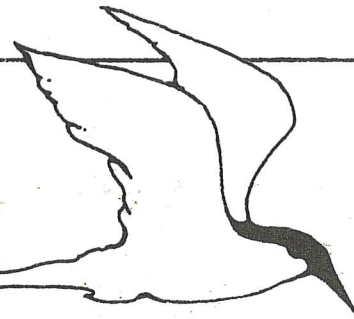


reader's turn

p.o. box 504
chas'n s.c. 29402
charlestonnaturalhistorysociety



day is done

by pat leonard



A crescent moon hangs
in a rose gray sky.
Surf rolling in
heaves sigh upon sigh.
Dusky shades blend
as darkness descends.
An unlighted catamaran
crosses the horizon
like a ghostly galleon
and is gone.
The shades of night are drawn.

from *Seashells and Laughing Gulls - Songs of a
Sea Island* Winston - Derek Publishers, Inc., 1984

address correction requested

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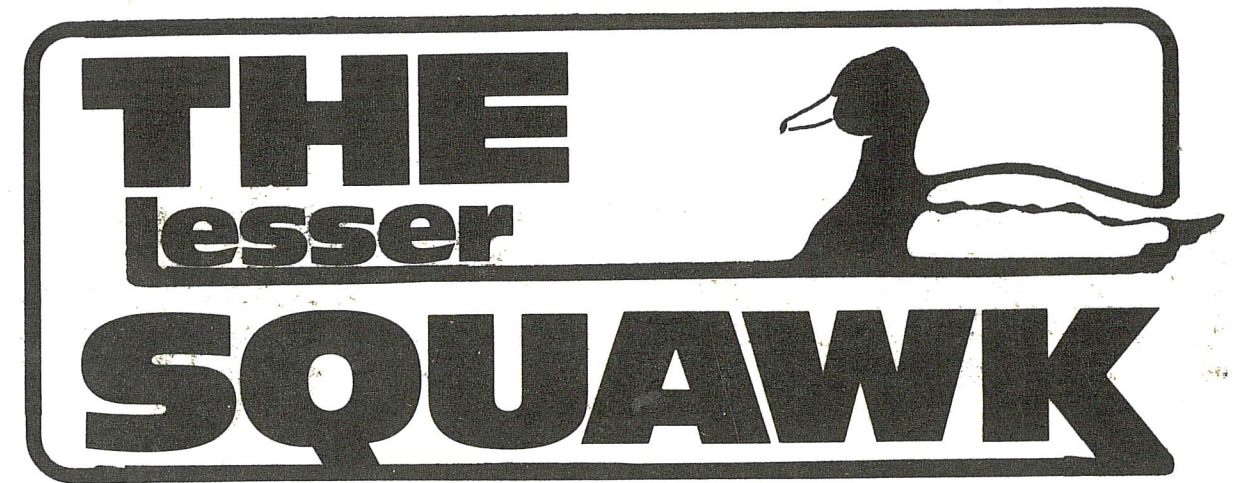
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your national audubon chapter

thank you!

At the May monthly meeting, the CNHS membership elected its new slate of officers for the 1985-86 season. As we now usher these leaders into their respective positions, let us not forget that we owe a great debt to last year's executive board and officers (some of whom are relinquishing their positions).

Jeremy James should be highly commended for not one but two busy and often hectic years as CNHS president. Jeremy led an eager board through successful turtle patrols, Christmas banquets, birdseed savings days, birdathons, birdcounts, film series, wildlife expos, monthly meetings and important executive board decisions. His monthly *Squawk* column, View from the Swamp, (which his editor will encourage him to continue) has been read and enjoyed by the entire membership. His insight and knowledge have enabled this Audubon chapter to act with speed and foresight in the face of many pertinent national and local issues. For this staunch and tireless leadership, we thank him. But, no man is an island. Jeremy had a great deal of help from many board members and members at large who performed above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to:

Mary Neale Berkaw - circulation
Donna Clark - membership, Christmas banquet, turtle patrol
Nancy Ryan - birdseed savings day
Polly Holden - children's film series, Christmas banquet, ETC.

Hal Currey - children's film series
Virginia Beach - chapter sales, birdathon
David Green - birdathon, birds in the classroom
Julian Harrison - monthly meetings, birdcounts
Charlie Walters - field trips
Perry Nugent - field trips
Debbie Mundell - Edisto Island Sea Turtle Patrol
Jo Hutcheson - hospitality, field trip planning
Lorraine Dubose - hospitality, circulation, membership
Peggy Eppig - Southeastern Wildlife Expo
Bruce Krucke - speaker's bureau
David Huff - Christmas banquet, oyster roast
Cheryl Phillips - Squawk, hospitality, turtle patrol, Christmas banquet
Betty O'Connor - Christmas banquet, wildlife expo, nominating committee and many other "little" jobs that were vital to the functioning of the society

Many of these individuals will perform their same chapter functions next year. Others, like Jeremy, will be stepping down from their positions. Many thanks to Henry Dunbar who, despite an overwhelming work schedule, kept us solvent. He is relinquishing the treasurer's post to Glen Eppig. Julian Harrison follows Jeremy as president and Dennis Forsythe takes the position of vice-president. We are also fortunate to retain the secretarial services of Marge Humphreys who joined us in that position in February. This year's board consists of:
Virginia Beach - 762-1947

Donna Clark - 795-3996
Steve Compton
Hal Currey
Peggy Eppig - 875-4261
David Huff - 886-6911
Jo Hutcheson - 723-7943
Cheryl Phillips - 899-7635
Susan Sweat
Jeremy James (ex-officio) - 744-2000

Phone numbers are listed as available so that you may call with your questions, advise and services if you feel so moved.

With the exception of a couple of field trips, activity will slow down during the summer. It's a good time to decide if you would like to help in any of the capacities listed. We hope you have a good summer and look forward to renewing friendships in September.



the summer at a glance

June 22 - Savannah NWR
June 22-23 - Cypress Gardens Great Outdoor Celebration
July 13 - Santee Delta
August 17 - Workin' Party
August 24 - Folly Beach
September 14 - Bluff Plantation

Boldface denotes CNHS sponsorship

volume xxxvi

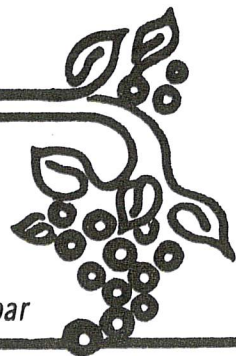
cnhs

no. 6 summer 1985

focus on:

wild food workshops

by lin dunbar



Ever wonder whether the claims about wild foods are really valid? Do cattails really taste like asparagus? Are elderberry fritters really good eating?

Find out June 22 and July 20 as the Continuing Education Department of the College of Charleston host two wildfood workshops by Lin Dunbar. Participants will meet at 9:00 am at the

College, spend the morning in the field collecting plants, and return to prepare a wildfood extravaganza! The fee is \$12 which will cover the cost of groceries.

Call 792-5620 to register, or Lin Dunbar, 571-1379, for any questions. Sign up early- participation is limited!

in the court of the spruce grouse

by dave harvey, elicott city, md

In a boreal forest far, far away, I searched in vain for a glimpse of a local prince of the avian monarchy. A gray jay or a boreal chickadee, would have been delightful but instead I was confronted by pure majesty.

I had received directions, during a telephone conversation, to a local birding hot spot referred to as "Spruce Grouse Lane". I was told to follow the trail down a hill, across a bridge, up a hill to a "T" at the end of the road. At this juncture I could go either direction I wanted. What I was not told was that most of the trail was under water, and what was not was 20 percent grass and 80 percent muck.

I followed the trail as best I could. Several times I had to extricate myself from the ever-clutching muck; I had to scramble around, over, and through fallen trees; I was forever battling the clutches of briars and brambles; all this in a strange and silent boreal world. I trudged along the path keeping an ever-watchful vigil for any avian members of the boreal clan. Twice I glimpsed the tail-end of some unknown bird creature as it quickly and quietly flew deeper into the thick woods, remaining forever a mystery bird.

The sun was relentless, sending small rivulets of perspiration coarsing across my body, but the moment I stopped moving the cool Arctic bite of the wind reminded me that this was a boreal wood and not a southern swamp.

After having rested in a small clearing, I started trudging back towards the car. My step was slow,

my head hung with disappointment at the seemingly sparse birdlife. Suddenly, up ahead, a slight movement caught my eye. Immediately I stopped dead in my tracks and slowly lowered myself to a crouch. It was one of the few times in my life that I have done the right thing. The bird, after a momentary pause went back to its feeding. I knew the male spruce grouse (*Dendragapus canadensis*) was black underneath. While this bird looked like a grouse, it was not black underneath. Yet it seemed too gorgeous to be a female (a female bird I mean, ladies).

This bird was a very dark brown overall with a liberal amount of white barring on the underside and up the sides to the wings. It had small red markings above the eyes and a white spot behind the eye. The throat had an orange tinge and the tip of the tail was orange. The bird would pause from its meal, look across the path, fan its tail out (showing the orange tips) then continue eating.

Eventually, I was able to discern a dark shape under the bottom-most branches of a nearby conifer. Majestically he sauntered into the path. There was no doubt; this was the king and the lovely creature across the way was his lady fair. They were indeed the fabled spruce grouse. His mighty chest was jet black, emblazoned with streaks of startling white. These streaks seemed to continually move, as though silently announcing his presence. Above his eyes, two large ruby-like protrusions heralded the front of his crown. It was the black of ebony, laid downward at the back, flared out on the sides like a cobra. It was plain yet

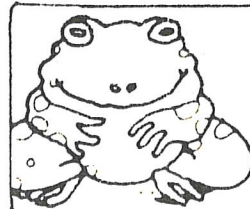
historic documents donated

The Kiawah Island Company has named the University of South Carolina's South Caroliniana Library as the permanent repository for a unique collection of papers relating to the history of the island from 1728 to 1816.

According to Kiawah Island Company President Saleh F. Alzouman, the company felt that the documents belonged in the university library system to benefit all interested South Carolinians. Alzouman also said that it is the responsibility of corporations, organizations, families and individuals to entrust historically significant documents for safekeeping to professional archivists, such as those at the South Caroliniana Library. The seven manuscripts will be maintained by the library in Col, SC for academic study and research.

view from the swamp

by jeremy james



As some of you may have figured out, in addition to performing as your sometimes columnist, I have been acting as president of CNHS for the past two years. At the last membership meeting I relinquished all the power to the very capable Julian Harrison, talented teacher, author, biologist, herpetologist, and staunch supporter of CNHS for several decades. Amazing, and he is just a young man.

The new officers and board members are all skilled and enthusiastic. I couldn't be more delighted to turn over the helm to such a capable group. I am sure they will get the encouragement and support they truly deserve from you members.

As General Washington, at the end of the long struggle, gave his troops a farewell address warning of the growing strength of the military-industrial complex---no, forget it. That was Eisenhower. I wish to take my leave (of the presidency, not of the swamp) with a few reflections to the past fifth of a decade.

Many high points and much success spring to mind. We have been able to continue our outstanding Edisto Island Sea Turtle project under Debbie Mundell's indefatigable leadership. It has grown stronger as has the chapter's support of it. Our Adopt-A-Nest campaign has exceeded my expectations, as well it must, since the Center for Environmental Education after years of major funding rightly wishes to turn its resources toward environmental problems in the less developed parts of the world.

Our Children's Film Series, thanks to the Marquette Foundation and Hal Currey's effort and skill, reaches more middle school students than ever. The teacher's reports are glowing. This is all the more pleasing in the face of the general public's and our members' indifference to our Wildlife Film Series. We hope, in reaching a large proportion of the area's impressionable youth, to turn out a few more conservationists, photographers, wildlife lovers, and environmentalists in the years to come.

Everything hasn't been great, of course. Despite some fine meetings and solid field trips, attendance has been lower than I think it should be. I mean, our membership has been growing steadily but the numbers coming to our activities has been static. The cost of our Christmas banquets has edged up, although more slowly than the rate of inflation. I love seeing new faces, but I miss some of the ones I used to see. Going to I'On Swamp and the Bluff is great but where are the swamp slogs and the blackberry chigger trips of yore?

Donna Clark has made great headway with alleviating any membership problems. She now

personalizes a welcome to new members renewals. Mary Neale Berkaw makes mailing *The Lesser Squawk* seem easy and fun. Virginia Beach has increased the chapter sales and built the Birdathon into a well-known and effective fundraiser involving conservation award-winner David Green in the process. Support of the chapter from Terrance Larrimer, Polly Holden, and Carlyle Blakeney at the Audubon regional office has been outstanding. I have been delighted at our move to the Charleston Museum. The Christmas banquets have been festive, well-attended, and warm. Cheryl Phillips continues to put out one of the highest quality newsletters (which you are holding in your hands) of any organization our size. Our presence at the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition grew thanks to Peggy Eppig. Nancy Ryan continues to do wonders with our bird-seed sales. And behind the scenes have been more people than I can thank: Betty O'Connor, Bruce Krucke, Perry Nugent, Charlie Walters, Jo Hutcheson, Henry Dunbar, Marge Humphreys, Will Post, Dana Beach, Grace Yeatman, and Roger Tory Peterson, for instance.

Although I often fear for the state of the nation, the state of the Society reassures me. We are making a difference in the entire lowcountry. Know what I mean, Vern?

contributors commended

by cheryl phillips

Since this issue of the *Squawk* seems destined to be dedicated (as it should be) to those who have donated their time and efforts this year to the Audubon cause, I would like to mention my many contributing columnists:

Lin Dunbar
Bruce Krucke
Perry Nugent
Jeremy James
Bill Kubinec
Pat Leonard

I have depended on their monthly columns to make the *Squawk* an interesting, diversified, educational, informative and fun newsletter.

I have also relied on many others for special

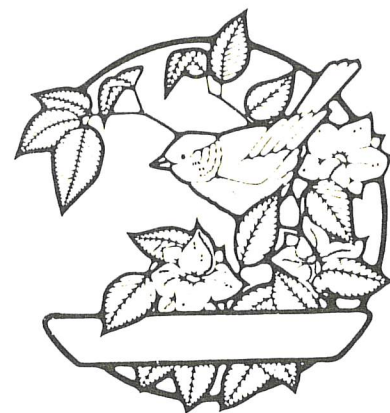
birdathon update

Birdathon day was approaching just as the summer *squawk* went to press. From available information, it can safely be assumed that Birdathon '85 was the best yet.

As always, the success can be attributed to the participants-sponsors and birders. Thanks to all those who pledged generously on behalf of the many birders who roused themselves in the wee hours to scour swamp, field and seashore in search of illusive and not-so-illusive quarry.

Birdathon chairman, Virginia Beach, is to be commended for her superb effort, organization and "brainwork" for this event. We owe an added debt of gratitude this year to the media (and to Virginia for alerting them). Lynne Langley did her usual fine job with article and photo in the News and Courier. WVCN radio interviewed David Green and several other birdathon participants as did Besty Green who featured the motley-looking CNHS Birdathon group on three WCIV *Around Town* segments. Many thanks to the media for all the great coverage!

Just a reminder; if you haven't sponsored your favorite birder, it's not too late to do so. If you have sponsored a birder, please be prompt in fulfilling your promise. CNHS will use your donations for much needed educational and conservation programs. Thanks!



reports, updates and stories. Their periodical contributions have been very helpful in the publishing of an accurate newsletter.

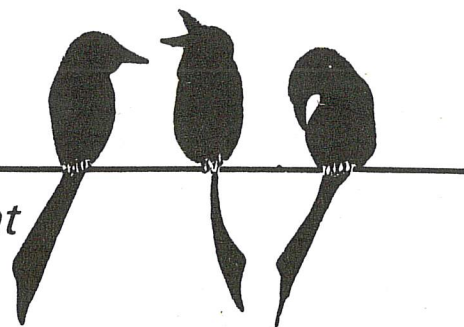
Virginia Beach
Peggy Eppig
Dave Harvey
Hal Currey
Will Post
Julian Harrison
Nancy Ryan

I hope to get commitments from each of these contributors to continue the same fine work in the future that they have so willingly done in the past. Because of their efforts, *The Lesser Squawk* is a publication we can all be proud of.

observations

by perry nugent

by perry nugent



Date	Observation	Location	Observers
4/6	Many Prothonotary 1 Prairie Warbler 1 N. Waterthrush Many Hooded Warblers	Francis Beidler Forest " " "	P. Nugent, C. Walters, D. Abbott " " " " " " " " "
4/13	Many Prothonotary Warblers Many Swainson's Warblers 2 N. Waterthrushes 1 Ovenbird Several Kentucky Warblers 2 Rusty Blackbirds	" " " " " " " "	Many Observers P. Nugent, J. Hutcheson, J. Epple Many Observers P. Nugent "
4/18	2 Long Billed Curlews	Ft. Johnson	"
4/20	4 Swallow Tailed Kites 1 a, 2 i Bald Eagles 2 Pectoral Sandpipers 2 Rusty Blackbirds 3 Swallow Tailed Kites 2 Bald Eagles	Middleton Gardens " " " " " " " " "	P. Nugent, K. Nugent " Many Observers " " " " " " "
4/21	1 Painted Bunting	Sullivan's Is.	H. Currey
4/22	1 Painted Bunting 5 Mottled Ducks 5 Soras 4 Long Billed Dowitchers 20 Black Necked Stilts 1 Purple Gallinule 6 Wood Storks	Kinlock Plantation " " " " " "	A. Matuson P. Eppig, B. Krucke, C. Phillips, C. Walters, P. Nugent, J. Eppel " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " K. Williams
4/24	300 Whimbrels	Folly Beach Causeway	C. Walters
4/25	1 Wormeating Warbler 1 Bewick's Wren 2 Saw Whet Owls 1 Black Billed Cuckoo	Patriot's Point " " " "	" " " "
4/27		I'on Swamp	"

Date	Observation	Location	Observers
4/28	1 Wood Stork	I'on Swamp	C. Walters, G. Barnes
	8583 Red Knots	S. Folly Bch.	P. & K. Nugent
	35 Sandwich Terns	N. Folly Bch.	"
	1 Painted Bunting	S. Folly Bch.	"
	3 Painted Buntings	Patriot's Point	"
	1 Indigo Bunting	"	"
	1 Yellow Breasted Chat	"	"
4/29	1 Scarlet Tanager	Edisto Is.	D. & V. Beach
	1 Scarlet Tanager	Hwy 61	P. Nugent
4/30	1 a. Bald Eagle	Moncks Corner	E. Phillips
5/4	2 a., 1 i. Bald Eagles	Bluff Plantation	Many Observers
	2 Redheaded Woodpeckers	"	"
	Many Bluebirds	"	"
	1 Yellow Warbler	"	"
	1 Black Throated	"	"
	4 Kentucky Warblers	"	"
	Several Blue Grosbeaks	"	"
	Several Indigo Buntings	"	"
5/5	3 Whip-poor-wills	I'on Swamp	P. Nugent, G. Barnes
	2 Wormeating Warblers	"	P. Nugent
	1 Tennessee Warbler	"	"
	1 Yellow Warbler	"	"
	1 Magnolia Warbler	"	"
	2 Black Throated Warblers	"	"
	Many Kentucky Warblers	"	"
	400 Yellow Breasted Chats		Many Observers
	435 Hooded Warblers	"	"
	1 Philadelphia Vireo	"	"
	1 Scarlet Tanager	"	"

comments by perry

Bewick's Wren: Charlie Walters observed a wren in good light with 10x binoculars at Patriot's Point. He described the bird as white below, tail with white on edges and long white eyebrow. Song same as Peterson tape.

Saw Whet Owls: Charlie Walters had 2 saw whets answer his tapes in l'on Swamp near the Clayfield and l'on Rd. intersection. This is the same area where Steve Compton and I heard some several years ago.

Red Knots: There have been large concentrations of red knots in various plumages from winter to fall breeding on the south end of Folly Beach. On April 28, there was a dredge in the Folly River pumping sand on the south beach. It seemed to

attract the birds.

Philadelphia vireo: This vireo was observed by Perry Nugent and Nelson Taylor as it bathed in water that was coming from an artesian well into a wooded impoundment on Withewood Canal in l'on Swamp. Through 7x binoculars in good light, they saw the uniform olive back, head and tail which contrasted with an off white tinged yellow breast and throat and a paler belly. A dark line ran through the eye from the bill and contrasted with the grayish white eye line. The vireo bill was obvious. From 50 to 100 feet, we observed this pale phase bird for about one minute.

Tennessee Warbler: This bird was seen in a tree about 7:15 a.m. in good light through 20x scope

by Perry Nugent. It had olive green back, a gray head, contrasting with a white eyeline, a small warbler bill and was very white below. Perry has seen 2 other warblers on Clayfield Rd. this spring and Dennis Abbott saw one of them. This bird was seen for about 30 seconds.

CNHS Field Trips: As you can see by the list above, we see many exciting things each weekend. We will be having several unscheduled trips during the summer. If you would like to be included on these, just call Perry Nugent at 556-3841 or Charlie Walters at 766-1884. Also, send any interesting observations to Perry at 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, SC 29407.

bird movements in summer

arrivals

date	Species
6/1	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
6/14	Sooty Tern
6/16	Roseate Spoonbill
6/17	Bridled Tern
7/4	Yellow Warbler
7/7	Tree Swallow
7/8	Solitary Sandpiper
7/10	Lesser Yellowlegs
7/11	Bank Swallow
7/20	Knot
7/28	Roseate Tern
mid	Upland Sandpiper
	Pectoral Sandpiper
late	Black Tern
	American Redstart
8/2	Piping Plover
8/3	Black-billed Cuckoo
8/5	Blue-winged Teal
8/8	Stilt Sandpiper
	Virginia Rail
8/10	Cliff Swallow
8/14	Peregrine Falcon
	Sora Rail
8/15	Wilson's Snipe
	Alder Flycatcher
8/21	Pintail
	Blue-winged Warbler
8/22	Black Duck
8/27	Greater Shearwater
	Whip-poor-will
8/28	Long-billed Curlew
	Veery
	Cedar Waxwing
8/29	Merlin
8/30	White-rumped Sandpiper
?	Common Tern

The following have been seen on rare occasions during the summer. June: Western Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Red Phalarope, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bobolink, Ruddy Duck, Gray Kingbird, and Gadwall. July: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cory's Shearwater, Common Scoter, Baird's Sandpiper. August: Great White Heron. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

This column is primarily a guide for C.N.H.S. members although the dates should apply to all migratory birds of the coastal plain and many over the whole state. It has been a feature of the Lesser Squawk for many years and a number of the dates are from observations of our members. There seems to be much confusion about the meaning of the dates and the fact that common and very rare species are included in the list. These dates are the earliest arrivals or the latest departure as recorded in "South Carolina Bird Life" by Sprunt and Chamberlain unless there is an earlier or later date in the more recent issues of the Lesser Squawk. Any species that we have sufficient data on should be included in this list. A rare but regular visitor is just as important as the most common bird. Several species on the list are common on the coast during one season and inland during another season, therefore, they may be permanent residents but their relative abundance varies throughout the year. The Goldfinch is a good example of this, abundant during the winter and rare during the summer on the coast. Easily recognizable subspecies are found on the list. The red-eyed and white-eyed towhees are forms of the rufous-sided towhee, the former being a winter visitor and the latter a permanent resident of the coastal plain. One challenge for C.N.H.S. birders is to find and report species before or after the date they have previously been observed. This is one reason for publishing the list. Another is to inform our readers when to start looking for each species. You should expect to find very few specimens of a species at the beginning or end and considerable more during the middle of their visit to the lowcountry.

departures

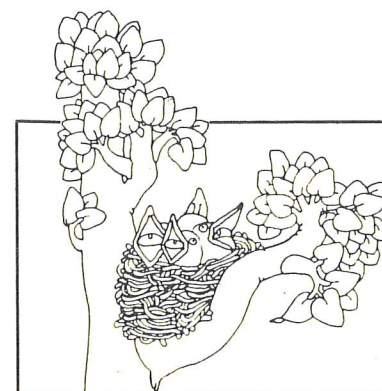
date	Species
6/1	Bairds Sandpiper
6/2	Sora Rail
6/3	Northern Phalarope
6/4	Solitary Sandpiper
6/5	Horned Grebe
	Black-poll Warbler
6/6	Blue-winged Teal
	American Wigeon
	Shoveler
	Avocet
	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
6/7	Surf Scoter
6/9	Bonaparte's Gull
6/10	White-rumped Sandpiper
6/13	Black-billed Cuckoo
	Cedar Waxwing
6/17	Knot
6/18	Gannet
	Tree Swallow
6/19	Lesser Scaup
6/22	Common Tern
6/23	Red-breasted Merganser
6/25	Snow Bunting
6/28	Marbled Godwit



Once again, this month my backyard was enlarged. I spent a week in Hoisdorf, Germany, a very small rural village near Hamburg in the northern part. My hosts had a wonderful backyard for my birding: a grassy area with apple trees and a fish pond bordered by a good hedge. There was a large variety of European "tits" in the garden—two of the nicest being the coal and the blue tits. They looked a lot like chickadees but had yellow breasts divided by a vertical black stripe. Their backs were bluish-gray. There were also lots of English sparrows and beautiful rust and blue chaffinches. Beyond the garden was a public footpath and then a small farm field with low grass where I saw six kinds of crows and a grackle-like amstel. The magpie was striking in black and white. There were two partly gray crows one all black, the rook and huge raven. Beyond the field lay a large lake which was "natur schutz"—a protected area. Here I saw nesting mute swans, osprey, tufted ducks, black terns, great crested and red necked grebe, gray geese, Canada geese, mallards, pochards, coot, lapwings, red throated swallows, goldeneye ducks, huge wood pigeons, and the beautiful (red, white and blue) jay. I also took some marvelous walks in the surrounding farms and woods. Another highlight of our trip was a visit to the Vogel (bird) Park in Walsrode. It's said to be the best bird collection in the world, quite fabulous, especially the green house aviary where I walked among the birds.

There have been some interesting garden birds in our area this month. Nancy and Don Wilson in Summerville had the pleasure of watching a rose breasted grosbeak making good use of their bird bath in late April. The Kushubars and Hammond's in Kings Grant both had orchard orioles using their hummingbird feeders. The Eppigs have had a Canada goose! Mary Shaw on the Isle of Palms has a pair of painted buntings at her feeder.

Don't feel guilty if you keep your feeders going in the summer. Both you and the birds will enjoy it and studies have shown that birds don't become dependent on our extra food supplies. One thing that's always fun to see, especially if your feeder is stocked, is the huge baby birds fluttering after the parents still demanding to be fed. Of course, keep your hummingbird feeders cleaned and filled. See you in the fall! Bruce Krucke, 101 Old Tavern, Summerville, 29483, phone: 871-2039.



bird seed available

Remember—keep your feeder well stocked! Hatchlings are making voracious demands on their parents for “fast food” and fledglings make great entertainment at the feeder. CNHS still has a selection of bird seed available for spring and summer feeding. Call Grace Yeatman to place your order—556-9054.