

16 Mar	1 Bl-th. Gray Warbler*	Isle of Palms	D. Chamberlain
26 Mar	1 Whip-poor-will**	Johns Island	P. Laurie
27 Mar	? Bl-Necked Stilts	Edisto Island	B. Krucke
		"	D. Harvey
28 Mar	6 Gannets	"	
5 Apr.	1 Swallow-tailed Kite	Fairlawn Pl.	D. Chamberlain
14 Apr.	2 Turkeys	Hellhole Swp.	M. Marlow
	1 Painted Bunting***	Johns Island	P. Laurie

*Many observers saw this unusual western bird, which for several weeks returned almost daily to drink sap from sapsucker holes in a tree in David Huff's yard.

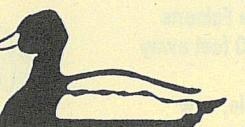
**I heard this bird singing for several evenings. The much faster cadence of the three-note call is quite distinct from that of the more familiar Chuck-will's widow. Whip-poor-wills regularly winter along the South Carolina coast, but they seldom sing.

***I saw a male Painted Bunting, the first one I have seen this year, at my birdbath on April 14. Bruce Krucke reported one in her yard on Yorges Island two days later.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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TYPESETTING

Cypress Gardens is happy to announce the acquisition of new computer equipment and laser printer and is happy to share its use with CNHS.

PLEASE NOTE

Your editor is still wiping egg from her face for crediting the wrong author with our poem in the April issue. Beach Discovery was written by Pat Leonard, not Dudley Curry. Both poets were very gracious concerning the error.

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CONSERVATION CORNER

by Hayes Patterson

WETLAND LEGISLATION - Opponents of the state wetland legislation have succeeded in stalling its progress long enough to preclude passage of a bill by both the House and the Senate this year. Opposition has taken a couple of forms. At the national level, the Federal Manual for Wetland Delineation is currently being reviewed and the Clean Water Act, including section 404, will be up for reauthorization next year. There is an intense effort in Washington to weaken the effectiveness of both. The argument is being made that the State should do nothing until the federal regulations are revised and that the subsequent state laws should not be any stricter than the federal law. The electric, gas, communication and railroad industries are all arguing that, by law, they can only be regulated by the Public Service Commission, and must, therefore, be exempted from any other permitting regulations. They don't mention that they currently comply with the Coastal Council permitting regulations along the coast. All this lobbying effort is compounded by the House Sub-committee members who admitted in their first meeting that they didn't know what a wetland is. Some members are literally starting at "ground zero." Still there is hope that a bill will get out of committee and possibly through the House this year. Representative Sturkie has amended his bill. We haven't had a chance to review the new bill fully, but it does assign responsibility for wetland permitting to DHEC for counties not regulated by the Coastal Council. In a parallel effort, DHEC is developing a wetlands classification system to present to the legislature next year. As a part of this effort, they are trying to identify significant wetlands to classify as "outstanding resource wetlands (ORW)." This classification will include wetland areas that DHEC has previously ignored. They are asking for public input. Anyone who knows of a potentially qualifying wetland should notify them by May 3.

S.C. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - After taking a beating from an outraged public over the department's tree removal policies, SCHD has revised its policy to minimize tree removal during road construction and maintenance. The wetland area in the I-26 median outside Columbia that was cut and filled last year in the name of removing trees as safety hazards, was replanted by the department. The new plantings don't equal the function or beauty of the previous wetland, but it is hopefully symbolic of the department's new direction. Unfortunately someone appreciated the new trees so much that they stole a large group of them within a month of the planting.

CAPE ROMAIN/ SANTEE RIVER - The waters of the Santee River and Cape Romain may be reclassified by DHEC to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). The S.C. Coastal Conservation League has formally requested that DHEC upgrade the classification of these waters. The League's review of DHEC water sample data indicates that these areas do meet the higher standards. Current classification ranges from "B" for the freshwater portions of the Santee to "SHW" in Cape Romain. Class "B" is ok for fishing but not for swimming. "SHW" protects the shellfish beds and prohibits sewage discharges near beds. "ORW" is the state's highest classification and prohibits sewage discharges throughout the area. The reclassification process should take over a year to complete and includes extensive review by DHEC staff, public hearings and final approval by the state legislature. Prohibition of sewage discharges in these waters will be important for protecting this area in coming years, as Mt. Pleasant urbanization spreads up Highway 17.

CHARLESTON BILLBOARDS - Residents of the City of Charleston need to speak out. The City passed a good billboard ordinance back in 1987. Since then they have done almost nothing to enforce it. A recent survey by the News and Courier found that half the existing billboards should have been removed by now. Another fifth should be gone by September of this year. To see these signs removed, we need to bug the mayor and city council representatives to let them know that we want this ordinance enforced.

