

## unusual observations

by Pete Laurie

Sept 4  
Sept 7

2 Wood Storks  
1 Golden Plover

Wadmalaw Island  
Orangeburg (sod farms)

P. Kohler  
D. & D. Forsythe,  
D. Chamberlain

4 Upland Sandpipers  
3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers  
25 Pectoral Sandpipers  
35 Bob-o-links  
25 Horned Larks  
3 Cliff Swallows  
4 Bank Swallows  
1 Yellow Warbler

Fort Johnson

P. Laurie

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

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4. If you feed birds on the ground, patio, etc., sweep and clean it often. Infectious diseases are spread by birds ingesting droppings of others. You may have seen birds with strange growths on their heads or bodies from this. Areas under feeders where ground feeds eat also need to be cleaned.

5. Some people buy striped or blended sunflower seeds, thinking that they must be better than black oil sunflower seeds because they cost more. It is not necessarily so. Black sunflower seeds are cheaper, have more oil and fat for energy which birds especially need in cold weather, and are eagerly eaten by smaller birds such as goldfinches, pine siskins, purple finches, as well as chickadees, titmouses and, of course, cardinals.

6. A very important part of any bird feeding program is fresh water. Even a simple large saucer or trash can lid can give birds a chance to keep their feathers clean, ( which is essential to flying), and for drinking.

Typesetting Courtesy  
of  
Cypress Gardens

Charleston Natural History Society  
P.O. Box 504  
Charleston, S.C. 29402

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## WHERE THE BOYS ARE

by Pat Leonard

*They're out by the sandbar  
Cruising in circles*

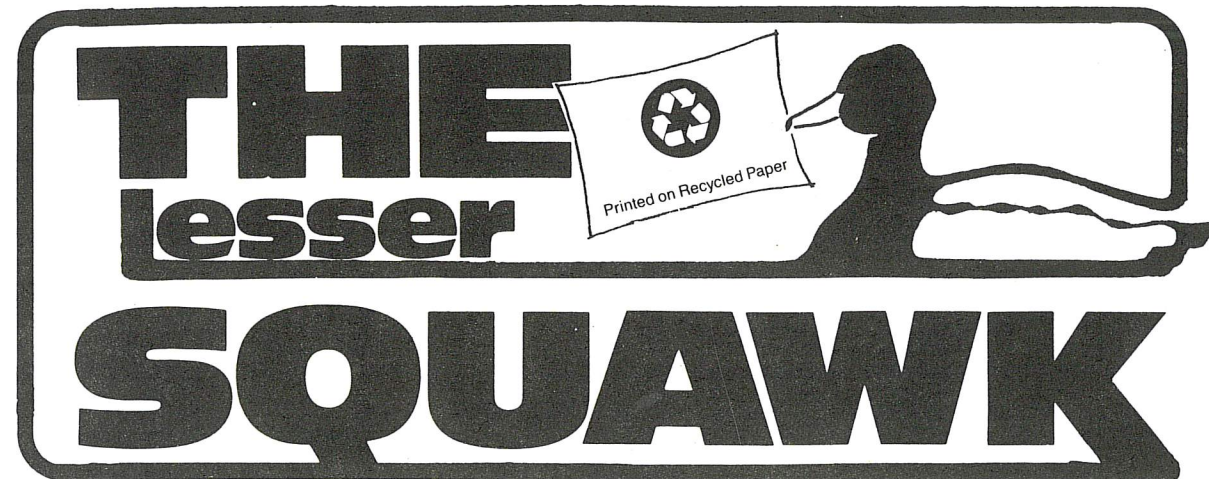
*Breaking the speed limit  
Risking their necks*

*Showing off to each other  
Acrobatic tricks*

N  
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Brown Pelicans

non-profit org.  
US postage  
PAID  
Charleston, SC  
Permit No. 349



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NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
Your National Audubon Chapter

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## WHAT'S NEW IN THE "WETLANDS" ?

by Hayes Patterson

Normally I try to focus on local issues, but there is currently a national crisis that will directly affect local wetland conservation efforts. The proposed revision to the federal Wetlands Delineation Manual will deal a devastating blow to wetland conservation if implemented in its current form. In brief, the Bush administration has taken advantage of a routine revision of this manual, originally prepared by an interagency committee of technical experts, and doctored up to please developmental special interests. The perspective of the manual has been distorted from an ecosystem approach that treated vegetation, soils and hydrology as interrelated components to a fragmented analysis requiring independent verification of each element. The "killer" is proving hydrology without using vegetation and soils even though they will not exist is the hydrology is not present. The burden of proof is also effectively shifted from the permit applicant to the Corps. At the same time, Congress passed and President Bush signed the 1992 Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act.. This Act contains provisions which prohibit the Corps from using the current 1989 delineation manual and requires them to revert to the 1987 manual. In addition, anyone with current enforcement actions pending against them is given the option of having their land re-delineated using the 1987 manual. A., of this is just a forerunner of what we can expect during the next years' re-authorization of the Clean Water Act, on which the government currently bases its authority to regulate wetlands. What follows is an **Action Alert** from National Audubon. **Please** send a brief letter, as outline, to Mr. Peck at the EPA before October 15. We won't conserve wetlands if we can't figure out where they are.

### White House Redefines Wetlands - Millions of Acres Threatened by Development

The public has until October 15 to comment on the new definition. It is important for each of us to write a brief one page letter to the EPA to urge the agency to maintain "scientific" criteria when determining what is a wetland. Express your outrage that millions of acres of wetlands will be lost because of political considerations. Send a copy of your letter to President Bush urging him to uphold his pledge of "No Net Loss of Wetlands." It is critical that we get as many letters into the public record as possible before October 15.

**A Little Background.** The Environmental Protection Agency, the Army corps of Engineers and other agencies use the 1989 Wetlands Delineation Manual to identify and determine the boundaries of wetlands. It requires that 3 criteria must be met for an area to be designated a wetland: it must have hydrophytic (water- loving) plants; it must have certain kinds of soils (hydric); and it must be wet at or below the surface for a certain period of time. In the past, revisions to this guide have been suggested by a committee of technical experts from the agencies that use it. This revision, however, has been decided by the upper echelons of the Bush Administration. As a result most of the proposed changes to this technical document were motivated not by sound wetlands science but by political pressure from business interests within the Administration in collusion with oil, gas, home building and farm lobbyists who wish to deregulate millions of acres of easy to develop wetlands. Citizens around the country must object strenuously to these changes and put our wetlands

continued on page 4









Dear Members and Friends,

October, 1991

Although the temperatures are still soaring we need to plan ahead and consider our feathered friends. Yes, the time has rolled around and it's time to order birdseed. By placing your order with CNHS you not only help the birds, but you help fund other CNHS projects as well such as The McAlhany Preserve, Audubon Adventures and The Edisto Island Sea Turtle Project.

The mixed Wild Bird Feeds are available in three types: Custom, Special, and Premium.

**Custom mixed seed** (economy) is 12% black oil sunflower, 40% white proso millet, 21% cracked corn, 10% milo, 12% wheat, and 5% red millet.

**Special mixed seed** (no corn) is 33% black oil sunflower, 42% white proso millet, 10% milo, 12% wheat, and 3% peanut bits.

**Premium mixed seed** (best value) is 23% black oil sunflower, 33% white proso millet, 33% cracked corn, 9% safflower, and 2% peanut bits.

Place your order now!!



or



The deadline for orders is **October 25th**. Please be sure to include your payment or send it by the **25th of October** or we will have to cancel your order. Telephone orders may be placed by calling **722-8050** and leaving a message containing the information requested on the order form. Donna Forsythe at 795-3996 will assist those who aren't sure what type of seed or birdfeeders they should buy.



Seed Pick-up will be on Saturday, November 9th, 1991 10:00AM-4:00PM at Heath Farms Produce, 602 Coleman Blvd., Mt. Pleasant. We'll have other items available so bring your checkbook and stock up for the holidays!!

Our deepest thanks to

HEATH FARMS FRESH PRODUCE #2

"Raising Vegetables is our Profession"



&

**LOWE'S**

for donating their valuable time and assistance!

## CONSERVATION CORNER

Hayes Patterson

**ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS** - The saga of the turtles versus the Corps over dredging continues and the turtles seem to be losing. After dredging was halted on August 14, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) revises the Corps' "license to kill" limiting them to 2 turtle deaths. They added new conditions, requiring onboard observers 24 hours a day, trawlers operating in front of the dredge to clear turtles out of harms' way and limited dredging to seaward of the ten mile point. Dredging resumes and the new 2 turtle limit was filled on August 22. Work was again halted and NMFS consulted. They decided that dredging could resume provided no more than 8 additional turtles were killed. Dredging resumed on September 8. The 5 conservation groups who has threatened the Corps with a lawsuit for violating the Endangered Species Act are marking time during a required 60 day waiting period before filing. The SCWMD has advised the Corps that the state Endangered Species Act does not provide for permission to kill threatened species except for scientific purposes and dredging does not qualify. By the time you read this, surviving turtles will have hopefully moved out of the harbor area and on to warmer waters. The good that may come from this fiasco could be new guidelines from NMFS and the Corps that will limit such projects to winter months when turtles are not present. While all this is going on, NMFS has extended the time for mandatory TED use by shrimpers in federal waters until April 30, 1992. Normally, TEDs are only required from May 1 until August 31. State law requires that TEDs be used in state waters whenever they are required in offshore federal waters. **LATE BREAKING BULLETIN:** The Corps has announced that they will stop dredging around the end of September when dredging in Federal waters should be complete. They will not dredge in state waters until December 1, based on a survey that turtles are generally absent from the harbor area between December 1 and March 31.

**S.C. COASTAL COUNCIL** - CNHS President, Mac Macmurphy and I attended a public hearing on the Ashley River Special Area Management Plan (Ashley River SAMP) on August 21. SAMPs are areas with established public policies for the conservation of natural and/or

historical resources, and are used by the Council when making permit decisions. The plan for the Ashley River covers both sides of the river from the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad trestle up to Highway 17-A, and has been in development for over a year. It identifies significant natural and historical sites and establishes protective buffers around them. Policies for development and boat traffic have been proposed, including dock master plans for developments, no marinas or fueling facilities, "no wake" zones, restrictions on dock designs and "scenic view corridors" around National Register properties that have additional development and boating restrictions. Water quality issues have been deferred and are to be included in a larger Charleston Harbor SAMP that is still under development. Local governmental entities would be responsible for implementing most of these recommendations and, if implemented, Coastal Council would apply them to any permits it processed. There was a good bit of debate over the boating and "scenic corridor" restrictions and it isn't clear how they will be resolved. Mac spoke for CNHS, strongly endorsing the establishment of a SAMP for this beautiful and historic area.

**WETLANDS** - (see cover article)

## CNHS ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE - 1991

by Mary Pringle

Now is your chance to order high quality seed for your birds at low prices. Our suppliers have reduced their prices, and we've passed the savings on to you. Use the enclosed order blank and call me at 722-8050 for more blank for your friends. The proceeds from this year's sale will help put "Audubon Adventures" in Trident area schools. See the September issue of the *Squawk* for more information about this worthwhile project. Orders and checks must be sent to CNHS, PO Box 504, Charleston, SC, 29402 by **October 25**. You can pick up

your seed on November 9 from 10 - 4 pm at Heath Farms Produce and Bakery at 602 Coleman Blvd. in Mt. Pleasant. As before, we owe a big **THANK YOU** to Mr. and Mrs. Heath for this space and to Lowe's of Mt. Pleasant for unloading the tons of seed at no charge.

Here are some tips for feeding birds:

1. Buy only enough seed to last 6-9 months of feeding. If kept too long (more than a year), it can become infested with insects or moldy. These bugs may be enjoyed by your birds, but if the seed is stored inside, they may escape into your house. Birdseed is always most nutritious if eaten the season after it is harvested. Last year's crop won't be very fresh.
2. Don't ever let seeds get wet. They rot quickly and can sicken birds who eat them. If they get wet, spread them out immediately to be eaten.
3. Clean feeders often during the time they are in use. Never leave wet seeds in them. A bottle brush used with warm soapy water works fine. Be sure to rinse thoroughly. Plastic funnel/scoops make filling feeders easy. don't p.6

### ACE BASIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Sunday December 15

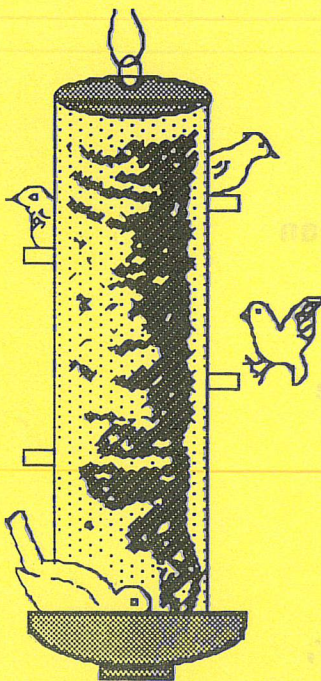
The second annual ACE Basin Christmas Bird Count will be held December 15. Participants should meet at Woods Brothers Store on Hwy. 17, Near Green Pond at 7 am. For more info contact Pete Laurie (762-5076) or David Chamberlain (884-0019).



### CNHS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Sunday December 29 Watch for updates!

Steve Compton  
Mary Pringle  
Co-chairs





I want to order my bird feed today !!!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER OF CNHS? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
SEND ME MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

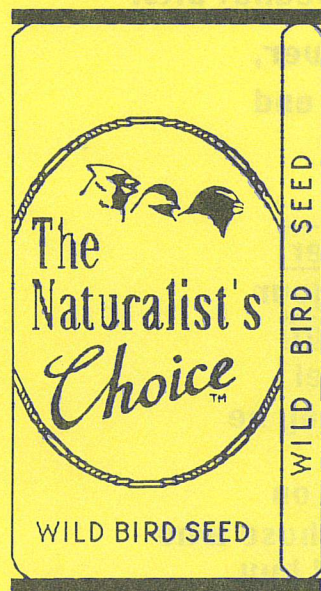
I HAVE ENCLOSED MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

make checks payable to  
The CNHS  
p.o. box 504  
Charleston, SC 29402

QUANTITY      DESCRIPTION      PRICE      TOTAL

	CUSTOM WILD BIRD FEED 20 LB.	\$6.00	
	CUSTOM WILD BIRD FEED 40 LB.	\$11.50	
	SPECIAL WILD BIRD FEED 20 LB.	\$7.00	
	SPECIAL WILD BIRD FEED 40 LB.	\$13.00	
	PREMIUM WILD BIRD FEED 20 LB.	\$7.00	
	PREMIUM WILD BIRD FEED 40 LB.	\$13.00	
	BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER 25 LB.	\$9.50	
	BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER 50 LB.	\$18.00	
	BLEND (OIL/STRIPED) SUNFLOWER 25	\$10.00	
	BLEND (OIL/STRIPED) SUNFLOWER 50	\$18.50	
	STRIPED SUNFLOWER 25 LB.	\$10.00	
	STRIPED SUNFLOWER 50 LB.	\$19.00	
	WHITE PROSO MILLET 8 LB.	\$3.00	
	WHITE PROSO MILLET 25 LB.	\$7.00	
	THISTLE SEED 8 LB.	\$9.00	
	THISTLE SEED 25 LB.	\$28.00	
	TOTAL		



PICK UP YOUR BIRDSEED ORDER FROM 10:00AM-4:00PM  
AT HEATH FARMS, 602 COLEMAN BLVD., MT. PLEASANT

THERE WILL BE OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE-DON'T FORGET  
YOUR CHECK BOOK!!!

REFRIGERATOR  
MAGNET  
GOES HERE

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program back on sound scientific footing. If the changes to the manual are implemented up to 30 percent of all wetlands currently delineated as such would be excluded from protection under the Clean Water Act, the only federal law which regulates wetlands destruction.

**The New Manual** requires an area to be wet or saturated for 21 consecutive days - three times longer than the present definition. This will make it more difficult to protect seasonal wetlands or wet areas suffering from drought.

It changes the definition of "growing season" to meet an agricultural rather than biological definition. This will particularly impact western and southern states, where wetland plants can begin growing from 4 to 6 weeks before the agricultural season and thus would hamper many areas from qualifying as a wetland.

It requires saturation "at the surface" for an area to meet wetlands hydrology requirements. The 1989 Manual allows an area to be wet "at or near the surface". This new requirement is a scientifically useless indicator of wetlands habitat values, as wetlands plants need saturation only in the root zone, not at the surface.



### What You Can Do

1. Write a letter to the EPA explaining your concern that the new manual defines wetlands politically, not scientifically. Here are some points to make:

\*The new definition of wetlands make a mockery of the President's "No Net Loss" pledge.

\*Any changes to the Manual must be based on sound science and the recommendations of wetlands experts from the scientific community, not developers, the oil industry and other special interests.

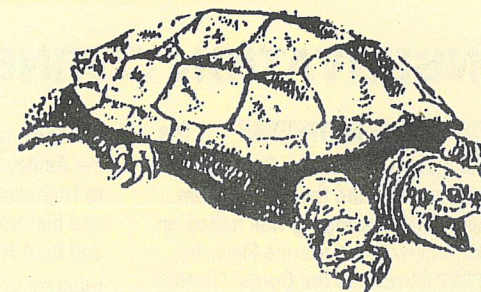
\*The long saturation requirement, the new definition of growing season, and the requirement that wetlands be saturated "at the surface" are not based on sound science. These changes make wetlands more likely to be developed rather than protected.

2. Send a copy of your letter to your Senators and Representative. This will underscore your concern over the wetlands issue, and may help to prevent bad wetlands legislation. (HR1330, S1463) currently pending in the House and Senate from becoming law.

3. Send a copy of your letter to President Bush.

For more information contact Clark Williams, ext 3229 or Connie Mahan, ext. 3224 at 202-547-9009.

4.



### Addresses

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Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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