

UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS By Pete Laurie

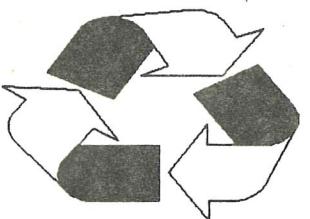
6 Sep 1 Yellow-th. Warbler
 8 Sep 1 Blackpoll Warbler
 13 Sep 2 Palm Warblers
 5 Oct 1 Painted Bunting
 14 Oct 2 White-th. Sparrows*
 19 Oct 1 Chipping Sparrow*
 24 Oct 2 Peregrine Falcons
 12 Nov 1 Junco*
 15 Nov 5 Hooded Mergansers*

* first of the season

To report Unusual Sightings, contact: Pete Laurie, 750 Copperhead Trail, John's Island, SC 29455. Phone: (H) 559-2046, (W) 762-5076.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CONTACTS (All 803-)

Dec 18	Long Cane	Steve Patterson	894-3344
Dec 19	Hilton Head	Barry Lowes	671-3537
Dec 19	Columbia	Robin Carter	782-8820
Dec 19	Chester	Albert Conway	329-3759
Dec 19	Greenville	Greg Cornwell	268-4034
Dec 20	McClellanville	Perry Nugent	556-3841
Dec 27	Charleston	Steve Compton	577-4816
Dec 31	Litchfield-Pawley's Island	Julie Finlayson	347-6583
Jan 1	Rocky River	Steve Patterson	894-3344
Jan 2	Santee NWR	Lex Glover	438-1703
Jan 3	Ace Basin	Pete Laurie	559-2046



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

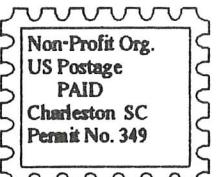
STATE WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT OFFERS NEW PROGRAM FOR BIRDERS

A new program, called the Arthur T. Wayne Society, has been initiated by the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department to recognize serious bird watchers and to encourage individuals interested in learning more about birds. Membership in the Wayne Society is open to any resident or non-resident with a South Carolina state bird list of at least 200 species, approximately half of the 390 species recorded in the state.

Membership applications will be evaluated by a three-member committee of private citizens to ensure each applicant has a legitimate state list of at least 200 species. Those selected for membership will receive a unique jacket patch featuring Bachman's Warbler, an extremely rare bird closely associated with Arthur T. Wayne, South Carolina's most prominent ornithologist. A membership fee of \$10 will cover the cost of the patches as well as mailing costs.

Wildlife department officials eventually hope to establish a weekend seminar series for Wayne Society members, using department properties and other natural areas throughout the state.

To receive an application packet write:
 ATWS, SCWMRD, Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422-2559.



THE LESSER SQUAWK

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

CONSERVATION CORNER

By Hayes Patterson

COASTAL COUNCIL - It's been a busy month for the Coastal Council. As we go to press the S.C. Supreme Court begins rehearing the Lucas case. This is the case which drew national attention last summer when it was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr Lucas contends that the Beachfront Management Act rendered his two beachfront lots useless and that he is due compensation from the State. As described in the October Squawk the U.S. Supreme Court sent the case back to the S.C. Supreme Court to resolve some legal questions. CNHS was originally an intervenor in this case at the state level, supporting the Coastal Council's denial of the permit request. The S.C. Court may decide the issue itself, send it back to lower court, or send it back to Coastal Council. Whatever decisions are reached the overall issue of environmental regulations vs. property rights will probably not be resolved by this case. Apparently the legal basis for protecting public resources needs to be more clearly defined, and this will most likely require additional legislation and further court battles to establish. Another case is progressing through the courts, the proposed restaurant adjacent to the new Charleston Aquarium. The Coastal Council granted this permit to build a restaurant out over the tidal zone (CNHS opposed the permit). The S.C. Court of Appeals has recently upheld the granting of this permit and this may also go to the S.C. Supreme Court. The S.C. Supreme Court also recently ruled against the Coastal Council's permitting of a 60 slip marina at Duncan's Boat Harbour next to the Mark Clark Expressway on the Ashley River. The issue here is whether or not sufficient demand for this marina

SPOTTED OWL CROWD PLANS FETE

Oyster Roast, Near Future

The Charleston Natural History Society was founded in 1905, and over the years has established many traditions. Admittedly, some traditions are more widely revered than others, but few are more popular than our Annual Christmas Party. In recent years we have variously enjoyed a seated dinner at The Exchange Building, a buffet and art exhibition at The Dock Street Theater, and catered Bar-B-Que at the gayly lighted James Island County Park. This year we go back outdoors for an old fashioned Lowcountry Oyster Roast.

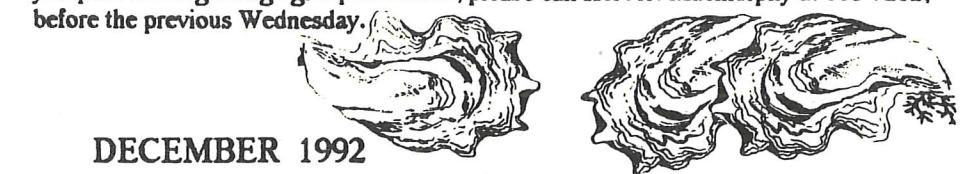
The setting will be in an oak grove next to an old plantation house overlooking Charleston Harbor.

We'll roast local select oysters on a steel plate over a roaring oak fire, steaming the oysters with wet burlap sacks. This is how an oyster roast should be done, and traditionally has been done - yea, even since the middle ages.

Sound good? Please read on for particulars. The date is Friday evening, December 11, from 5:00 p.m. until 10. The

location is The Marshland House, at Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center, James Island. The fare is local select oysters and fish stew, all you can eat, at a cost of \$7.00 per adult. Children free. If you wish to roast your own hot dogs for children or infidels, you may. Bring your own beverage. Bring your favorite oyster knife and your sweetie. There are stand-up oyster tables and a separate fire place for warmth. The site is right on the water of Charleston Harbor so be prepared for an invigorating breeze. On James Island, take Folly Road to Fort Johnson Road. Follow to end of public road and enter The Marine Resource Center; look for plantation house on left. Reservations are not necessary, but if you plan to bring a large group of friends, please call Herbert Macmurphy at 883-9252, before the previous Wednesday.

DECEMBER 1992



DECEMBER

CNHS MEETING
MUSC Psych Auditorium
President Street
Park in "G" lot, Bee Street
December 8, 8:00 pm
MASTER PLAN FOR DANIEL ISLAND: A PREVIEW

CNHS has offered to call an unusual December general meeting, in response to a Guggenheim Foundation request, in order to give timely consideration to the proposed Master Plan for the development of Daniel Island. This will be an opportunity for Society members, as well as other invited conservation groups, to have direct input into development concepts for this enormous project. The Guggenheim seeks a consensus among environmentalists, and their open, inclusive approach to planning merits our earnest consideration.

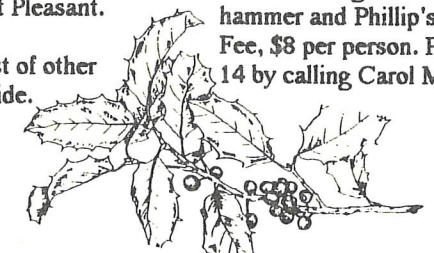
John Alschuler, development consultant to the Guggenheim Foundation, will describe the innovative approach and specific details envisioned for what could be the model for 21st Century cities. The floor will remain open throughout for comment and ideas from The Society.

Please see related statement, page 3.

BIRDING AT THE CNHS MCALHANY NATURE PRESERVE

Dr. Harrison's monthly bird survey of the McAlhany Preserve is set for Sunday, December 13, 7:00 am. Please call Julian in advance at 792-8081 (day).

There should be Wood Ducks-O-Plenty.



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.

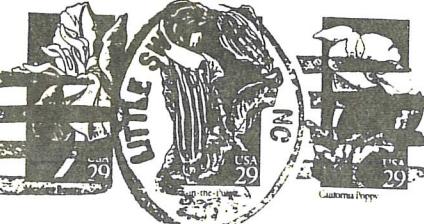
OFFICERS CNHS Office phone (577-7100); President, Herbert Macmurphy (883-9252); Vice President, Don Watts (797-6783); Secretary, Bobbin Huff (886-6911); Treasurer, Cindy Dickerson (884-0147)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Julian Harrison (795-1694), Sid Goff (274-8975), Mary Pringle (722-8050), Hal Currey (883-9114), Lori Duncan (795-4123), Jeremy James, Terrence Larimer (571-5936).

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: MEMBERSHIP, Mary Ellen Sullivan (887-3561); CONSERVATION, Hayes Patterson (556-7430); PROGRAMS, Jake & Lori Duncan (795-4123); PUBLICITY, Bobbin Huff (886-6911); BIRD COUNTS, Steve Compton (577-4816); BIRD SEED, Rose Mitchell (723-7459); BIRD-A-THON, Jeremy James; RECYCLING, Cheryl Phillips (899-7635); NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Herbert Macmurphy (883-9252), Features Editor, Patricia Giddens (883-3937).

POST CARDS FROM THE EDGE-EFFECT

Planning to travel for the holidays? Don't forget to report natural history phenomenon via post cards to The Society. Mail to: CNHS Editor, 1820 I'on Ave., Sullivan's Island, SC 29482.



CHARLESTON CHRISTMAS COUNT

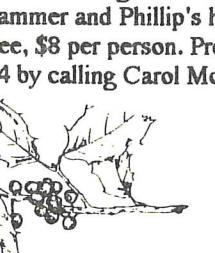
Sunday, Dec. 27, 6:30 a.m.
Meet at Texaco Station, Hwy 41 & Hwy 17 North

The annual Christmas Count is one of the High Holy events of birdwatching. Every year at this time birders across the nation return to specific sites to take a full day survey of birds in their winter numbers and variety. For Charleston, the site is a circle, 15 miles in diameter, centered at the tall broadcast towers north of the city. This area includes all or part of the Cape Romain Refuge, the Francis Marion Forest, barrier islands and marsh, the East Cooper Airport, and many pockets of specialized habitat.

All interested persons are encouraged to participate. Beginning birders are welcome and will be placed in a party with experienced leaders. Registration is not required, but special arrangements or party assignments can be made by calling Count Leader Steve Compton at 577-4816. A fee of \$5 goes to national tabulation and publication in The Audubon Society's *American Birds*.

Bring lunch and dress for the weather. A countdown and chili party begins at 5 pm in the parish hall of Christ Church Episcopal, Hwy 17 N, Mount Pleasant.

Please see page 4 for a list of other Christmas Counts statewide.



CONSERVATION



permit was granted. This ruling will also probably be appealed but it is a hard fought victory for the Concerned Citizens Committee for the Ashley River who have opposed this marina since it was first proposed a number of years ago.

After six years of work the City of Charleston has received approval from the Permitting Committee for a drainage project in the Ardmore subdivision in West Ashley. The original proposal for this project was a disaster, consisting of conventional cement lined ditches to dump directly into Wando Creek and the Stono River (CNHS opposed this initial permit). After considerable negative public response to the first plan, the City acquired the necessary land and redesigned the entire project. Now five retention ponds totaling ten acres will retain the runoff. This will allow most of the oil and pollution from Highway 17 and the K-Mart parking lot to settle out before allowing runoff to flow into the Stono River. The Stono needs all the help it can get and the City should be commended for its willingness to deal responsibly with this runoff.

Setting an important precedent, the 1st District legislative delegation held a public hearing to help select its appointee to the Coastal Council. This appointee represents the First Congressional District and is elected by the state senators and representatives from the district. In years past this has been a behind the scenes political appointment based on who the candidate knew. This time there are 18 candidates and a good deal of confusion due to recent congressional redistricting. After three election attempts, the delegation became deadlocked between former North Charleston Mayor John Bourne and James Island attorney Margaret Fabri. Delegation head Senator Glenn McConnell called a public hearing so the delegation could interview all candidates and receive public input. Mac MacMurphy represented CNHS at this hearing (We have strong reservations about Mr. Bourne's possible appointment to the Council). No selection had been made as we went to press, but we would certainly like to see more public hearings like this used to make such appointments in the future. Increased citizen involvement could definitely improve the public accountability of these appointees.

Coastal Council has established a toll-free hotline for citizens to report wetland or beachfront regulation violations. Call 1-800-768-1516, anytime, if you see destructive activity.

BACKYARD BIRDER

By Bruce Krucke



It's hard to write about backyard birding when there are no birds in the backyard! There must be an excellent crop of natural foods this year, since the feeders don't have to be filled again for days. The only reader input I've had has been: "Where are the birds?" There have been a few interesting things, such as a hermit thrush bathing, a junco seen the same day as the first junco in '90 and '91, a few white-throats, and daily increasing numbers of chipping sparrows. Also a goldfinch at the feeder on the morning of the 18th.

As this is being written Thanksgiving is approaching, which always makes us think about turkeys. The wild turkey is a real success story. There were probably ten million turkeys on the continent when the pilgrims landed, but hunting, population growth, land clearing, etc., gradually reduced the former flocks of a thousand or more. Turkeys were unafraid of humans and made an easy meal. They were not considered worthy for Indian braves to hunt and their killing was left to women and children. Turkeys were delivered by the wagonload to restaurants and eggs were taken from nests for food. The last wild turkey disappeared from Massachusetts in 1813, and from Minnesota in 1851. By 1900 it was gone in most of the 39 states it originally occupied. Now, because of reintroduction, better attitudes, sensible hunting, and the wily hardiness the bird has developed, there are wild turkeys in every state except Alaska. The population is about four million and rising. It's the most dramatic comeback of any species. And that's what we're thankful for.

Bruce W. Krucke, 7352 Toogoodoo Rd., Yonges Island, SC 29449
Phone: 889-6191.

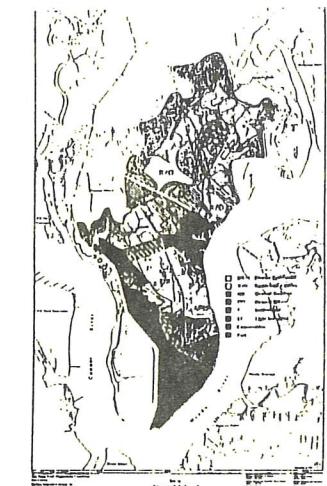


CNHS PRESIDENT ENDORSES DANIEL ISL. MASTER PLAN

With good reason, many of us in the environmental movement have seen "the mission" historically as a holding action, or as remedial relief sought for transgressions. The great hope for the next century is that environmental protection will be the keystone of planned human expansion in a finite space -- Earth.

Since April, 1991, I have represented The Society before the Guggenheim Foundation team of city planners. Admittedly, this has been for me, in the main, a learning experience. I do now believe, though, that I have a sense of the possible and the practical, and that we are dealing here with people who appreciate our message. The recent, carping letter to the editor by a Summerville developer only reinforces my opinion.

While there is much to be resolved in the detail -- notably, the number and placement of docks, and the salvation of many trees -- I am prepared to endorse the Master Plan for Daniel Island. Such endorsement is of course conditional upon the satisfactory resolution of these issues and the will of The Society. I hope everyone will participate in the December 8 review of the Master Plan.



Herbert Macmurphy
President, CNHS