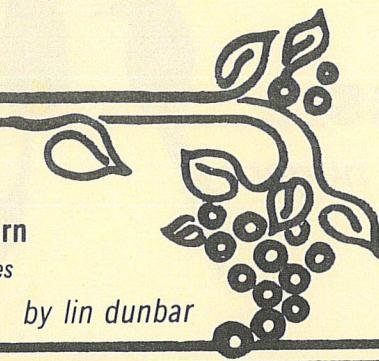


focus on:

Resurrection Fern

Polypodium polypoides

by lin dunbar



Adorning the sprawling limbs of our stately live oak, the evergreen resurrection fern lives with the spanish moss and green-fly orchid in a unique epiphytic relationship.

Epiphytes, epi meaning upon and phyte meaning plant, do not derive any food or nutrients from their host-they simply use the host plant for physical support. Epiphytes are one of the groups of plants most dependent on rain for their moisture requirements, and their survival depends on their adaptation to extreme dry and wet conditions.

After a period of drought, this small fern, grey and shriveled, appears dead. Yet given enough rain and moisture, the withered fronds disappear and a vibrantly green, lustrous fern returns to life. Thus the common name--resurrection fern.

Although *Polypodium* is most often found growing on the bark of trees, it also grows in acid to circumneutral soil and less often in the moist and shaded cracks of brickwork. Its leaves are once divided, and usually about six inches long. Large, round spore cases, brown in color and without indusia, line the underside of the leaflet. The rootstock as well as the stipe is scaly.

The generic name comes from the Greek word, poly, which means "many," and podos, meaning "feet." Linnaeus gave this plant the name *Polypodium* for the rootstock that appears to "walk over" surfaces. This part of the plant has been made into a decoction and used medicinally as a purgative.

In his classic book, *The Golden Bough*, Sir James George Frazer describes the plethora of myths and legends surrounding the oak tree. He alludes that items connected to the oak tree, such as mistletoe and *Polypodium* (among others) are also considered as special as the oak itself.

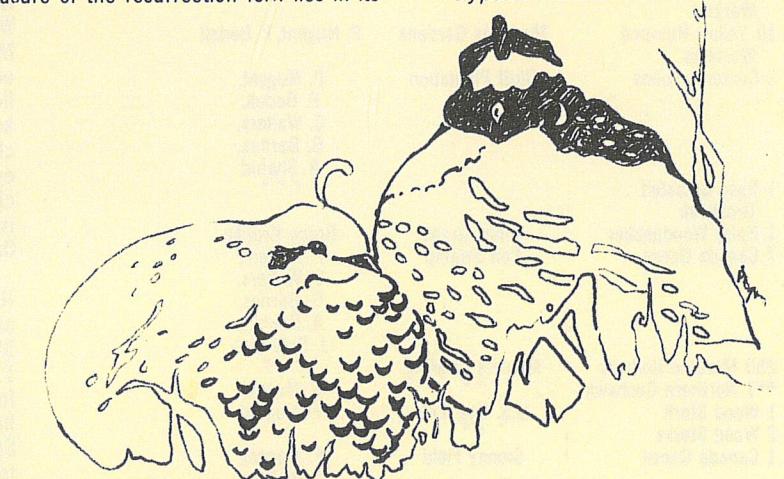
Fraser tells us that mythical fern-seed from the "oak fern" is supposed to bloom "like gold" on St. John's Day. The principles of homoeopathic magic (like produces like), would indicate that those who possess this golden seed will "discover a vein of gold or will see the treasures of the earth shining with a bluish flame."

Russian myths claim that if you toss the fern seed into the air, it will land to indicate hidden treasure. In Bohemia, if one mixes the golden fern-seed with money, no matter how much of the cash you spend, it will never decrease. If the fern-seed is gathered on Midsummer Eve or at Christmas (at the times of the summer and winter

solstices), the seed will possess the power of revealing treasures in the earth.

Although fern-seeds exist only in myths, the real treasure of the resurrection fern lies in its

beauty. From softening weathered barks with green flowing cascades to its use as a diminutive addition in a wild flower terrarium, the "magic" of *Polypodium* endures.



southeast wildlife exposition

learning something everyday

As an effort to further increase community awareness and enjoyment of wildlife, the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition is sponsoring an extensive seminar series and two symposiums during its fourth annual show, February 14-16, 1986, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Prepared and presented by the South Carolina Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources, the seminars will cover everything from reading wildlife signs in the woods to reading the f-stop scale on your camera...from issues on managing small game in the field to managing all game in the kitchen...from techniques for sporting success to what's being done to give endangered species a sporting chance. The nearly 20 seminars, including special offerings "for kids only," will be augmented on Friday by a series of 14 short films.

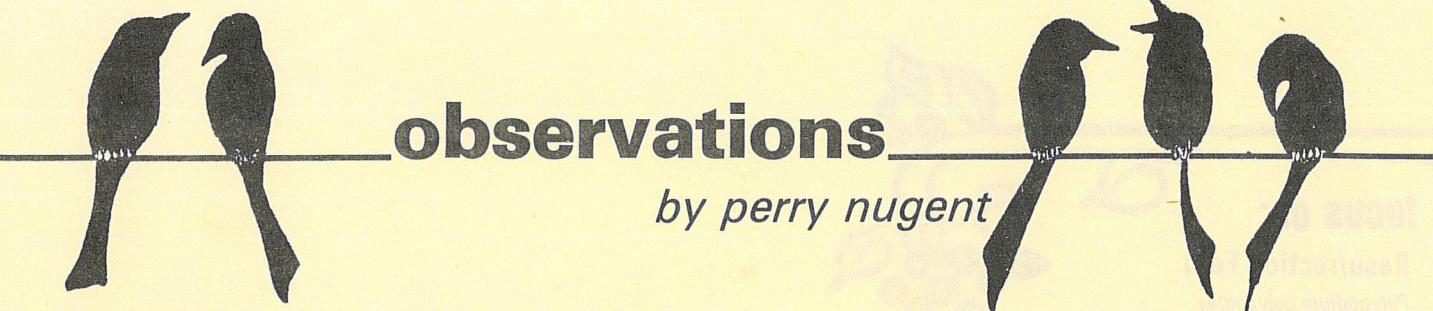
For a more in-depth look at two critical wildlife conservation and management issues, the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department is

coordinating two separate symposiums. On Friday afternoon the topic is game management on public lands. Saturday's focus shifts to waterfowl, with particular attention given to the Mottled Duck, Wood Duck and Canada Goose programs.

All the presentations -- seminars, films, symposiums -- will be held at the Gaillard Auditorium. The hour-long seminars begin at 10:30 AM, Friday and Saturday, and at 10:20 AM on Sunday, and continue through the day. Both symposiums run from 2 to 5 PM.

For Further Information Contact:

Ms. Gail Wright
"Southeastern Wildlife Exposition Seminars"
South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources
Department
P.O. Box 167, 1000 Assembly St.
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 758-0001



Date	Observation	Location	Observers
9/13	**1A Bald Eagle **1 Peregrine Falcon 1 Merlin 1 Chestnut Sided Warbler	Seabrook Is. " " " " " "	P. Nugent " " Many Observers P. Nugent
10/13	10 Yellow Rumped Warblers	Magnolia Gardens	P. Nugent, P. Bedell
10/19	3 Common Loons	Bluff Plantation	P. Nugent, P. Bedell, C. Walters, G. Barnes, A. Shahid " "
	1 Rose Breasted Grosbeak	" "	
10/23	1 Hairy Woodpecker	Kings Grant	Bruce Krucke
10/26	7 Canada Geese	I'on Swamp	P. Nugent, C. Walters, G. Barnes, A. Shahid, J. Robinson " "
	250 Marbled Godwits	Moore's Landing	P. Nugent
10/31	**1 Northern Goshawk	" "	P. Nugent
11/1	1 Wood Stork	U.S. Veg. Lab	P. Nugent " "
11/2	2 Wood Storks	" "	P. Nugent, C. Walters, G. Barnes, A. Shahid, B. Krucke, S. Taylor " "
	1 Canada Goose	Stoney Field	P. Nugent, C. Walters, G. Barnes, A. Shahid, B. Krucke, S. Taylor " "
	**1 Hudsonian Godwit	" "	P. Nugent
	2 Ground Doves	Patriots Pt.	" "
	1 Greater Black-backed Gull	Pitt St. Causeway	P. Nugent
11/4	1 imm. Great Cormorant	Middleton Gardens	B. Krucke, Many Others
11/5	**1 Golden Eagle	near Minim Creek, North Santee	H. L. Holbrook
	**8 White Pelicans	" "	H. L. Holbrook, M. Prevost

**— Rare, uncommon

comments by perry

Northern Goshawk: On Oct. 26, 1985, Charlie Walters and I noticed a kestrel scolding in the Moore's Landing parking lot. A large accipiter flew out of the trees with the kestrel in hot pursuit. It flew south. It was about twice the size of the kestrel, light grayish-white below with a dark cheek, crown and a dark grayish back. A white eyebrow contrasted strongly with the crown and cheek; obviously an adult northern goshawk. This is second goshawk seen in the area in 1985 (see Oct. '85 Squawk).

Hudsonian Godwit: On Friday, Nov. 1, I received calls concerning a Hudsonian Godwit seen by Steve Compton at Brittlebank Park. At dawn 11/2/85, Charlie Walters and I arrived to search for the rare bird. Soon many others joined the hour long fruitless search and we decided to go to Stoney Field. We found the large shorebird feeding with killdeer and ibis. Through 20x -40x scopes, the group observed the large godwit. It had a black tail, white rump, a two toned, slightly recurved bill. Winter plumage was grayish-brown with black axillaries and wing linings and narrow white wing stripe. We made reference to 3 field guides in making our conclusion.

The report of the golden eagle and the 8 white pelicans was sent in by Peter Manigault and was greatly appreciated. These birds were on his property on the North Santee River.

This is a time when rare birds can be found. If you see some that you believe to be uncommon or rare, please report them to me at 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, SC 29407.

