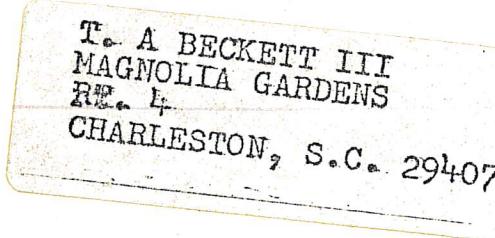


THE LESSER SQUAWK
Charleston Natural History Society
1212 Taliaferro Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

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CNHS OFFICERS

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David Chamberlain, David Huff,
Polly Holden, Steve Walker,
Jane Lareau and Richard Porcher.

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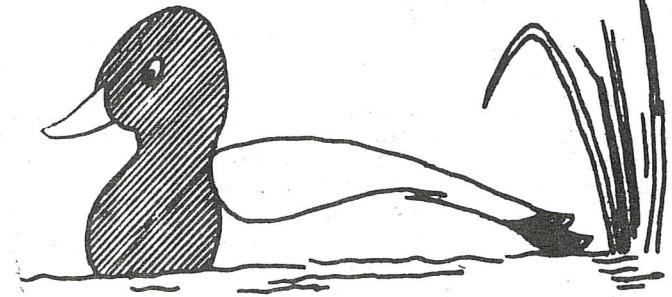
The Charleston Natural History Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members of Audubon who live in the Charleston area automatically become members of CNHS. A portion of the annual dues paid to Audubon are returned to CNHS to cover operating expenses.

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 preceeding month.

the lesser Squawk

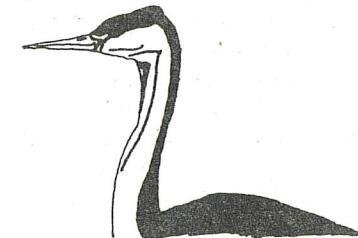


Volume XXIX, No. I

January 1978

JOHN HENRY DICK SPEAKS ON BAJA

Artist, photographer, ornithologist John Henry Dick will tell us all about Baja, Mexico, at the meeting Jan. 10 at 8:00 P.M. in Baruch Auditorium, Calhoun and Gadsden Streets. John Henry is a lively, entertaining and knowledgeable speaker, as well as being an excellent photographer. He will illustrate his talk with slides.



JANUARY FIELD TRIP

We will go to the Santee National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, January 22. Bring lunch and be prepared to spend a day studying geese, ducks and songbirds. This trip will be similar to the last where we walked the nature trail and the roads through the fields beyond. There are many geese including Canada, Snow, Blue and White fronted. Some of the more interesting birds that have been at the refuge this fall are 25 White-fronted geese, a Sandhill crane, and an albino Pied billed Grebe. Perhaps we can find these and more on the 22nd. Meet at the Charleston Museum at 6:30 A.M. or at the refuge parking lot near Fort Watson by 8:30 A.M. for an interesting day.

PERRY NUGENT



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Having just celebrated Christmas, I confess I haven't had much time to mull over the questionnaires. So, I'm going to have to postpone that.

Susan Roche offers a very thought provoking article on conserving energy in this issue. And, for bird enthusiasts, more counts are upcoming. The S.C. Division of State Parks is sponsoring censuses Feb. 4 and Feb. 11. They need volunteers for all state parks. See the schedule for details.

In response to a note about tagged birds in last month's Squawk, I received an interesting letter from Dr. Joane Burger, associate professor of biology at Rutgers University.

I hope you have had a good New Year's celebration and look forward to next year's outings, times with old and new friends, and -- maybe even a glimpse of an ivory-billed woodpecker.

BOBBIN HUFF

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The CNHS photography group will hold its next meeting on January 17, 1978 at Porter-Gaud School at 7:30 P.M. The assignment this month is to bring 5 of your best slides so that we can begin coordinating our slide show presentation for the membership in March. Include one

additional slide to show from our Bull's Island field trip.

The 28th of January we will meet at Gregorie's store at 7:00 A.M. for a half day field trip to the Francis Marion National Forest. The area we hope to visit has many winter plants which will be immortalized by our camera-clicking crew. Please be prompt. A reminder: Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome to join us. Please phone me if there are questions concerning our photographic aims at 766-8026 after 6:00 P.M.

SUSAN ROCHE

JOIN AUDUBON

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

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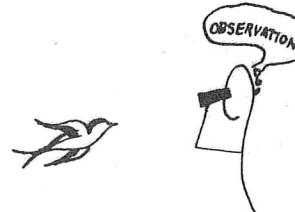
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Oct. 10	Great Blackbacked Gull	Morris Island	David Chamberlain, Dr. Charles
Nov. 16 26	Baltimore Oriole Caracara	Exchange St. Middleton Garden	Marjorie Jagar Dr. Grange S. Coffin
30	Yellowbreasted Chat	Doe Hall, McClellanville	Jay Shuler
Dec. 2 3 11	Horned Owl 75 Evening Grosbeaks Wood Stork	U.S. Veg. Lab " " " Mt. Pleasant Causeway	Perry Nugent " " David Huff
13	Brown Creeper	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry Nugent

I will be looking for more observations next month. Be sure to include the names of all observers, the date and location of each find. Send them to me at 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S.C. 29407.

PERRY NUGENT

BIRD MOVEMENTS IN JANUARY

Arrivals

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>
7	White pelican	8	Great Black-backed Gull

Departures

13 18	Fulvous tree Duck Western Kingbird	24 31	Snowy Owl Brant
The following have been seen at least once during January:			
Eared Grebe, Blue-faced Booby, Shearwater, Cinnamon teal, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Harlan's Hawk, Reddish Egret, Wilson's Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Rascorbilled Awk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Vermillion Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Black-and-White Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowbreasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole, Rosebreasted Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Dicksissel, Green-tailed Towhee, Snow Bunting.			

located close to the fainter star that represents Castor's foot.

When facing north, the observer will notice that Cassiopeia is west of the meridian at 8:00 p.m. on the 15th, and the Big Dipper, balanced on the tip of its handle is rising into view east of the meridian.

There will be no planets visible in the eastern sky early in the morning, -at least not before the end of the month, when it may be possible to catch a glimpse of Mercury.

ELIZABETH D. SIMONS



MORE TAGGED SEA BIRDS

Robert T. Mitchell sent a photograph of a possible immature Bonaparte's Gull that had florescent green over red (tags on its right wing). It was first seen on the North Jetty on October 10, again November 8 at the mouth of the Shipyard River in the Cooper River, and then on December 4 on the Cooper River near the Yorktown.

PERRY NUGENT

GULL WING TAGS

I received this letter from Rutgers University in response to Perry's note in last month's Squawk about tagged birds. Whether the birds observed are part of the same project is hard to tell since Perry saw a ring-billed gull and Pat Probst spotted a caspian tern. But, here is the letter:

The gull you recently observed with a green and orange wing tag was a Laughing Gull that hatched this past summer in a colony near Barnegat Light, New Jersey. I banded the bird just before it left the colony, sometime during the first 2 weeks of July.

Its natal colony is located on a series of salt marsh islands in Barnegat Bay. The colony consists of about 6000 pairs of Laughing Gulls and about 800 pairs of Herring Gulls. I am studying the breeding biology, interactions, and competition between these 2 species.

Last year I banded the Gulls with green tags. Some birds went as far north as Maine. Several turned up in Nicaragua and Panama.

Anyone who sees any more of these tagged birds should contact:

Dr. Joanne Burger
Dept. of Biology
Livingston-Rutgers
New Brunswick, N.J. 08904

Specify Date, Number on tag if possible, Location, and any other information.

I'ON SWAMP TIMBER SALE THREATENS BACHMAN'S WARBLER

AWENDAW-- A new timber sale in I'On Swamp of the Francis Marion National Forest threatens the habitat of Bachman's warbler, according to Jay Shuler of McClellanville.

The Forest Service maintains that the latest timber sale in no way violates the recommendations of a Bachman's Warbler Panel convened last year to settle earlier differences between environmentalists and the Forest Service

Shuler and the FS are at odds over the wording of the recommendations which Shuler interprets as calling for no alternation in any bottomland hardwoods of the swamp.

FS biologist Dr. David B. Urbston says the recommended zone of no alternation includes only those compartments and stands specifically listed in the panel's recommendations.

In April of 1977 the supposed peaceful settlement of the Bachman's warbler issue drew national attention.

Shuler, whose threat of legal action two years ago resulted in the creation of the panel, is again considering litigation.

STATE PARKS BIRD COUNT

On Saturday, February 4, and again on Saturday, February 11, the South Carolina Division of State Parks will sponsor their second annual Mid-Winter Bird Count. Last year's count was a successful first venture, with almost 19,000 birds of 139 species recorded in fourteen state parks. The data accumulated on this

count provides a useful complement to the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts, and is used in the nature interpretive program of the Division of State Parks. A compiled listing of birds from all of the parks will be available to all participants.

Counts will be held at Aiken, Cheraw, Huntington Beach, King's Mountain, Oconee, Sadlers Creek, and Santee State Parks on February 4. Croft, Hickory Knob, Hunting Island, Lynches River, Rivers Bridge, Sesquicentennial, and Table Rock State Parks will hold counts on February 11.

We are anticipating a good turnout for this program, which was enjoyed by many enthusiastic birders last year. If you would like to participate, please contact the Programs Section; Division of State Parks; S.C. Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; 1205 Pendleton St.; Columbia, S.C. 29201; telephone 803/758-3622.

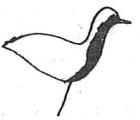
BRIAN CASSIE

RESEARCH AWARD ANNOUNCED

Each year the Charleston Natural History Society awards the E. Burnham Chamberlain Research Award of \$250 to an individual for biological research.

If you are interested in applying for the award, submit your research proposal to John K. Reed, Head of Biology Dept., The Citadel, Charleston, S.C. 29409.

The deadline for application is January 31.



HOW CONSCIOUS ARE WE OF BEING ENERGY CONSCIOUS?

As members of the National Audubon Society, today's energy crisis is a challenge to everyone of us. We live in a society that consumes products that require enormous amounts of energy to produce. We are all resigned to the fact that we buy, sell, use, depend upon, and need many of these goods and we are thankful for the ease of living that they bring. But as individuals who consume products in our daily lives we must also ask ourselves how conscious we are of being energy conscious.

Throughout my daily routine I find that asking myself questions helps in preventing the use of energy consuming products. It may be as simple as refusing to buy aluminum foil, Saran wraps, baggies and other assorted items that are petroleum products or are not easily biodegradable. Well made plastic containers will keep any leftover or food item much longer and better. Although they are petroleum products, these containers will serve your needs for many years.

Paper towels also have substitutes. My mother always used old rags and kept one on hand at all times. I do purchase one roll every 10 months or so to drain bacon on. Paper products require energy to produce in terms of the forests where trees grow and the plant where they are processed. Colors used in paper products also

require energy for their production and dyes pollute water making cleaning processes necessary.

So far I have considered relatively little in total energy savings, but it is just as important to think about how a product is produced as well as the raw material which is used to make it. Two examples which illustrate this are individually wrapped slices of cheese and the wonder product Gloss n' Toss. The former considers each slice worthy of being wrapped in plastic and the latter is entirely petroleum which is not biodegradable.

Oftentimes when I am thinking about the energy I consume in my home, as simple as it sounds I remember our forefathers with so little luxury. They thought twice before using wood, oil, paraffin, and water. I cannot help but think that as they were energy conscious we are energy wasteful.

Energy consciousness is a philosophy. Not all can or wish to abide by it, but if the desire is there, somehow you grow in appreciation to all the goods we have at our disposal. I often think of this verse when deciding if something is (excessively) energy consuming:

It takes water to process steel.
It takes energy to produce plastics.
It takes energy to clean water
It takes water to produce almost anything.

So become energy conscious. Put on storm windows, wear wool socks, keep shoes on in the winter, and start observing how products are produced.

SUSAN ROCHE

THE SKY-WATCHERS GUIDE

With the Winter Solstice passed on December 21, Earth picks up speed on its orbit. If this were not true, it would meet with the disaster of oblivion, for early in January, it will be closer to the sun than at any time during the year. The gravitation of the sun, which keeps the planets on their orderly courses, is so strong that if any one of them should slow down at that point, it would be pulled with increasing force to plunge into the sun's incandescent interior. Fortunately, one of the laws of nature causes the speeding up process of the earth as its distance from the sun diminishes, thus keeping it on course. We shall be able to experience the proof of this fact as we witness a lengthening of daylight before the month is over.

Three of the planets adorn the sky in the hours before midnight throughout January, and during the last week, Venus will return as an "Evening Star" in the twilight following sunset.

Well above the horizon just north of east at dark, Jupiter shines with greater brilliance than any other heavenly body in view. It is located directly above the club held by Orion, and it may be observed until dawn, when it will be nearing its setting. On January 21, it will be 5 degrees north of the Full Moon.

About two hours later, Mars will appear, unmistakable by its reddish appearance. It will be located near the Sickle of Leo, (the backwards question-mark). Mars will brighten rapidly as the month advances, for its distance

from Earth is diminishing. Since Earth moves at twice the speed of Mars, it will soon overtake its red neighbor, and when it reaches a point directly between Mars and the sun, the distance between the two planets will have been reduced from 80 million to 64 million miles. This occurrence, which takes place on January 22, is known as the opposition of Mars. On that date, the sun will set and Mars will rise at the same time.

Located one degree north of the bright star, Regulus in Leo, Saturn will rise shortly after the appearance of Mars on January 20. Saturn, also, increases in apparent size and brilliance during the month, and for the same reason. Its distance will become reduced from 838 million to 796 million miles. Earth will "catch up" with Saturn in February, then pass it, and continue on orbit.

On every clear night in January, (which may be few in number), Sky-watchers who brave cold temperatures will be truly rewarded for their efforts.

During the hours before midnight, the sky presents a spectacle of unrivaled beauty. At least six stars of the first magnitude, or brighter can be located during that time. Taurus and the Pleiades, Orion and his faithful dog, Canis Major, are now in excellent position for viewing. Five-sided Auriga, containing the brilliant star, Vega, is near the meridian at 8:00 p.m. on the fifteenth, followed not far to the east by Gemini, the Twins. The heads of the Twins are indicated by two bright stars, -yellowish Pollux of the first magnitude, and quite near it, Castor, almost of the first magnitude. Jupiter is