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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 preceding month.

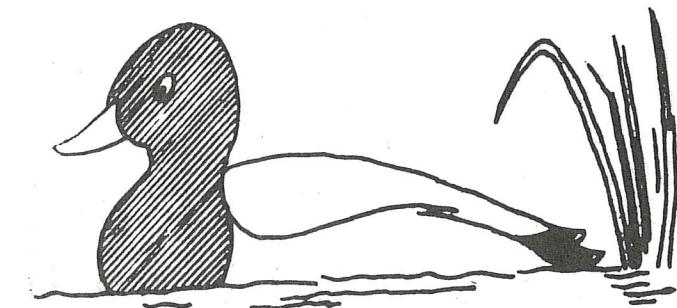
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## *the lesser Squawk*



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October 1977

### ALASKA COALITION NEWS

We need your help as the campaign to save Alaska's superb wilderness and wildlife progresses through Congress this fall. This is the urgent message of the September bulletin from the Alaska Coalition of which National Audubon is a member.

Oil, mining, and forest products lobbyists with tremendous financial backing are marshalling their forces. Only a concerted effort by conservationists in support of House bill H.R. 39 and Senate bill S.1500 will effectively counter the lobbyists' attack on the preservation of Alaska's interest lands.

For more information or to offer your support contact:

Alaska Coalition  
620 C Street, S.E.  
Washington, D. C. 20003

Remember that the zip code of the House Office Building in Washington is 20515. The Senate's zip is 20510 - information you'll surely need!

### OCTOBER MEETING FEATURES WANDO

DATE: October 11, 1977

TIME: 8 p.m.

PLACE: Baruch Auditorium

Alys Anne Patterson will give an update on conservationists' efforts to save the Wando River from establishment of a new S. C. Ports Authority Terminal.

Ms. Patterson will describe the opposition and discuss a possible legal suit. Parking for Baruch Auditorium, Calhoun and Gadsden Streets, is available on Gadsden. Refreshments will be served.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

A few weeks ago, David and I glanced out a window toward a very quiet, shady side of our house and got a first sighting.

Two oven-birds were strutting, and they do strut just like a chicken, around atop pine-needle covered ground.

Rather nondescript, the oven-bird has a plain olive back, heavily-streaked breast, black stripes on the crown and a white eye-ring.

He's called a ground-walker, and that is precisely how he spends much of his time. Our birds covered and recovered ground at the base of the pine trees, occasionally pushing aside leaves and, we assumed, finding something to merit all that activity.

"South Carolina Bird Life" says the oven-bird occasionally winters here and can be seen as a transient during migrations.

The species gets its name from the shape of its nest. A dome-shaped structure covered with grasses and leaves, it has an entrance on one side and somewhat resembles a Dutch oven. The bird even nests on the ground -- on a flat forest floor.

The species' diet includes grasshoppers, crickets, ants, caterpillars, flies, moths, beetles, spiders and small snails. They also consume berries and seeds.

The thought occurred to me after we saw them that, who knows, these birds and their parents have probably been coming here every year at this time and we just never

thought to look out that window at the right moment.

## BOBBIN HUFF

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FIELD TRIP

The Nature Conservancy is having its annual meeting in Charleston this year. A portion of their activities will include field trips to Four Holes Swamp and the Santee Coastal Reserve. Anyone who is interested in serving as a volunteer guide for the Santee Coastal Reserve trip on Friday, October 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. should contact Katy Huger after 6 p.m. at 722-0635 before October 15th.

## AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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  
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 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

Your Local Chapter

Charleston Natural History Society

5	Green-winged Teal	22	Whistling Swan
	Ruddy Duck	23	Long-eared Owl
7	Canada Goose	24	Surf Scoter
8	Purple Finch	25	LeConte's Sparrow
9	White-crowned Sparrow	26	Horned Grebe
10	Red-necked Grebe	27	Short-eared Owl
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	28	Snowy Owl
11	Common Scoter	29	Hooded Merganser
	Bonaparte's Gull	30	Dovekie
13	Solitary Vireo	31	Canvasback
	Savannah Sparrow		Greater Scaup
15	Red-throated Loon		Pine Siskin

## Departures

Date	Species	Date	Species
6	Black Rail	22	Northern Water Thrush
9	Black Tern	23	Mississippi Kite
14	Acadian Flycatcher	24	Kentucky Warbler
	Roseate Tern	25	Northern Phalarope
15	Summer Tanager	26	Black-billed Cuckoo
	Wilson's Petrel	27	Great-crested Flycatcher
	Rough-winged Swallow	28	Chestnut-sided Warbler
	Hooded Warbler	29	Swainson's Thrush
	Blue Grosbeak	30	Upland Sandpiper
16	Lark Sparrow		Least Tern
	Gull-billed Tern		Cliff Swallow
	Eastern Kingbird		Parula Warbler
17	Wilson's Plover	30	Pectoral Sandpiper
19	Black-throated Green Warbler		Eastern Wood Pewee
	Louisiana Water Thrush		Sandwich Tern
20	Least Bittern		Tennessee Warbler
	White-rumped Sandpiper	?	Yellow Warbler
	Stilt Sandpiper		Kirtland's Warbler
22	Wood Thrush		Purple Gallinule
	Blackburnian Warbler		Roseate Tern

The following have been seen at least once during October:

Great Cormorant  
 Sandhill Crane  
 Bay-breasted Warbler  
 Clay-colored Sparrow

Fulvous Tree Duck  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak

PERRY NUGENT

*✓*

**OBSERVATIONS**

By  
Perry Nugent

<u>Date</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
May 14	Swallow-tailed Kite 2 nesting Osprey pairs	Hopsewee Plantation Waccamaw R. in Georgetown	Susan & Avery Burns " " "
May 23	Woodcock	Magnolia Gardens	Marsha Ford & Roberta Gray
	Least Bittern	" "	"
	Osprey	" "	"
May 24	Cliff Swallow	Moore's Landing	"
	Rough-wing Swallow	" "	"
May 25	Red-breasted Merganser	Sullivan's Island	"
Sept. 11	2 Ovenbirds	Isle of Palms	Bobbin & David Huff
	Yellow Warbler	" "	" "
	Northern Water Thrush	" "	" "
Sept. 15	Golden Plover	U.S. Veg. Lab	Perry Nugent
	5 Buff-breasted Sandpipers	" " "	" "

Report any interesting sightings to me at 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, SC 29407. Be sure to include the names of all observers and the date of observation. If your observation is unusual to you, it will also be of interest to others.

PERRY NUGENT

BIRD MOVEMENTS IN OCTOBER

Arrivals

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>
2	Gannet	15	Yellow Rail
	Red-breasted Merganser	16	Snow Goose
	Brown Creeper	17	Common Loon
4	White-throated Sparrow		Robin
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	19	Rusty Blackbird
	Western Kingbird	20	Lesser Scaup
	Kirtland's Warbler	21	Ring-necked Duck
	Dark-eyed Junco		Henslow's Sparrow

# Field Trip

The field trip for October is a treat. It has been at least a year now since the C.N.H.S. visited Middleberg Plantation as guests of Mr. Edward von S. Dingle and many things have changed: Mr. Dingle a student of Arthur T. Wayne and one of the most notable Bird painters of the Lowcountry passed away last year. The plantation is for sale, and there is to be a rail line to the AMOCO site running near or through part of the property. But to mention some of the appealing aspects to be found there: Middleberg is a lasting memento to the age of rice. Lying on the east branch of the Cooper River, it has the second oldest frame building in South Carolina and on its porch tread both British and Union soldiers leaving behind scars to this day.

In 1857, a steam rice mill was built here and is still basically intact. So for lovers of old machinery it's truly a sight. The rice that made Middleberg great was grown in vast fields along the river that today provide for great fishing and bird watching. Along the avenue of oaks is also the most historic eagle nest in the state -- it's active and dates back to the mid 1940s. This is also migration time for many warblers which we should see in abundance.

Our host for this trip is Mr. Charles Pitcher, editor of Charleston Magazine, who says we will have to teach him a few things about birds. Well I'd consider that more than a fair deal.

So bring a hearty lunch, a desire to sense contentment, and leave your cares at home for the day.

Meet Saturday Oct. 22 at the Charleston Museum at 6:45 a.m. or at Gregorie's Texaco Station, Highway 17 and 41 north of Mount Pleasant at 7:15.

DAVID HUFF

TROTTERS SHOALS FUNDED

The Russell Dam at Trotters Shoals was given additional funding when President Carter signed the appropriation as part of a Congressional compromise to keep 9 of the federal water projects to which he had originally objected. Now there are only two elements of hope in stopping this Corps of Engineers' boondoggle: Less than 8% of the Dam is currently completed, and this recent appropriation is for one year only.

So within this year, resolve to make your opposition to further dam funding known: write Carter, the newspapers, and all elected officials.

RUSSELL DAM FILM

Our fellow conservation organization, Lunz Group, Sierra Club, extends an invitation to C.N.H.S. members to visit their October meeting. The South Carolina Wildlife Federation film, "Richard B. Russell Dam: A Question of Values", will be shown. Someone will also be present to answer questions.

Sierra Club meets at Duckett Hall, the Citadel, Thursday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.

TEDDY MUCKENFUSS

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP PLANNED

The National Audubon Society's Southeast Regional Office in conjunction with Garden Clubs of South Carolina and the South Carolina Land Resources Conservation Commission will co-sponsor an Environmental Education Workshop on November 2 in the Charleston area. The purpose of this workshop is to bring educators and resource people together to participate in environmental education activities, explore ways of implementing programs at the local level, and develop techniques of involving people in various types of EE projects. The workshop is not oriented toward learning facts and figures, but rather to sharing methods and techniques that might help each of us to better involve people in observing and interpreting the environment.

Interested persons, please contact Larry Thompson at the National Audubon's regional office, P. O. Box 1268, Charleston, SC 29402 or phone 723-6171 for further details.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB TAKES FIELD TRIP

Members of the C.N.H.S.'s Photography Club conducted a shutter clicking outing in I'on Swamp on September 10. The excursion was well attended by members with varying photographic experience. Techniques, methods, ideas and equipment were shared among members.

Our next expedition will take us into the wilds of the Francis Beidler Forest in Four Holes Swamp. Mr. Steve Winton, the Sanctuary Naturalist, will be our guide through this magnificent forest swamp.

You are invited to join the Photography Club. All that is required is an interest in photography. Please get in touch with Larry Thompson at the C.N.H.S.'s monthly meetings or call 723-6171 for more information on meetings and field trip dates and places.

## KISSINGER & ENERGY

Testifying at a Senate Committee, Henry Kissinger recently gave these statistics:

-With only 6% of the world's 4 billion people, the U.S. now consumes 1/3 of its energy.

-At least 40% of the U.S. energy consumed in 1975 could

have been saved by improved operating and maintenance efficiency.

-According to projection trends, reserves of natural gas and oil will run out by 2,000 A.D., with prices quintupled.

-A U.S. citizen uses 8 times more energy yearly than his world neighbor.

These statistics are real food for thought and action.

of starred and exclamation-marked notes -- I wanted you to get your money's worth -- which I'd like to dust off now and share with you.

Workshops ranged from lobbying laws to Alaska, but the session I considered especially useful presented 5 successful chapter programs. As the local leaders outlined their projects several recurring points were evident; only a few people really do the work but your membership must be behind you, you must be patient and persistent, do your homework, believe in your goal, and if political action is the only way, you must be a politician!

Here is a much-abridged copy of my notes. Can we apply any of these ideas?

### 1.) Desert Ecology Workshop Tucson Audubon.

In spite of the magnificent beauty and variety of the desert, this chapter found that most people feel compelled to water, plant grass, and otherwise make the desert "useful". Awareness was their goal. They invested \$1500, got 6 University of Arizona professors to help, and started a 5-day workshop. This began in 1970, has increased in frequency, and has become so popular that participants come from all over the U.S. When do we leave?

### 2.) Buffalo Creek Dam George Sutton Audubon

Buffalo Creek is a shallow, slow-moving, 33-mile stream wandering through the West Virginia countryside. Obviously what Buffalo Creek needs is a dam! Such awful rumors were motivation

enough for this group to get some funding, some interested college classes, and get busy compiling baseline data on this quiet stream. No battle has been fought - yet. Their success lies in the foresight this chapter has shown.

### 3.) Countywide Environmental Education Program Sassafras Audubon Bloomington, Indiana

This one is just too long, but they will send copies of their program to anyone interested.

### 4.) Central Arizona Project Maricopa Audubon

"We were just a birdwatching group until we realized that all our favorite spots would be under water." This chapter had to become political, set up a separate C-4 (non tax-deductible) group, and eventually start a lawsuit. It was a major learning experience for the birdwatchers.

### 5.) Mohawk Park Nature Center Tulsa Audubon

Three thousand acres of low-lying, junk-strewn acreage became the target of this group. They got the land designated a Wildlife Sanctuary, learned a whole lot about bonds, incorporation, and red tape. They also managed to find a \$200,000 donor - and promptly changed the name to Oxley Park!

TEDDY MUCKENFUSS

a.m., a faint star which appears to be quite close to the left of Saturn will suddenly disappear behind the planet. This, called an occultation, is evidence of Saturn's counter-clockwise motion on its orbit. The star will not emerge before dawn, but a check of the area in the pre-dawn of the next morning will reveal the star to the right of Saturn.

The other special event will be a partial eclipse of the sun, which will take place in mid-afternoon on October 12. The moon which will be New that day, (and therefore invisible from earth), will pass directly between the sun and the earth. The path of the shadow will cross the Pacific Ocean, and end in Colombia, South America. Viewed from the center of the shadow, the eclipse will be total. The edge of the shadow will fall on part of the United States, with more of it visible in the South than in the North. Beginning at 3:41 p.m., it may be observed until 4:57 when the moon moves out of line in respect to the sun, to continue its orbit around the earth. A word of extreme caution is in order: DO NOT, under any circumstances, look directly at the sun, because to do so could cause irreparable damage to the eyes. The best method to see what is taking place is to use either a telescope or a pair of field glasses and a piece of white cardboard. By holding the eye-piece of the instrument toward the sun, and the cardboard several inches beneath the objective lens, the image of the sun will be projected onto the cardboard as on a screen. A portion of the moon will appear against the "edge" of the round image of the sun, and move along steadily until it finally disappears.

There will be no planets visible during the early evening

hours of October. By 8:00 p.m. on the 15th, the Summer Triangle of first magnitude stars will be completely west of the meridian; the Big Dipper will be entirely lost to view in the north; and Cassiopeia will be high in the northern sky, just east of the meridian. A bright star may be seen in the northeast. This is Capella, in Auriga, appearing now for the first time since May, when it was approaching its setting in the northwest.

Sky-watchers who can stay up until midnight will be able to see the bright stars of winter, and in addition, first Mars, and then Jupiter as they rise a little north of east.

About an hour and a half before sunrise, brilliant Venus will make her appearance above the eastern horizon. During the first week of the month, Mercury will follow Venus a half-hour later. After the first week, however, Mercury will disappear as a "Morning Star".

Once more, sky-watchers are reminded that Standard Time is always used in these articles. Fortunately, on the last Sunday in October, Standard Time will be restored for all purposes, thus eliminating confusion for calculations in sky-watching.

ELIZABETH D. SIMONS

#### SUCCESSFUL CHAPTER PROGRAMS

One benefit of a convention is the chance to find out what other groups or individuals are doing that might be applicable to your own situation. As your representative to the National Audubon Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, in June, I took reams

#### WANDO BATTLE

Alys Anne Patterson has sent a letter to keep members informed on the fight to save the Wando River.

Here it is, in part:

The Wando River in Charleston County, South Carolina is threatened with imminent destruction.

Two separate permit applications are under review by the Army Corps of Engineers: the Terminal application in Washington; the Wando River channel application at the Charleston District Army Corps of Engineers.

The protagonists are the mighty State Ports Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers (whose reputation seems to indicate they just can't say no). Their ranks primarily include the vested interests, the developers and builders-at-any cost, and, most significant, powerful political-financial interests who conceived the Wando Empire and promote it now.

Those opposing the permit applications have a broad spectrum of concerns: the primary impacts on a highly productive salt marsh ecosystem of marsh destruction, ship pollution, channel dredging etc.; the secondary impacts on the growth and development of the entire East Cooper area and of highways, railroads and heavy industrialization; the sharp increase in heavy truck traffic on the Cooper River bridges and Hwy. 17; disregard for citizen opinion and concerns by state agencies and officials; and staggering burden for many years on state taxpayers who would have to pay over three

hundred million dollars to finance this unnecessarily massive, costly, destructive project.

Because the issues involved are larger and more significant than just the Wando itself, local people and federal agencies need all the support they can muster from conservationists to sustain the effort.

Write to: Sec. of the Army  
Clifford Alexander  
Dept. of the Army  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

to protest the port terminal.

Write to: Charleston District  
Army Corps of  
Engineers  
William Brown  
P. O. Box 919  
Charleston, SC 29402

to protest the SPA Wando Channel application.



Shell Shocked

by

Maggi Vergin

The summer is finally officially over and what a summer it was. I hope that you all had as good a summer as we had here.

This has been a year for all the research that I have been wanting to do off the coast of Charleston. My husband, Jim, who is a diver has been wanting to do

a lot of bottom research for me but was unable to find anyone who was interested in off-shore diving. Finally he found someone who liked to dive as much as he did and they planned their weekends for deep water. Although his friend had little interest in shells he was more than willing to aid in collecting specimens.

The most productive dive was in July when they and two other divers went to the Blackfish Banks about 20 miles off the Jetties. The water averaged from 65 to 80 feet deep. I was a little pessimistic as to what they would find so I asked them to just scoop up a bucket full of the silt on the bottom and bring it back home. That way I would be able to study under the microscope some of the minute animals in the area. Since I am more of a fisherman than a scuba diver I didn't go along on this trip.

It just so happened that I was at the marina when they came back from the dive. Not expecting much, I helped them get the buckets full off the boat. What a surprise! The first thing I spotted was a Pleuroplaca gigantea (Horse Conch) about eight inches long and alive. Along with that there was a Lyropecten nodosus (Lions' Paw). Needless to say, we headed home immediately to go through the 'treasures' that they had.

During the first hour of emptying the buckets I added 15 new specimens of S.C. shells to my collection. (Some of them I had collected elsewhere.) These were: Arca zebra (Turkey Wing) Macrocallista maculata (Calico Clam), Chione latilarata (Imperial Venus), Arcinella cornuta

(Florida Spiny Jewel Box), Laevicardium pictum (Ravenel's Egg Cockle), L. laevigatum (Common Egg Cockle) Anomia simplex (Atlantic Jingle-both halves), Pecten raveneli (Ravenel's Scallop), P. zigzag (Zigzag Scallop) and an Aequipecten muscosus (Rough Scallop). All of these are bivalves and the gastropods are as follows: Turbo castanea (Chestnut Turban), Pleuroplaca gigantea (Horse Conch-alive), and Calliostoma jujubinum (Jujube Top Shell).

There were many other shells in the batch but these were the most remarkable to me.

The Arca zebra was the one that startled me the most. I had only found them on the long stretches of the Naples, Fla. beach. I must admit that I was unaware that they were even here. The live Horse Conch was a true prize. (He is still in the aquarium and doing well.) I have found many dead specimens, but

hadn't collected any live specimens before from this area. In future articles I will give some insight to the habits of this elusive animal.

Besides the shells many different types of crabs, sponge, and corals were brought up. I am not knowledgable about them but have always added these to my collection to break up the monotony of looking at just shells. The most unusual specimen that we had wasn't even apparent until three weeks later. A marine collector who is a good friend of ours stopped by on his way to the Florida Keys. He casually looked everything over until we came to the corals. We had a type of coral consisting of only a single large polyp. Most of

them were still alive in our aquarium. He asked a lot of questions and then went on to explain that the only time he had seen anything like them was when he was doing some dredge work for the North Carolina Marine people who brought them up from 3000 meters. He was amazed that we had gotten them from only 70 feet of water. We will be donating some of our polyps for future research to his former employers in North Carolina.

For those of you who are collectors but would like to add more shells from other areas let me give you a tip. Most shell magazines have pen pal lists of people who want to swap shells from their area to another. I have been doing this for about a year. All it costs is the price of postage and your time. I have received boxes of shells from South Africa and the Philippines and am now expanding to the Middle East and Europe.

Well, until next time,  
Happy Shell-ing!

MAGGI YERGIN

#### CRAIG RESIGNS EXECUTIVE BOARD

"Through some rather interesting quirks of fate, I find myself in Hilton Head working as an Interior Designer," says Anne Craig in a recent letter of resignation to C.N.H.S. president, Dr. John Reed.

Ms. Craig, formerly a Charleston French teacher, had served as both secretary and as vice president of C.N.H.S. and was on the executive board. She was actively involved in the conservation effort, having worked with the Kiawah Defense group, as chairperson of

the Conservation Committee, and as Alaska contact person for C.N.H.S. Ms. Craig has also been known as an avid letter-writer.

In closing, Ms. Craig expresses regret for not being able to serve. "My association with the Audubon group was a great educational experience. Best wishes for a productive year."

We wish you the same, Interior Designer Craig. Your talents are already being missed.

TEDDY MUCKENFUSS

#### THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Two unusual celestial events will occur during October. One of these will require the use of good field glasses, or small telescopes, and the other, great care in the protection of one's eyes. For the first event, observers should be located away from all bright lights.

Early on the morning of October 3, an eighth magnitude star will disappear behind Saturn, which is located not far from Regulus in Leo, the Lion. Since this star is more than seventeen times fainter than Regulus, it will be impossible to see it without optical aid, but sky-watchers so equipped will find it rewarding to watch this game of "hide and seek". Soon after 4:30 a.m., the "Sickle of Leo" may be seen above the horizon slightly north of east. When that is located, watch for the appearance of Regulus, the "dot" under the "backwards question mark". Saturn will be seen very close to it. Focus the telescope, (or field glasses), on that area, keeping it in the field for the next several minutes. At 4:50