

In Memoriam

On the twenty-third of February, we laid to rest Ted Beckett. In the eulogy the minister quoted many thoughts from the Bible with words to be expected at that solemn occasion. Then he told how one man's life can touch so many others. In that way, Ted will live on in the people he taught, took under his wing, in the spirit of Arthur Wayne, Burnham Chamberlain, Ernest Cutts and the others who were willing to befriend and teach those who showed interest in natural history.

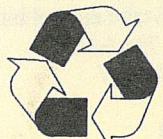
Ted was a founder of the Charleston Natural History Society in its resurrection after the second World War. He championed the protection of Lowcountry flora and fauna, and his study of the now endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker proved a foundation to current national efforts to save that bird. Ted for many years studied the Red-cockaded without pay and zealously.

I count myself his friend and student, as did so many others, and I owe to him an obligation to help others with this life-long avocation.

David Huff

Charleston Natural History Society
P.O. Box 504
Charleston, SC 29402

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



DOLPHIN SACRIFICE

As if a fine sculpture has been placed on the beach,
ten feet of curved, gray symmetry,
smooth as polished marble,
she lies at water's edge,
eyes open, lips parted as if resting.
A young, healthy victim,
no visible signs of trauma.

Was she caught in a trawler's net
tangled with squirming fish, teeming shrimp,
flotsom and jetsam scraped from the ocean floor?

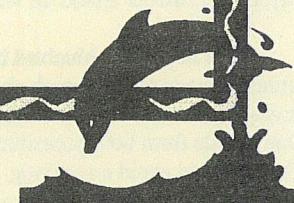
One of her kind swims by, perhaps searching for her.

I want to shout, "Look out! Be careful.

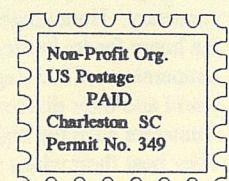
It is dangerous out there."

The dolphin vaults a wave with graceful abandon.

--Pat Leonard



EXPIRES NOV91
MS. JANE E. LAREAU
2165 W RIVERS RD.
CHARLESTON SC 29412-2092



THE LESSER SQUAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
CHAPTER, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

I WANT CLEAN WATER..... YES..... NO

strengthened so that state and local governments are accountable to the EPA if they run bad wetlands programs.

* S.1114 must close a loophole that allows "point source" dischargers to weaken their efforts to abate pollution merely by helping to prevent runoff elsewhere in the watershed.

* The bill must be strengthened to ban and phase out the toxic chemicals that pose the greatest threat to people and the environment: chlorine, chlorine compounds such as dioxin, and other chemicals that accumulate in the food chain and remain in the environment for decades.

* Illegal polluters must pay penalties greater than the profits they receive from polluting. And information about violations should be posted for the public.

Developers, agribusiness and others who profit from wetlands destruction are pushing hard to pass legislation that would lift most protection for wetlands by claiming that wetlands regulations "take" private property away. "Takings" amendments are expected to be proposed for the Clean Water Act.

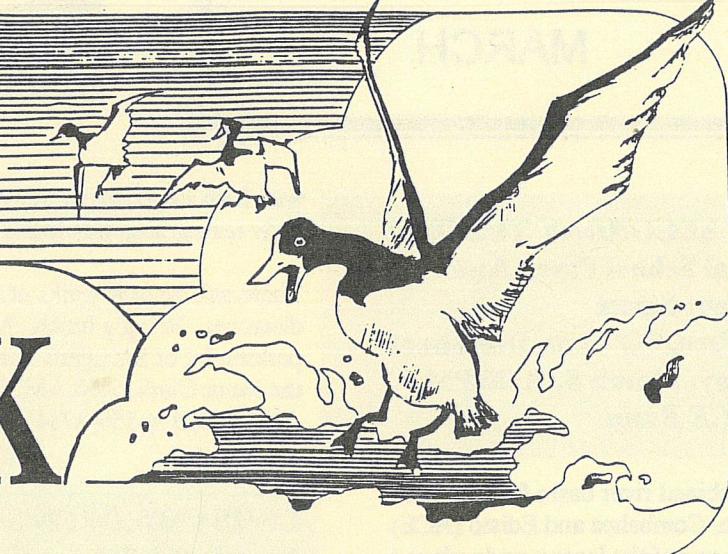
Another attack on the Act is coming from mayors and governors who are trying to kill regulations in the Act by calling them "unfunded federal mandates." Under their proposals, states and cities would not have to follow any regulations under national law (such as stopping raw sewage from flowing into our waters) unless every penny of funding comes from federal government.

Call Senators Hollings (727-4525) and Thurmond (727-4282) and ask them to strengthen the Clean Water Act to protect wetlands and coasts, to prevent toxic runoff, to ban the most toxic chemicals and to penalize illegal polluters. Tell them to oppose any "takings" or "unfunded mandate" amendments.

Industry and agribusiness groups are lobbying hard to eliminate these provisions -- please call Senators Hollings and Thurmond to support these vital sections of S.1114.

But these good provisions go only so far -- S.1114 needs major improvements before it can truly clean our water.

* Wetlands provisions in the bill must be



MARCH



CNHS SECONDAY TUESDAY
Medical School Psych Auditorium
President Street
Park Free, "G" Lot, Bee Street
Tuesday, March 8, 8:00 PM
The ACE Basin

The combined river basin formed by the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto (ACE) rivers is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the east coast of the United States. A coalition of public and private conservation interests has formed to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, traditional use and public access in the entire ecosystem. A major coalition partner is The Nature Conservancy, respected worldwide for its innovative and effective conservation philosophy.

CNHS is pleased to present Michael Prevost, Nature Conservancy Director of the ACE Basin Bioreserve Project. Mr. Prevost will provide an overview of the ACE Basin and detail where to go, what to see, who to contact, and how to get there. Get to know this area well. Public access has raised birding in Charleston to a higher level.

CNHS FIELD TRIP
The Grove Plantation, ACE Basin
Sunday, March 6, 7:00AM

Join Ann Shahid and Ed Blitch on a tour of this National Wildlife Refuge, part of the ACE Basin in Charleston County. This should be a transitional period for birds,

with both lingering winter waterfowl and early spring migrants found.

There will be easy walks of moderate distances. Bring a lunch. Meet in the parking lot of Shopper's Port, Hwy 17S & the Mark Clark, 7:00 AM. You may call Ann Shahid at 556-8734.

CNHS CHILDREN'S TRIP
Francis Beidler Forest in Four Holes Swamp
Saturday, March 25, 9:00AM

Come walk through an ancient wilderness and help build the future of environmental education.

Each spring thousands of children on school trips see Beidler Forest's thousand year old trees, look for its cottonmouth moccasins, and hear sweet-sweet-sweet prothonotary warblers. The Beidler Forest staff is developing a new program, trying to make each child's trip fun and exciting, a memorable encounter with nature, a step toward environmental responsibility.

You can help. Preview the trip and tell the staff what works and what could be done better. Your participation and reactions will make a difference.

Kids get in free. Adults get a dollar off for each child they bring. Bring four kids and get in free! Everyone participating will get 10% off at the newly expanded SWAMP SHOP.

The walk will last about three hours. Bring lunch for a picnic afterwards. Please call Beidler Forest at 462-2150 to let us know how many are coming.



BIRDING STUDY GROUP

This new group is open to anyone who would like to learn to identify those birds which are considered "difficult" or "confusing." Everyone is welcome. We will try various sites around the Lowcountry with specific birds in mind. The outings will last a couple of hours only, and we will vary the day and time somewhat to accommodate interested persons and the birds.

Study groups for February and March are as follow:

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 8:00 AM; At the Pitt Street Bridge, Mt. Pleasant -- For Shorebirds

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, NOON; At Moore's Landing, Cape Romain -- For Shorebirds

For additional information, please call David Huff (886-6911) or Ed Blitch (795-5277).

THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, FOUNDED 1905,

is a chapter of The National Audubon Society. Members of The NAS who live in the Trident area automatically become members of The Charleston Natural History Society. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 8:00pm, in the auditorium of The Psychiatric Institute on the campus of The Medical University of South Carolina. Field trips are held each month (except summer) and there are numerous special events.

MEMBERSHIP Membership dues for NEW MEMBERS is \$20. Members receive six bimonthly issues of National AUDUBON MAGAZINE and monthly issues (except summer) of THE LESSER SQUAWK, the CNHS newsletter. For information or a membership form, please call Herbert Macmurphy at 883-9252. To RENEW your yearly membership, please use the form mailed to you by National Audubon.

OFFICERS: CNHS Office phone (577-7100); President, Don Watts(797-6783), Vice-President, Hal Currey(883-9114), Secretary, Jan Snook(849-9485), Treasurer, Herbert Macmurphy(883-9252).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ed Blitch, Nathan Dias, Jose Escobar, Patricia Giddens, Sid Goff, Polly Holden, David Huff, Jeremy James, Jane Lareau, Terrence Larimer, Lee Lowder, Rose Mitchell, Hayes Patterson, Ann Shahid.

COMMITTEE CHARMEN: MEMBERSHIP, Patricia Giddens (883-3937); CONSERVATION, Jane Lareau (795-2150); PROGRAMS, Lee Lowder (723-3057); BIRD COUNTS, Ed Blitch (795-5277); BIRD SEED, Rose Mitchell (723-7459), Patricia Giddens (883-3937); BIRD-A-THON, Jeremy James (886-5254); NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Herbert Macmurphy(883-9252).

BACKYARD BIRDER

By Bruce Krucke



Evening grosbeaks!! Two reports, both from Dorchester County. An anonymous card told of five grosbeaks in Pine Hill Acres near Jedburg on Feb. 10, and the first report came from Apian Way, off Dorchester Road. I'm sorry to say that I lost the person's name, but she had three evening grosbeaks in January. She couldn't understand why no one in her office thought that was exciting, so she called me as someone who would be duly appreciative -- and I was!

Seems like everyone has over a hundred goldfinches every day now. I wonder if we're all sharing the same group which just goes from feeder to feeder? While a lot of people report house finches, Dot Glover of Adam's Run and I have purple finches -- more all the time. It can snow and freeze up north all it wants as far as we're concerned!

Anne Worsham Richardson helped an immature male hummingbird in mid-January. She first saw him trying to drink from a feeder with frozen nectar in it. Joanne Porter, in Summerville, has had hummingbirds all winter. She also has a mockingbird that follows her about the yard and answers her whistle. Her Lady Banksia rose bush is a bird mecca -- like ours. The other day there were 37 birds in it when I got up. Other interesting home sightings have been reported by: Hugh King in Mt. Pleasant had a Northern oriole and a loggerhead shrike at his feeders; Norman Stanfield on James Island had a painted bunting; Anita Baxley, also James Island, and Bonnie Rackley in Rantowles, have both had hawks -- sharpie, red-tail, and red-shouldered. Alice Stevens had the fun of watching an otter go a couple hundred yards in the open across her yard, from Toogoodoo Creek to the marsh.

Gene Scarborough spotted a bald eagle from the Dawhoo Bridge, and Van Atkins saw a banded peregrine falcon at Moore's Landing. I suggested he call Dennis Forsythe, since there are usually notices about banded birds requesting reports of sightings. Van reports that the avocets stayed on Crowder Island all winter.

I hope your bluebird houses are all being investigated now, if not actually occupied. Research shows that family values are not all that high among bluebirds. Nearly a third of the hatchlings are not full siblings. This results from both parasitism, in which females deposit their eggs in other nests to avoid caretaking, and bluebird females are often multiple maters -- the hussies! It all starts because their fathers feed females more in the nest so that male babies won't grow up to be competitors. Enough of this anthropomorphism.

Hummingbird feeders should go up in mid-March. For new readers, four parts water to one part sugar. Dissolve the sugar thoroughly and keep what you don't use refrigerated. No color or other additives are necessary. Hummingbirds are supposed to be the easiest birds to attract to the home feeder because it takes so many carbohydrates to maintain a body temperature of 105 degrees. Hummingbirds are found only in the new world and their discovery was pooh-poohed by scientists in Europe. Hummers have the highest metabolic rate of any warmblooded animal. They beat their wings more than 60 times a second, fly backwards and up and down, fly non-stop 500 miles across the Caribbean -- fall and spring -- and are the second largest bird family we have in this hemisphere (only flycatchers are a larger group). Their nests are covered with lichens and are held together with spider webs. There should be something red to first attract the bird to the feeder. If your feeder doesn't have red ports, tie a red ribbon to it. Having a flower garden is a big help in attracting hummers to your yard. Once there, they'll find the feeder. They especially like salvia, impatiens, trumpet vine, honeysuckle, bee balm, petunias, lilies, and nasturtiums. They defend their feeders very aggressively, so to

have more than one bird at a time, have lots of feeders together or a few feeders out of sight of each other.

Purple martins are arriving now. Add more houses than you had last year for the youngsters. Last year's breeding was not a success in the mid-west because of an unusually cool and wet spring. Starlings are always a problem too. If you're really into purple martins, you can get a lot of valuable info from the Purple Martin Conservation Association, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro, PA 16444.

Chickadees are one of the favorite feeder birds, calling coming in, choosing just the right seed, and then flying off to eat it. They develop 20 to 30 percent more feathers to keep warm in the winter and they can shiver to turn energy into heat. They have to eat continually, not unlike hummingbirds, to maintain body heat. They also enter a dormant state at night to conserve the precious fat reserves they build up during the day. Despite all these adaptations, less than a third of the fledglings survive winter. Most die in their first four weeks, victims of weather, predation, and starvation.

On that happy note ... keep those cards and calls coming. Bruce W. Krucke, 7352 Toogoodoo Rd., Yonges Island, SC 29449. Phone: 889-6191.

OBSERVATIONS : 15 Jan to 15 Feb

By Don Watts

Jan 21	Oldsquaw	Bryan Johnson
	Hooded Mergansers	"
	Canvasbacks	"
	Sightings made on Crowfield Lake, Goose Creek. I obsv the above on 3 visits to site, the last on Feb 3. (DW)	
Jan 23	River Otter	Hal Currey
Jan 25	Peregrine Falcon	Don Watts
	Seen at Charleston Nat. airport, chasing Pigeons.	
Jan 30	Evening Grosbeaks	Cathy Geist
	Cathy reports the first Grosbeaks! 3 males at feeder in Goose Creek.	
Jan 31	White Pelican	Bill Fetzer
	Tundra Swans (18)	"
	Seen at Huntington Beach State Park.	
Feb 2	Peregrine Falcon	Herbert Macmurphy
	Sighting made from Mark Clark Expressway.	
Feb 6	Bald Eagles	T.J. Oshinsky
	Another West Ashley sighting!	

To report your sightings call Don Watts at the Chapter number (577-7100) and leave a message, or call Don at 797-6783. All sightings (bird, animal, or plant life) are welcome. For info on rare birds in the Carolinas call the CBC Hotline at 704-332-2473.

I have been getting a lot of calls about injured birds, what to do, where to go. The following is a list of veterinarians that will take injured birds: Sea Island Vet. Hospital, 1320 Camp Rd, James Isl. 795-6477 Pet Vets Animal Hosp, 307 Mill St, Mt Pleasant 884-7387 Dr. West or Dr. Jones, Monks Corner 761-4920 Animal Hosp of N. Chas, 4721 Rivers Ave 744-1584 For Raptors, call Charleston Raptor Center 928-3494 You may also call S.C.W.M.R.D. Wildlife Assistance 762-5013