

unusual observations

by Pete Laurie

8 Sept	(many)	Veerys	Rockville	D. Beach
	1	Black & White Warbler	"	D. Beach
12 Sept	9	Wood Storks	"	V. Beach
15 Sept	1	Blue-winged Warbler	"	D. Beach
21 Sept	2	Magnolia Warblers	"	"
	100's	Redstarts	"	"
	2	Hooded Warblers	"	"
	2	Oven Birds	"	"
	1	Black-thrilled Blue Warbler	"	"
22 Sept	1	Golden-winged Warbler (m)	"	"
	3	Black & White Warblers	"	D. Beach
	2	Worm-eating Warblers	Rockville	D. Beach
	1	Yellow Warbler	Ft. Johnson	P. Laurie
	1	Peregrine Falcon	"	"
23 Sept	1	Cape May Warbler	Rockville	D. Beach
24 Sept	3	Buff-brsted Sandpipers	Orangeburg	P. Laurie
	2	Marlins	Patriots Pt.	D. Chamberlain
	1	Blue-winged Warbler	"	"
25 Sept	2	Peregrine Falcons	Bull's Island	P. Hall
8 Oct	1	Least Flycatcher	Patriot's Pt.	D. Chamberlain
15 Oct	1	Buff-brsted Sandpiper	Orangeburg	P. Laurie
	20	Water Pipits	Orangeburg	"

Pete Laurie - 750 Copperhead Trail, Johns Island, SC, 29455. Work phone -762-5076. Home phone -559-2046.

6.



Hungry Bird

by Dudley Curry

Chicka-dee dee dee, out there so free
 perched on a twig of the sweet gum tree,
 with feathered hands behind your back
 the only way that you can snack
 is hold the seed between your feet
 and peck the husk with a beat beat beat.
 Be extra careful not to hit a toe
 or you'll be singing oh! oh! oh!



Typesetting Courtesy
of
Cypress Gardens

Charleston Natural History Society
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Charleston, S.C. 29402

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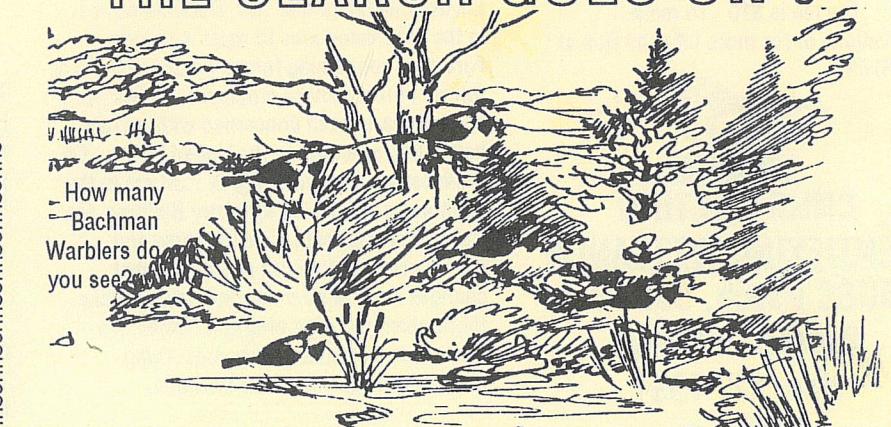
Turtle Project

Kathy Moore

Squawk Editor

Carolyn Burrington 762-4612- 553-0515
 740 Shamrock Lane, James Is., 29412

THE SEARCH GOES ON !



What about that Bachman Warbler? Last January I received a newspaper clipping from Mary Julia Royall that she had taken from The Press and Standard about federal grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to the Nongame and Heritage Section of the South Carolina WMRD for a study-search for the Bachman Warbler. She was interested (as most of us) in learning more about this.

It turns out that Dennis Forsythe was chosen by the Nongame and Heritage Trust Section of the SC Wildlife and Marine Resources Department in cooperation with the Department of Interior's Endangered Species Field Office in Asheville, NC. to do this study. Other cooperators in this endeavor were the US Forest Service and Westvaco Paper Company.

In the years since its discovery in 1832 this elusive little warbler has disappeared and reappeared several times, and it has been feared to be extinct. There is much discussion about the habitat and even the times of year that the Bachman is in the lowcountry. It has been thought by some biologists that HUGO created better habitat for this species, thus the study was funded. John Cely, wildlife biologist with SCWLMR says that this is a most frustrating task, however unconfirmed sightings, at places such as Magnolia Gardens, help to keep the hope alive.

Dennis conducted his survey from mid March to the end of April by systematically setting up transects close to the road in several areas where HUGO debris made it impossible to get off the road. Tape recordings of the two Bachman Warbler songs that are known, along with recordings of Swainson Warbler songs, were played in hopes of calling out the birds. The work was done in half day sessions and included time at ION Swamp, Beidler Forest and Fairlawn Plantation, just to name a few. Dennis said that even though they found no Bachman Warblers, they had several other interesting sightings such as Swallow-tailed Kites nesting in a cypress tree.

CONSERVATION CORNER

by Hayes Patterson

WETLANDS - Response to the proposed revision of the "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands" has been overwhelming enough to cause the EPA to extend the comment period until December 14. If you haven't written yet or would like to reinforce comments you've already made, there is still time. National Audubon estimates that approximately half the remaining wetlands in the U.S. would lose protection if the proposed revision is enacted as written. The response from the scientific community on the revision has been uniformly negative. Unfortunately, the extended comment period may work to the benefit of the pro-development interest who are pushing for minimal wetland regulations. They have large financial resources and are using very emotionally charged and misleading propaganda to build an anti-regulation constituency. Jake Duncan will discuss wetland delineation methods at our November membership meeting, and will lead a field trip demonstration of the basics of the delineation process later in the month. Jake works in the enforcement and delineation branch of the Charleston office of the Corps of Engineers and is a member of the government interagency team that has been field testing the proposed revision. The EPA has a brochure that includes background information and a copy of the proposed revision available free of charge by calling their Wetlands Protection Hotline at 1-800-832-7828. If you would like suggested comments or additional background info contact me at 556-7430 and I can provide you with a packet of material that includes comments by CNHS and recommendations from National Audubon.

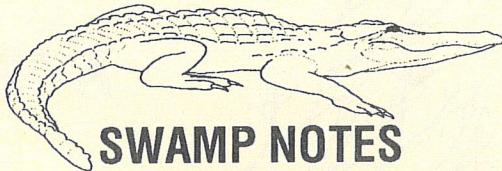
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

As noted last month, dredging to deepen the Charleston Harbor shipping channel stopped at the end of September to minimize the impact on turtles. Dredging will resume after December 1, based on studies which have shown that turtles are generally absent from this area in December. The total cost for delays and extra measures to avoid killing turtles is estimated to be about \$6 million. While some are trying to blame this extra expense on the turtle conservation efforts

of environmentalists, the truth is that the Corps knew of the potential for this problem and simply failed to plan adequately for it. We certainly hope that the added cost and bad publicity will provide sufficient incentive for the Corps to adopt new guidelines for future dredging projects that include better protection for turtles.

DANIEL (SIC) ISLAND - No matter how they choose to spell it, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation deserves credit for the openness with which they are progressing with the development of this newest addition to the City of Charleston. CNHS President Herbert McMurphy has been representing the Society at a series of meetings sponsored by the Foundation to address the public issues and concerns over the development of the island. The Foundation has been responsive to inquiries on environmental impacts, and we trust that the final plan will reflect these concerns. We wish other large tract

FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST - On October 9 I attended a meeting with the Forest Service concerning efforts to restore native longleaf pine ecosystems in the Forest. They have contracted Tall Timbers, a forestry research institute from Florida, to identify indigenous composition of the longleaf pine savannas and determine the fire regime management techniques necessary to restore this ecosystem in the Francis Marion. Tall Timbers is noted for their pioneering work in the use of fire as a management tool, (originally for quail management.) This effort is initially aimed at roughly 32,000 acres scattered throughout Wambaw and Whitherby Districts, which were longleaf stands before hurricane Hugo. The Forest Service wants to proceed with restoring these areas to longleaf pine and incorporate public concerns expressed during the public comment period on the rewrite to the Francis Marion Management Plan. One of the concerns expressed during that period was the loss of indigenous ecosystems, particularly the longleaf pine/ grass savanna communities, as a result of management techniques that favored loblolly pine and commercial timber production. If these ecosystem restoration efforts are successful they could be extended to convert some current loblolly areas to longleaf by the new Management Plan.



SWAMP NOTES

News from
Francis Beidler Forest

HOLIDAY PLANS

Events are aimed toward the holidays at Francis Beidler Forest these days. Lee Lowder, "volunteer extraordinaire," has been working in the Christmas tree farm all year, getting the trees in shape. The sale starts November 30 at 9:00 am until 3:00 pm, and continues on December 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 at the same times. There are 5' to 12' Virginia Pines for sale from \$10 to \$15. As an extra bonus this year Christmas cookies and hot drinks will be served. Also, to start the season off in the right direction, Lee has planned a Christmas ornament workshop for November 30 at 2:00 pm in the Nature Center at Francis Beidler. The ornaments will be made with all natural materials and the workshop is free. For more info call 462-2150.

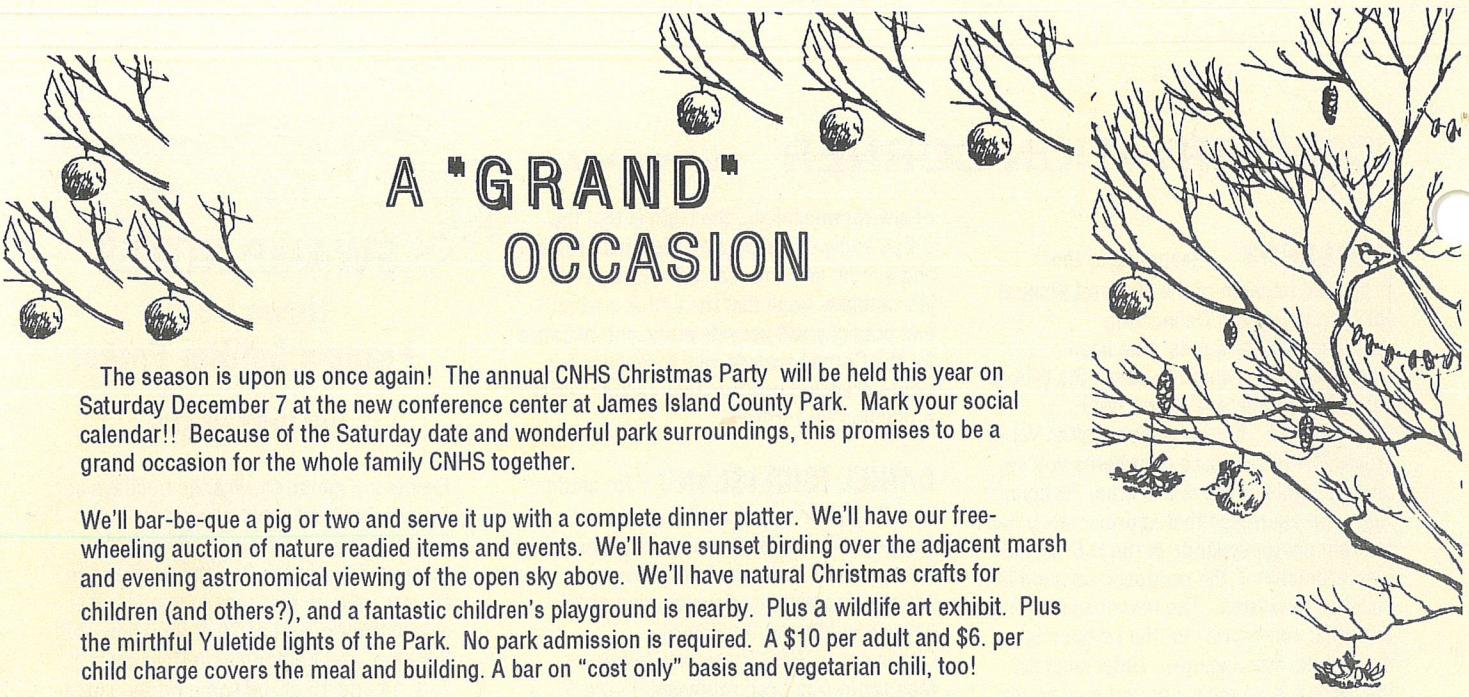
ACE BASIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Sunday December 15

The second annual ACE Basin Christmas Bird Count will be held December 15. Participants should meet at Woods Brothers Store on Hwy. 17, Near Green Pond at 7 am. For more info contact Pete Laurie (762-5076) or David Chamberlain



CNHS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Sunday December 29 Watch for updates!

Steve Compton
Mary Pringle
Co-chairs



A "GRAND" OCCASION

The season is upon us once again! The annual CNHS Christmas Party will be held this year on Saturday December 7 at the new conference center at James Island County Park. Mark your social calendar!! Because of the Saturday date and wonderful park surroundings, this promises to be a grand occasion for the whole family CNHS together.

We'll bar-be-que a pig or two and serve it up with a complete dinner platter. We'll have our free-wheeling auction of nature readied items and events. We'll have sunset birding over the adjacent marsh and evening astronomical viewing of the open sky above. We'll have natural Christmas crafts for children (and others?), and a fantastic children's playground is nearby. Plus a wildlife art exhibit. Plus the mirthful Yuletide lights of the Park. No park admission is required. A \$10 per adult and \$6. per child charge covers the meal and building. A bar on "cost only" basis and vegetarian chili, too!

Please call Mac (883-9252) or Don Watts (797-6783) before December 1, so we'll know how many piggies to catch!

NOTICE



NATURE IN OUR COUNTY PARKS

Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission presents many nature orientated programs for persons of all ages. This is a summary of a few up-coming programs -**South Carolina's Endangered Wetlands** - November 3, 10 am, at Tea Farm County Park, Danny Shelton, naturalist will lead a walk focusing on our wetlands and the importance of these ecological oases. **Care of the Wild Feathered and Furred** - November 10, 2 pm at James Island County Park, Dr. Jean Pfaff and Dr. Ann Beck of the Sea Islands Veterinary Hospital will conduct a workshop on the care of injured and sick wild creatures. **Evening Owl Prowl** - November 15, 5 - 8 pm at Tea Farm County Park, Perry Nugent leads a walk of the Tea Farm looking and listening for nocturnal birds of prey. For more info about these and other programs call 762-2172.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Speaking Contest

The Conservation Districts of South Carolina and SC Conservation Districts Foundation in cooperation with the SC Land Resources Commission is sponsoring a speaking contest for area high school students. The local contest will be held November 21 at 4 pm at the Charleston County Main Library. The state contest will be held January 8, 1992 at the Omni Hotel in Charleston. For more information contact Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District at 724-4671.



ORNITHOLOGY CLASSES

Our own Dennis Forsythe, Professor at the Citadel, will be teaching an ornithology class during the spring semester, beginning the second week in January. Registration opens January 6. Classes will be held Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. For more information call Dennis at the Citadel.