitat is a high hardwood forest with many different trees than are found in the coastal Francis Marion Forest. Bring a lunch and warm clothing.

DAVID HUFF



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Almost every night, I take my dog for a walk around the block. We don't see too many birds or much wildlife. But, we hear them.

Some nights, like the first part of last month, when so many species began winging in on their annual migrations, I could hear peeps from every tree. I envisioned them filled with flocks of birds. Other times, especially in the spring, the eerie cackling of raccoons fighting floats from nearby trees.

With the streets quiet and fairly empty, I can absorb the subtle talismen of nature -- the wind, smells of fall-blooming flowers, a rustle when some bird has lost his grip on a branch, a crackling, swishing sound as a dead branch falls from a palmetto and the occasional call of a marsh hen still settling in for the night.

Through some odd acoustical phenomenon, on some nights even though my street is two long blocks away from the beach, I can hear the ocean better than if I were standing right next to it. The sound, of waves crashing, seems to come from all up and down this island. On nights like that, I can close my eyes and imagine this place as it used to be, before there were any houses. Just trees, dark forms against a lighter sky and the roar of the surf from the distance.

In this newsletter, you will find a questionnaire, which I hope you'll take time to fill out. Even if you don't answer all the questions, but want to speak out on any one of the subjects, please do so. I'd like to know who you are, but, inclusion of your name is optional. Please let us hear from you!

BOBBIN HUFF

For Christmas 1977,

Why Not Audubon?

Check the Membership You Desire. All members receive bimonthly issues of AUDUBON magazine.

Individual .....  \$15.00 per year Contributing .....  \$ 100.00 per year  
Family .....  \$18.00 per year Donor .....  \$ 250.00 per year  
Sustaining .....  \$30.00 per year Life .....  \$1000.00  
Supporting .....  \$50.00 per year  
Student .....  \$ 8.50 per year (for those under 21 years and/or for students enrolled in a full-time educational program.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print--membership will be entered as shown.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable and mail to:  
National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10022

IMPORTANT: Please indicate whether this is a new membership or a renewal payment by checking the proper box.  NEW  RENEWAL

Send To:  
National Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1268  
Charleston, S.C. 29402

## BIRD MOVEMENTS IN NOVEMBER

### Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species
1	Sprague's Pipit	17	Roughlegged Hawk
	Fox Sparrow	19	Glaucous Hawk
2	Broadwinged Hawk	20	Red Crossbill
3	White-winged Scoter	21	Raven
	Ipswich Sparrow	23	Doublecrested Cormorant
4	Common Goldeneye	24	Common Merganser
	Snow Bunting		Saw Whet Owl
5	Parasitic Jaeger	28	Common Teal
6	Old Squaw		European Teal
7	Gadwall		European Wigeon
12	Fulvous Tree Duck	30	Brant
	Great Black-backed Gull		Horned Lark
16	Bufflehead		
	Golden Eagle		

### Departures

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

The following have been seen at least once during November:

Western Grebe, Black-bellied tree Duck, Swainson's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Limpkin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Pomarine Jaeger, Sissorstailed Flycatcher, Black and White Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Water Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler.

QUESTIONNAIRE

With more than 500 members, it's difficult to keep in touch with the interests and feelings of individuals in Audubon. We hope you'll take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire so that we can make our program more responsive to members' interests.

1.) What do you like most about meetings?

-----

2.) What do you like least about meetings?

-----

3.) List programs you would like to see in the future:

-----

4.) Do you have suggestions for possible field trips?

-----

5.) What do you like most about The Squawk?

-----

6.) Subjects you would like to see added to The Squawk:

-----

7.) CNHS should put most emphasis on a. programs, b.) field trips, c. conservation projects. (Please circle one.)

8.) Would you be interested in working on: refreshments, conservation, Squawk, membership, education or field trips? (Please circle one or several.)

9.) Please give your profession: -----

10.) Name -----

11.) Other remarks:

The Lesser Squawk  
28 - 21st Avenue  
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	N. Litchfield	Pat & Renee Fröbst
	Cape May Warbler	"	"
	Magnolia Warbler	"	"
5	Broad-winged Hawk	"	"
6	Black-throated Blue Warbler	"	"
11	5 Savannah Sparrows	U.S. Veg Lab	Perry Nugent
	Male Rosebreasted Grosbeak	Quail Arbor	Roger Lambert
	200 Cowbirds	Summerville	
	Red-headed Woodpecker	U.S. Veg Lab 2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry Nugent Chris Nugent
15	Greater Yellowlegs	Rantowles Creek	Susan Roche
	Lesser Yellowlegs	"	"
	Wood Stork	"	"
	Baybreasted Warbler	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry Nugent
16	Merlin	Breach Inlet	Perry Nugent
	500 Black Skimmers	"	"
	300 Common Scoters	"	"
	6 Doublecrested Cormorants	"	"
17	Sharphinned Hawk	West Ashley	Susan Roche
	2 Sharpshinned Hawks	U.S. Veg Lab	Perry Nugent
19	Vesper Sparrow	"	"
Sept. ?	Black & White Warbler	Downtown Charleston	Scott Hall
	Magnolia Warbler	"	"
	Yellow-throat	"	"
	Towhee	"	"

This is more like it. It is good to have so many observations. I will be looking for more next month. Be sure to send your observations to me at 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, SC 29407. Do not send sightings to Bobbin, as this means she has to get them to me, which delays publishing the Squawk. Include the names of all observers, the date and location of your find.

PERRY NUGENT

#### FOUR HOLES DEDICATION

The Francis Beidler Forest boardwalk and information center in Four Holes Swamp was dedicated last month.

Present at the opening ceremonies were Francis Beidler III and IV, Elvis J. Stahr, president of National Audubon, Charles Callison, vice president, Mrs. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. and Frosty Anderson, manager of all National Audubon sanctuaries.

The forest is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and closed Mondays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. To get there, take the Ridgeville-Highway 27 exit from I-26 and follow the signs. An admission fee is charged.

#### BOWHEAD WHALING BAN

At its annual meeting in June 1977 the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted to prohibit hunting of the bowhead whale in 1978 because the mammal is critically endangered. This poses a complicated problem for the United States which now allows the Alaskan Inupiat Eskimos, as subsistence hunters, to take bowheads under an exemption to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The US, which has been a leader in the fight to save the world's remaining whales, and which has put strong pressure on Japan and the USSR to reduce their whale kills, would now be applying a double standard by objecting to the IWC moratorium. The Eskimos no longer hunt whales by traditional methods but use motorboats and exploding harpoons which makes it easy for them to kill more whales. Since there

are only about 1000 bowheads left in the world and there is very little scientific data available on them, it would seem prudent for the US to accept the moratorium while doing research and working out a management plan for the preservation of the species.

Please write immediately to President Carter at The White House, Washington, D.C., 20500, urging him to support the IWC ban on bowhead whaling.

#### NEWS FROM APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE

"Time is running out for the Appalachian Trail. Over 40% is on private land and therefore unprotected; an additional 175 miles are already on roads."

This alarming news comes from the Appalachian Trail Conference, an organization of numerous member groups devoted to maintenance and enjoyment of the AT. Many Charleston naturalists feel that the Southern Appalachians are "our" mountains, and will be interested in learning that the National Park Service hopes to purchase the necessary land to form an Appalachian Trail Corridor surrounding the trail from Maine to Georgia.

The pending legislation HR 8803 and S 2066 would also authorize monies to protect the trail and establish an Advisory Council. The Ap. Trail Conference asks your support in contacting legislators concerning these bills. For more info write to:

Appalachian Trail Conference  
P. O. Box 236  
Harper's Ferry, WV 25425

## BOHICKET-CHURCH CREEK HEARING

The S. C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Wastewater and Stream Quality Control, will hold a public hearing, Thursday, Nov. 17, 1977, to receive comments on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permit #SC0035084 proposed for the Hermina Traeye Memorial Health & Nursing Center, Sea Island Development Funds, Inc., Route 3, Box 225, Johns Island, S. C. 29445.

The hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of St. John High School, Johns Island, S. C.

Under the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, (PL 92-500), and the Pollution Control Act of S. C., as amended, Sea Island Development Funds, Inc., applied to the S. C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control for a permit to discharge treated wastewater to an unnamed tributary to Church Creek. The application described one discharge of sanitary wastewater from a new treatment facility to be built to serve the Hermina Traeye Memorial Health and Nursing Center, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 8051. The Center is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Browns Wood Road (SC 10-1442) and Maybank Highway (SC 700) on Johns Island, S. C. The discharge point will be from a facility to be built adjacent to the nursing center to a tributary of Church Creek at its intersection with Johns Island Road (SC 10-20). The receiving stream is classified as suitable for shellfishing for market purposes and any other usages.

Written comments may also be submitted until November 16, to Mr. Yeager, DHEC, 2600 Bull St., Columbia, SC 29201; (phone 803/758-3877).

## PAWLEY'S ISLAND COUNT

The Christmas bird count for Litchfield-Pawley's Island will be held on Thursday, Dec. 29, writes our friend Pat Probst who says this should be during vacation time for most people. Participants will meet at the Probst house that morning for a full day of birding. More information will be provided in the next Squawk.

Pat writes he's been "confined to quarters" after an operation at the Naval Hospital. However, that hasn't stopped him from keeping up with migratory changes. He has noticed especially the butterfly population this year. "The Monarch butterflies were migrating the day I came home (from the hospital) and many spent the chilly night in the pine trees at the back of the house. They have never been so plentiful, to my knowledge, in this location along the beach."

I hope when this Squawk arrives, Pat will be up and around to view transitory visitors from a closer viewpoint.

## NEW TREASURER

Emily Grimball is our new secretary-treasurer. She's revamping the secretary's book and setting the treasury straight. She's promised an honest term with no overdrafts.

may remain in view for several minutes. This spectacle will take place in the early morning hours of November 17 and 18.

Finally, within the last hour before sunrise, Venus, the most beautiful of the planets will appear, announcing the arrival of a new day.

ELIZABETH D. SIMONS

## MIDDLEBERG

The CNHS Oct. 22 spent one of the most enjoyable mornings I've experienced since becoming

field trips chairman. Never has so much been enjoyed by so many with so little effort. There were about 60 people and all seemed to participate with no confusion and with that number of people it's truly amazing. The weather was lovely, the birds cooperative and the fellowship warm. I hope and believe that many of the new faces seen at Middleburg will become commonplace on all our outings. I'd like to thank the Ball family and Mr. Charles Pitcher for a most memorable trip.

DAVID HUFF

*OBSERVATIONS*  
by  
Perry Nugent

Date	Observation	Location	Observer
July 15	Wilson's Phalarope	N. Litchfield	Pat & Renee Probst
26	American Avocet	"	"
Aug. 28	American Avocet	"	"
Sept. 10	American Redstart	"	Kendra Jenkins, Edward & Bernard Jones
	Bald Eagle	Green Pond	Pat & Renee Probst
11	Blackburnian Warbler	N. Litchfield	Perry Nugent
	Yellowbellied Flycatcher	"	Perry & Chris Nugent
14	Yellow Warbler	"	"
19	Wormeating Warbler	"	"
20	Wood Stork	"	"
	Veery	"	"
21	Buffbreasted Sandpiper	U.S. Veg. Lab 2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry Nugent
25	Screech Owl	"	"
Oct. 1	3 Wood Storks	Ashley River Br.	Perry Nugent
	Golden Eagle	Moore's Landing	Jay Shuler
2	Merlin	Edisto Beach	Edmund Cuthbert
	Nashville Warbler	Isle of Palms	Bobbin Huff

## THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

During November of this year, the smallest and the largest planets may be seen above opposite horizons in the early evening hours. About a half-hour after sunset, beginning the tenth of the month, Sky-watchers with keen vision may catch a glimpse of Mercury, low in the southwest. By the end of the month, it will remain in view until almost dark.

Within the next couple of hours, Jupiter will appear a little north of east. At the beginning of the month, it will rise at 8:00 o'clock, and by the 30th, two hours earlier.

In November, the last of the summer constellations linger in the west, while those of winter make their entrance from the east. The first bright star to appear in the northeast will be Capella, in Auriga. Almost directly in the east, a cluster of faint stars is bound to catch the eye, as surely as if it were one bright star. These are the Pleiades, heralding the winter parade of constellations. In less than an hour, these will be followed by Taurus, the Bull. By that time, Jupiter will be located in a direct line about 20 degrees to the northeast of Aldebaran, the "red, angry eye of the Bull". To the east of Taurus, just above the horizon, Orion may be seen in a recumbent posture.

By 9:00 o'clock, after Mercury has disappeared, and Jupiter has come into full view in the east, the stars of the Summer Triangle will be preparing to make their exit. Nearest the western horizon is red Alstair; some twenty-five degrees northeast of it is Deneb; and about fifteen degrees northwest of Deneb is Vega, the brightest of the three.

Overhead, slightly west of the meridian, is Pegasus. The star in the northeast corner of the Square of Pegasus is shared by another constellation, representing the head of the princess, Andromeda. Two other stars of the same magnitude, extending equi-distant northeast of her head indicate her body and her feet. Two faint stars extending to the right of the middle, (body), star are pointing to a very faint, hazy blur of light. If the sky is clear, and the observer is in a location free from artificial lights, (or at a time when there is no bright moonlight), he may be able to detect this hazy spot with his naked eye, and he will be seeing the most distant object visible without optical aid. A telescope will clarify his vision, and show the object for what it is. It will appear as an oval of light, flat near the edges, and swelled in the center. This is not a part of our galaxy of stars, but another, similar galaxy about two million light-years away!

By 10:30 o'clock at the beginning of the month, and progressively earlier as it advances, Mars will rise to make its appearance, followed by Saturn about an hour and a half later.

Each November presents a bonus for Sky-watchers who are truly "night people". Beginning about midnight, and continuing until dawn, a shower of meteors known as the Leonids streak into our atmosphere from the east. They appear to emanate from the constellation, Leo, which comes into view about 1:00 a.m.; hence the name. Moving at the rate of 44 miles per second, they are so intensely hot that they are white or blue in color, and some of them leave trails of glowing ashes that

## WATER QUALITY PLANNING COALITION BEING FORMED

A state-wide coalition of environmental groups, businesses, farmers, industries, and others interested in protecting South Carolina's water quality is being formed in order to assure adequate public participation in developing water quality plans. The CNHS executive committee has voted to support this coalition.

The Dept. of Health & Environmental Control is responsible for producing a plan designed to correct present pollution problems and to prevent future pollution that may occur. Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, PL 92-500, which calls for the plan, includes the goal of insuring that all the nation's waters will be safe for swimming and fishing by 1983. The act also requires public participation at all steps in developing the plan and in carrying it out.

The majority of the work in drafting the state-wide 208 plan is expected to take place over the next year for presentation to the Environmental Protection Agency late in 1978. Particular water quality issues will include point sources, such as sewage treatment and industrial discharges, as well as non-point sources, such as polluting runoff from parking lots, streets, lawns and farms.

Additional inducement for forming the coalition is being provided by an 8 state citizen participation training institute to be held December 1-4, 1977. National authorities will explain means of working with state officials and alternative methods of correcting pollution problems.

The Environmental Protection Agency also recently announced that there will be \$30,000 for state coalitions to use for follow-up expenses. Coalitions will develop final plans for their activities at the December Institute.

Individuals interested in the coalition and in a pre-institute training session to be conducted by the S. C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control in late November should call Teddy Muckenfuss at once, at 795-4436.

## BELLEFIELD

The Bellefield annual bird count will be held Sunday, Nov. 20 at Hobcaw Barony just outside of Georgetown. Participants should meet at the Sea Island Shopping Center at 6 a.m. to arrive at the Bellefield Gate at 7:15 at the new Kimble Center inside the front gate to the right.

Coffee and pastry will be served. After the count from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. a happy hour will be provided. Participants should bring their own picnic lunches. There are more than 17,000 acres of forest, swamp and marshlands at the barony, offering fantastic opportunities for bird-watching.

All those intending to come should notify Harry W. Freeman by calling 884-8550 or writing him at 1340 Bluebird Drive, Mt. Pleasant, S. C. 29464.

## CORRECTION

In the September issue of the Squawk, somehow I had Mary Julia Royall down for programs as well as field trips. That was strictly a mistake -- she's handling programs, a big enough job by itself!

#### SWALLOW-TAILED KITE NESTING

When Ollie Buckles of the U.S. Forest Service in the Francis Marion Forest told me that he had helped a fellow make a movie of nesting kites a while back, I thought what a good program that would be for CNHS. Unfortunately, Mr. Robert Gooding of the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept., no longer has the film, and "a while" back turned out to be 1964! However, Mr. Gooding did send me this interesting account of his filming adventures with the kites. I thank him sincerely, and hope he will send us future observations.

T. MUCKENFUSS

"After receiving your letter, I had to search my files for some time to find my old itinerary books, so that I could be sure of the dates that my observations were made. I found the kite nest that I photographed when the young kites were fledging during the prior nesting season. I marked the nest and checked it the following spring (1964). When it was obvious that the nest was being used, Ollie Buckles erected one of his scaling ladders in a tree about 30 feet away. The ladder was 80 feet tall, and I had to climb at least ten feet further up the tree to be even with the nest, so the nest was about 90 feet high. The nest was located between the Jack's Bluff road and Elmwood Camp, in a pine tree.

"The first notes I found in my daily activity book were on April 24, 1964: Kite on nest (11am) 2 more circling about. Saw 1 bring a long, slender object,

marsh grass or small snake and leave at nest.

"On April 28 I recorded: Kite sitting on nest. On April 29: Kite apparently incubating-no sign of other kites in area.

"I am unable to locate my records for the month of May, but assume that the month was spent in routine incubation.

"During the month of June I made the following records: June 2: Young kites visible in the nest. Parent made many dives at me. On June 6: Female kite remained on nest, 4 other kites in vicinity-all made dives at me - saw one Miss. kite.

"June 10: Kite on nest, left to dive at me. Could not see young very well. This was apparently my last observation of the nesting kites.

"I do remember rather vividly the way the birds would dive at me as I climbed the ladder to the observation tree. During the incubation period, the birds had displayed no obvious signs of even noticing me, so I was very surprised the first time I climbed after the young had hatched, which of course, I was unaware of at the time. When I reached about 60 feet up the ladder, I heard a loud noise of wind rushing through wings and looked behind me to see the kite descending in a steep dive. It came within about 5 feet of me, then turned sharply upward and ascended for another dive, screaming loudly all the time. Needless to say, if I hadn't been 60 feet or more in the air, I would have let the bird have that tree, ladder and all, right then. I soon learned, however, that they never came closer than about 3 feet, so

I would go ahead and set up the camera to get pictures of their diving. I remember on one occasion when at least 4 kites were making successive passes at me. There seemed to be somewhat of a community response to the aggressive vocalizations of the parents, as I was high enough above most of the adjacent trees to see birds approaching from some distance away when the parent birds began screaming.

"I wanted to make observations on the growth, feeding and care of the young birds, but was unable to do so, as the parents would cease their normal activities to dive at me whenever I approached the tree. The young birds were typical of most of the hawk group, covered with white down and very weak when first hatched. Unfortunately, since I tried to photograph their progress, I did not make any notes about them and now have difficulty recalling much about them.

"I really don't remember the final outcome of this nest. I don't recall seeing the young fly, but I was away from the area a good bit during that period and may have missed their fledging. I do recall that the following spring the kites did not return to that specific nest, and I was unable to locate any new nests, even though we were seeing kites in the area.

"Since this is about all that I have about the kites, I regret that I will not be able to provide a program. I certainly share your sentiments about the kites' beauty. One of my most treasured possessions is a picture of a swallow-tail that the late Mr. Edward Dingle painted for me during the time I worked in that area.

"I agree that the future of the kite appears to be rather cloudy unless more can be learned of its nesting habitat preferences, and efforts made to insure that this type of habitat is available in the future.

"Please give my regards to Ollie Buckles."

Sincerely,

/s/Robert W. Gooding

#### BOTANICAL TRIP

Richard Porcher's plant field trip last month turned out more than 40 CNHSers who took advantage of a beautiful day to take a hike through a hardwood forest along Turkey Creek.

We found few flowers in the woods, but noticed the area was blooming with mushrooms. Some parasitic beechdrops (*Epifagus virginiana*) and wild ginger (*Arifolia*) were observed. And, participants spotted a small water moccasin and a larger one, discovered by Jim Roberts, who stepped on him. Jim, who was not bitten, was rather surprised by the serpent.

After a picnic lunch, participants stopped by a low pineland area to gather Goldenrod (*Solidago*) for tea (only a particular variety of goldenrod will do) and, in an open field, they found blazing star (*Liatris*), Yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris*), pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*), sundew (*Drosera*), meadow beauty seeds (which look like tiny vases) (*Rhexia* sp.), pipewort (*Eriocaulon*), toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*) and thistles (*Carduus* sp.).

B. HUFF