

CNHS OFFICERS

Pres: John Reed  
Vice-Pres: Teddy Muckenfuss

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

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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.

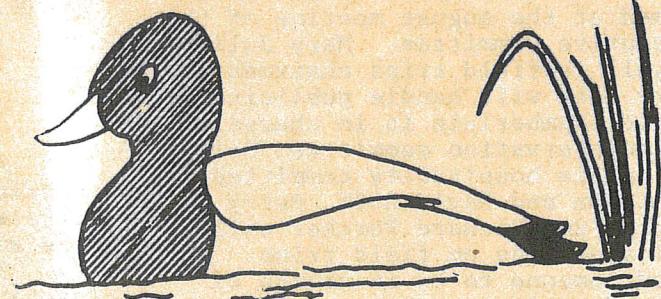
CNHS normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except June, July, August, and December) at 8:00 P.M. in Baruch Auditorium.

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.

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## *the lesser Squawk*



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### 'BIRDS' FILM SLATED

FOR SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

"It Began With Birds," a National Audubon film which expresses the philosophy of and goals of the National Audubon Society, will be featured at this month's meeting. Refreshments will be served.

### IN SEARCH OF FALL MIGRANTS

The Bird Study Group will go to the Francis Marion Forest for fall warblers and another look at our summer residents. This month's arrival column shows 36 species, most of them upland birds, arrive in September.

Meet Saturday September 17 at 7:00 a.m. in front of the Charleston Museum for an interesting half day of birding.

PERRY NUGENT

### FALL WILDFLOWER OUTING

The September field trip will be the usual outstanding fall wildflower outing led by Dr. Richard Porcher. Many of us have taken Dr. Porcher's plant course at The Citadel and, if I am a good judge of the others, he truly brings the magic out in the forests of the Lowcountry. There will be many unusual flowers in bloom and it will be a great chance to begin to identify with nature.

Departure time is 8 a.m. from the Charleston Museum on Sunday September 25. Bring a lunch and insect repellent.

New committee chairmen were named at the August meeting of the Executive Committee. Mary Julia Royall is field trips chairman, Mary Reed will handle publicity, David Chamberlain is in charge of the conservation committee, Polly Holden is hospitality committee chairman and David Huff, Perry Nugent and Richard Porcher will be collaborating on field trips. We need someone to be in charge of the education committee. Please contact chairmen if you'd like to help on one of the committees.

I also am in need of volunteers to help us fold the Lesser Squawk. All that's required is one night a month. The more people we can get, the less time it takes and the more fun we have. If you're interested, call me at 886-6911 after 6 p.m.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

#### PLANS FIELD TRIP

Friday August 19 the new photography group met for the first time. It proved to be an interesting and productive meeting with samples of most of its members' photography and discussions of plans for the future. There were about 10 present and most were quite able in the use of their cameras. There is much to learn from one another about both nature and photography and the fun will begin on Sept. 10 with a trip to I'on Swamp.

Anyone interested in nature photography is invited to attend this trip. Meet at Gregories's Service Station at the intersec-

tion of Highway 41 and 17 north of Mount Pleasant at 7:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and insect repellent.

#### BEARS' BLUFF RESULTS

Alston Badger reports that 96 species and 14,435 individual birds were seen by 25 participants in the annual Bear's Bluff count May 29. The most unusual sighting was a Tennessee warbler, spotted by sharp-eyed Perry Nugent.

#### 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

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

Your Local Chapter

Charleston Natural History Society

#### BIRD MOVEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

##### Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species
2	Blackpoll warbler	17	Red-breasted nuthatch
3	Eastern phoebe	18	Gray-cheeked thrush
4	Magnolia warbler	19	Mallard
5	Shoveler	19	American goldfinch
7	Cape May warbler	20	Sharptailed sparrow
	Redhead		Golden plover
	Marbled godwit	20	Orange crowned warbler
	Wilson's phalarope	21	Grasshopper sparrow
	Tennessee warbler		Song sparrow
8	Northern oriole		Vesper sparrow
9	Gadwall		American Avocet
10	Swainson's thrush	22	Bewick's wren
	Water pipit		Winter wren
12	Shortbilled marsh wren		Rubycrowned kinglet
13	Hermit thrush	23	Northern phalarope
	American wigeon	26	Black and white warbler
15	House wren	28	Red eyed towhee
	Catbird	30	Swamp sparrow
			Lark bunting

##### Departures

4	Greater shearwater	25	Sooty tern
8	Gray kingbird	26	Blue winged warbler
14	Orchard oriole	28	Swainson's warbler
19	Noddy tern		Chuck-will's widow
20	Bridled tern	29	Bank swallow
24	Yellow-throated vireo		
	Prothonotary warbler		

But, some of the highlights of our voyages included seeing many, large soft-shell turtles and a large variety of snakes sunning themselves on the banks and tree limbs of the river. Also, we witnessed a deer swimming across the river which was at flood stage and did get to within 15 feet of a solitary Canada goose that was standing on one of the river's many sandbars.

Although we are but novice birdwatchers we did manage to identify a number of birds and thought we would like to share our sightings with you. Unfortunately, we could not identify everything we saw nor have we included the real common sightings in our list, but, you will be able to gain an appreciation for the diversity of birdlife which can now be found along the Santee. Only time can dictate the fate of the Santee and its surrounding swamp habitat, but, for now, the Santee remains a true wildlife sanctuary, only intruded by an occasional fisherman, a logger or an inquisitive biologist. Let's hope we'll always have such unspoiled areas available to us.

March - Many ospreys, great blue herons, little blue herons, turkey and black vultures, Cooper's hawks, a marsh hawk, snowy and American egrets, double-crested cormorants, wood ducks, some hooded mergansers, mallards, bald

eagles (immature) and swallow-tailed kites.

April - Red-tailed, broad-winged and red-shouldered hawks, flocks of white ibis, anhingas, many bank and tree swallows, yellow-throats, prothonotary, hooded and parula warblers, red-starts, crested flycatchers, goldfinches, a snow goose, barred owl, more swallow-tailed kites and bald eagles (immature), red-breasted mergansers, Carolina chickadees, a ringnecked duck, and spotted and solitary sandpipers. Also, many female wood ducks with their broods were seen swimming along the river's edge, more ospreys and Cooper's hawks.

May - Peregrine falcon (a probable sighting), many Mississippi kites, immature and mature bald eagles, red eyed vireos, tufted titmice, a Canada goose, yellow crowned night heron, greater yellowlegs, pileated, red-bellied and downy woodpeckers, crested flycatchers, a few acadian flycatchers, a summer tanager, blue winged teal, a yellow-billed cuckoo, a blue-grey gnat catcher and two indigo buntings.

JIM BULAK and  
"SKIP" VONDERLEITH

P.S. No sightings of Backman's Warbler but, as the saying goes, "wait until next year."

#### IPPL MOVES TO CHARLESTON

The International Primate Protection League (IPPL) is moving its headquarters to the Charleston area. I am IPPL's Founder and Co-Chairwoman, and have recently settled in Summerville which will become IPPL's administrative center.

The League was founded in 1973 by a group of people concerned at:

1) the rapid disappearance of primates from the wild, which is occurring at such a fast rate that ALL PRIMATE SPECIES ARE NOW LISTED ON THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES, and

2) the unsatisfactory methods by which primates are captured and transported, and the generally poor conditions under which they are maintained in captivity.

IPPL has field representatives in many countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Bangla Desh, Singapore, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

Our Advisory Board includes many distinguished scientists, including Dr. Colin Groves, author of Gorillas, Dr. Vernon Reynolds, author of The Apes and Budongo, Dr. Barbara Harrisson, who did pioneering work in orang-utan rehabilitation and fought the illegal trade in poached infant orangs, and Dr. Jane Goodall, who has been studying the life of the chimpanzees of Tanzania's Gombe National Park for the past 17 years.

IPPL publishes a quarterly Newsletter, which carries articles about primate problems all over

the world and drawings of primates by the internationally-acclaimed Thai student artist, Kamol Komolphalin. We have also published a booklet about a chimpanzee rehabilitation project conducted in Senegal by IPPL member Stella Brewer.

If you would like a sample Newsletter or a copy of Chimpanzee Rehabilitation, please contact IPPL at P. O. Drawer X, Summerville, SC 29483. I would like very much to hear from Charlestonians interested in primates. My phone number is 871-2280.

SHIRLEY McGREAL

#### THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

A quarter of a year has passed since the last issue of the Lesser Squawk, during which time dedicated sky-watchers who were blessed with good viewing conditions must have observed the changing "scenery" in the sky.

Our Space Ship, Earth, has covered one-fourth of its yearly orbit. On June 21, it was located at a point exactly south of the sun, with the North Pole tilted toward the North Star, and at the same time also, toward the general direction of the sun. In the weeks that followed, time appeared to stand still while the long days of brilliant sunshine and short nights were dominated by the unprecedented heat wave.

But time was not standing still. Moving at a rate of more than 18 miles per second, Earth has been steadily traveling to reach another destination, - the Autumnal Equinox, which will occur this year on the 22nd of September at 10:30 p.m. Almost imperceptibly,

the hours of daylight have been diminishing, while the length of the nights has been increasing to "catch up". On September 22, the hours of daylight and darkness will be equalized. Because the tilt of the earth's axis remains unchanged, autumn begins officially in the Northern Hemisphere, while Spring commences in areas south of the equator.

Since no planets are in view during the early night hours of this month, it should not be too difficult to trace the constellations of subdued magnitude, now present.

Observers who have been watching Scorpius, from the time it appeared in the southeast during the early evening hours of June, will now catch their last view of this constellation as it reaches the southwestern horizon when evening twilight sets in.

The only bright stars in view at this time are those of the Summer Triangle. High overhead, located near the meridian, is Deneb in Cygnus, the Swan. About fifteen degrees west of Deneb is brilliant Vega in Lyra, the Lyre, and almost thirty degrees southeast of Vega is red Altair in Aquila, the Eagle. The rest of the stars in each of these constellations are rather faint.

In the east, the Great Square of Pegasus is well above the horizon. Two second magnitude and two third magnitude stars form a large open square in an area where no bright stars are to be seen.

When we face north, we find that the bowl of the Big Dipper is fast becoming lost to view, while the three stars in the handle continue to indicate the direction of

Arcturus. This star, which shone with fiery brilliance on the meridian in June, is now of only the second magnitude as it becomes obscured in the denser atmosphere through which we view it.

As the Big Dipper retreats toward the horizon, Cassiopeia, the Lady in the Chair, comes high in view in the northeast. Midway between these two constellations, Polaris, the North Star, is to be found. Cassiopeia, it may be remembered, looks like a crooked letter M or W, - at this time, balanced on its side. The Big and Little Dippers and Cassiopeia are often spoken of as the Circumpolar constellations, because they are located in the area of Polaris and can be observed to move in a circle around it. Sky-watchers with the time for longer observation will come to realize that the term applies to all the heavenly bodies seen in the night sky. By letting one's gaze sweep slowly southward, it will be evident that they all appear along the eastern horizon, follow successively wider curves, and set over the western horizon. All this is proof of the fact that as the earth maintains a constant tilt on its axis, it rotates steadily in a counter-clockwise fashion.

Thus, if we can stay up long enough on these September nights, we shall be able to see two of the planets when they rise between 11:00 p.m. and midnight. Depending on where one is located for sky-watching, it may be an hour or two before the planets clear the trees and buildings obstructing the view a little north of east. These two planets, Mars and Jupiter, will be in conjunction on September 4, appearing only 1/2 degree apart.

Two weeks later, early risers will be able to see two other planets in conjunction. About three hours before sunrise on September 18, Venus and Saturn will appear together, also just 1/2 degree apart. Then, as early morning twilight begins to dispel the darkness an hour or so later, Mercury will rise to herald the dawn. On September 22, Mercury will reach its greatest elongation west of the sun.

There is good viewing in September for energetic sky-watchers!

ELIZABETH D. SIMONS

#### THE SANTEE RIVER

It was a very exciting moment on that cool March day when we stepped into our brand new, 200 horsepower airboat and started our first of many spring trips down the Santee River. The purpose of our daily voyages from Wilson Dam to Jamestown, a distance of 70 river miles, was to initiate pre-Rediversion studies of the anadromous fishes of the Santee for the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. Specifically, during 1977, the Wildlife Department was attempting to delineate the major spawning areas and the magnitude of the spring blueback herring run on the Santee. This information would aid in detecting any impacts

on the annual herring run that may result from the construction of the Rediversion Canal.

As the airboat began roaring away from Wilson's Landing, our eyes opened wide and we attempted to see everything that we possibly could of the Santee River and its adjoining lowlands. Almost immediately the noisy presence of our airboat flushed our first osprey and, amazingly, there was at least one osprey in sight at all times for the first 30 miles of our voyage. American egrets, wood ducks and Cooper's hawks were also common and they flushed from their riverside perches at the sound of our approach. Of special delight was the large numbers of magnificent great blue herons that continually flew just ahead of our boat as they, too, attempted to escape our noisy presence. Journeying down the Santee on that first excursion we could not help but feel a little like trespassers in this wildlife haven, as the noise of our airboat seemed to violate the peaceful quiet which pervaded the Santee's shores. But, we knew that the only way we could sample and gather biological information each day on shallow, stump-laden maze of sandbars and twisting channels called the Santee River, would be from an airboat.

Through the months of March, April and May we continued our search for herring spawning sites. It is difficult to describe the beauty that we saw during these months on that 70 mile stretch of the Santee that meanders through hardwood bottomlands and is a virtual sanctuary for many wildlife forms, since no permanent dwellings are found near the unstable banks of the Santee and travel on the river is difficult.