

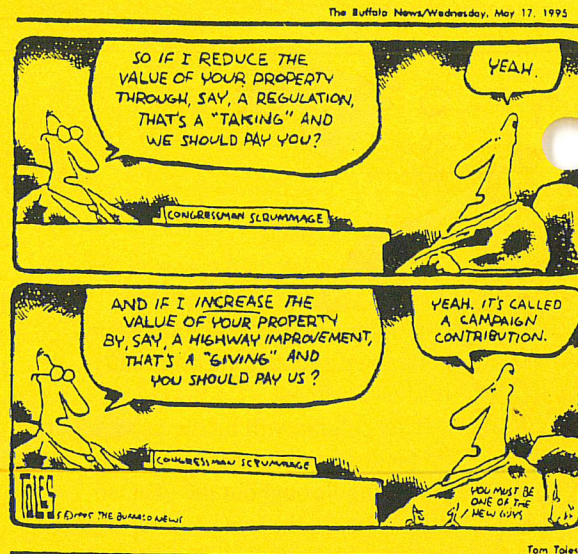
Environmental Education Leader David Orr to Speak

David Orr, professor and chair of Environmental Studies at Oberlin College in Ohio, will present two lectures this month. Orr, who is the nation's leader in environmental education, will speak on "The Next Environmental Revolution: The Ecological Crisis as a Design Crisis," Thursday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in Baruch Auditorium, 284 Calhoun Street. On Oct. 4, he will discuss "The End of Education" at 2:15 p.m. in the Simons Center for the Arts, Room 309, College of Charleston, on St. Philip Street between Calhoun and George streets.

The lectures are sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Services Center, and the College of Charleston's Environmental Studies Programs, Student Alliance for Planet Earth and Philosophy Department.

Orr is conservation-education editor for "Conservation Biology," a journal

for scientists committed to preserving endangered species. His recent books are, "Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment and the Human Prospect," "Ecological Literacy," and "The Campus and Environmental Responsibility." He is a powerful, no nonsense speaker, who, according to E.O. Wilson of Harvard, "delivers the revolutionary credo necessary for the long-term survival of our species."



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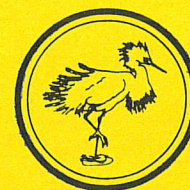
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The Lesser Squawk

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society

Vol. XLVI, No. 7

October 1996

CHNS Accepts Wannamaker Property

The Charleston Natural History Society executive board voted at its September meeting to accept property of the late John D. Wannamaker, a 470-acre tract located near St. Matthew (about 60 miles from Charleston). The property was given to the society with the provision that it would be managed in the best interest of wildlife. Representatives of the society and of the Wannamaker estate will meet to work out the details.

SOME GOOD NEWS, FOR A CHANGE — KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SINGS OUT

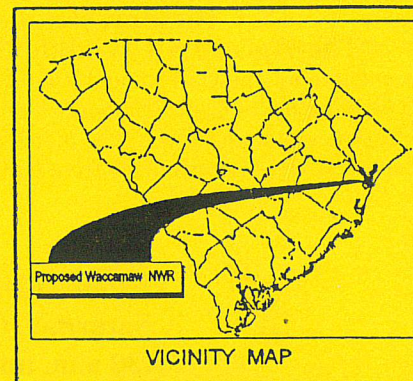
By Jane Lareau

The New York Times reported on August 13 that the latest census shows the Endangered Kirtland's Warbler has come back in spectacular fashion. In 1987 the population of Kirtland's warblers numbered only 167 singing males. This year's survey counted 678 singing males. Biologists credit the warbler's comeback to a 1980 forest fire that created 15,000 acres of new habitat for the warbler. WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE TELL THE 104TH CONGRESS...

AMERICANS SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

A new national poll, commissioned by the National Wildlife Federation and conducted this past July, shows that 75% of voters think the environment is a high priority. Forty-nine percent of the voters think environmental laws don't go far enough. Fifty-four percent of those surveyed think that higher fees should be charged for grazing, mining and logging, even if it financially harms those industries.

South Carolina Audubon Chapters Unite to Save Waccamaw Wildlife Refuge



Will there be a Waccamaw Wildlife Refuge? When the presidents of all Audubon Chapters in South Carolina met on the banks of the Waccamaw last June the prospects seemed very bright. But according to Jack Peachey, president of Waccamaw Audubon, "the small and well organized opponents of the refuge have thrown a curve." Despite the support of Senator Hollings, Congressman Mark Sanford and public commentary letters running 25 to 1 in favor of the refuge, its future may be jeopardized unless every one of us acts now.

The opponents of the refuge have charged that they have not been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed refuge. The fact is that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held two well publicized scoping meetings at which any kind of comment, concern or question could be asked. Two commentary meetings were also held on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, yet opponents still claim that they've had no opportunity to ask questions.

The principal concern shared by those opposing the refuge is the fear that it would prohibit the widening of highway 701 as part of a proposed interstate. A Memorandum of Agreement has been worked out between the Fish and Wildlife Department and the Department of Transportation which hopefully will satisfy the concerns of some opponents and local governments.

Unfortunately some independent loggers, landowners and "hunters" who shoot the deer their dogs chase, are determined to stop or at least delay the funding of this refuge. Please note all land to be included in the refuge is purchased by willing sellers; no one will be forced to sell.

The refuge must be funded in the fiscal 1998 budget. It is incumbent upon every member of the Charleston Natural History Society to write a letter in support of this refuge. We can not allow this last great opportunity to protect the Waccamaw be lost without a fight. Please make every effort to attend the October 8 meeting and learn more about the refuge and what we can do to bring it to fruition.

Write or call and ask your congressman to support funding for the refuge and for Alternative B, which provides the greatest acreage for protection.

Congressman Mark Sanford
District 1 Representative
334 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403
577-6433
727-4175

Ed Blitch



C. Dora Ann Reeves
554-5400 - does
Post + Courier
Saville

Special Congratulations is extended to Don Watts, past CNHS president, on his retirement from the United States Air Force.



Upcoming Events

October Members' Meeting.
Tuesday, October 8, 7:00pm
"The Waccamaw Wildlife Refuge In Winyah Bay."

A presentation by The US Fish and Wildlife Department, Craig Sasser, currently working out of Cape Romain will be our speaker. There will be a slide and video presentation showing the incredible diversity and importance of the Waccamaw River. Refreshments from 6:30 to 7:00.

October Field Trips
Saturday, Oct. 12
7:30 a.m. until noon
Bear Island Wildlife Management Area
Birding Trip

We may see eagles, migrants, wood storks and other waterfowl. Meet at Woods Brothers store, 8 miles south of Jacksonboro, on Highway 17 South at 7:30 a.m. Bring a lunch, water and insect repellent.

Parsha & this week
Saturday, Oct. 26
Bird Banding at Dill property or Folly Beach
7:30 a.m. to noon

Meet at the K-Mart shopping center, on Folly Road, at 7:30 a.m. to observe Will Post and assistants bird banding. Call Bob Chinn, 552-7884, two to three days ahead to confirm details of the trip.

African Ornithologist to Speak

Peter Ginn, one of Southern Africa's leading ornithologists and a pioneer in the region's conservation and environmental education movement, will give slide/lectures on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Hobcaw Creek Clubhouse, Mount Pleasant, at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 27, at Travel Agents International Offices, 101 Old Trolley Road, Summerville at 3 p.m.

Ginn is founder of Goshu Park, a conservation and environmental education facility at Peterhouse School in Zimbabwe. He has spent 20 years as a teacher, geologist, ornithologist and photographer and has written and provided photographs for more than nine books including "The Complete Book of Southern African Birds" (the definitive book on the sub-continent). Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) is a startling mix of African wildlife, spectacular landscapes and surprisingly civilized infrastructure. For more information, call Travel Agents International at 884-2700 or 873-0288. The lecture is free, but participants are encouraged to call one of these numbers if they plan to attend.



*DAVID QUICK
PLea 40937-5516
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The Lesser Squawk, newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society, is published monthly except for the months of June, July and August. The deadline for copy is the first of the month prior to the month of each meeting

*Ed Blitch 853-5727
Baker 853-5727
Let's have youth services*

*Moore's Land's
@ 7:30 + 9:00
departures \$20*

By Bruce Krucke

It's a little late in the season, but here's a good tip. Run your air conditioning drain hose into a terra cotta plant saucer for a constantly refilled bird bath.

This column will be the using up of all the little tidbits that I've been collecting throughout the year, so please ignore the non-sequitor aspect and enjoy the interesting aspect.

Nigerians eat 200,000 swallows a year — boiled, fried and dried. The British are trying to convert them to canned corn beef. The hug flock of flamingos on Lake Nakuru in Kenya has nearly disappeared, dropping by 80 per cent. They have not been able to locate the nearly two million birds that are missing! Although there are 46 species of flightless birds, only one is wingless — the kiwi of New Zealand.

Leave your hummingbird feeders up through October although you probably won't see any birds past the fifteenth. Your late feeder may be just the thing to save a straggler. One expert suggests hanging more feeders during migration since male hummers dominate the feeders so. Put one on the other side of the house for the females and the young males. Nelson Taylor watched a hummingbird approach a male painted bunting as if it were a flower in the spring.

Americans spend more money on bird watching than they do on baseball. Sixty million adults enjoy watching and feeding birds, spending two billion dollars on bird seed alone. Bird tourism has become economically important for areas such as the towns near the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge in Texas and the Chincoteague Refuge in Virginia.

We're seeing more cowbirds at the feeders again. No wonder — the female cowbird lays one egg each morning for five or six days in



Backyard Birder

another bird's nest and then a few days later repeats this process, often laying 40 eggs in a season! Sometimes she removes one of the host eggs, but the cowbird eggs hatch a day or two before the others anyway, giving them an advantage. The cowbird nestlings are larger than the host chicks and beg more vigorously so get most of the food, sometimes to the point that the host chicks actually starve.

The nests of goldfinches are so thick-walled that they hold water. Untended nestlings have been known to drown during rainstorms.

Cardinals weigh ten times as much

as hummingbirds. Seven states have the cardinal as their state bird, six have meadowlark and five chose the mockingbird.

Our heartbeat is about 68 per minute. The turkey's is 93, the crow's is 342, and that of the hummingbird at rest is 615!!

A couple of interesting reports came in: Sara Apter saw nearly 60 wood storks at Snee Farm, and Rene Polassis on James Island had a black-and-white warbler for a few days in early September — the first time in years.

Bruce W. Krucke, 7252 Toogoodoo Road, Yorges Island, SC 29449. Phone: 889-6191.



Observations

8/31	I'on Swamp Road & Clayfield Road	olive-sided flycatcher (migrating) Swainson's thrush (migrating)	Charlie Walters
9/1	Dewee's Island	reddish egret	Perry Nugent
9/2	West Ashley feeder	rufous hummingbird	Van Atkins

Footnotes: Mississippi kites seem to be doing well as there were several pairs around my subdivision and by the Hunley Park area on Dorchester Road this summer. On July 4th weekend, my grandson and I saw a mockingbird land twice on the back of a red-shouldered hawk in flight. Also, I observed two Carolina wrens fighting for almost 10 minutes while another wren (the female?) and several house sparrows watched. Bob Chinn

The Observations column includes unusual sightings, birds not usually found in this area, or seen at an unseasonal time. To report unusual sightings, call or write Bob Chinn at 552-7884, 7666 Chippendale Road, North Charleston, SC 29420.