

unusual observations by Pete Laurie

6 Nov	3 Snow Geese	Johns Island	P. Laurie
10 Nov	5 Snow Geese	Bushy Park	P. Watts
30 Nov	1 Wh.-crowned sparrow	Folly Beach	D. & D. Forsythe
1 Dec	210 Am. Avocets	Savannah Spoil Area	D. & D. Forsythe
			J. & P. Metze
5 Dec	1 Bald Eagle	James Island	M. Levison
7 Dec	1 Snow Goose	Brittlebank Park	D. Forsythe
26 Dec	1 Western Tanager*	Goose Creek	D. Watts
6 Jan	1 Loggerhead Shrike	Folly Beach	D. Goldstein
11 Jan	1 Painted Bunting**	James Island	B. Tucker
12 Jan	1 Western Tanager***	Johns Island	P. Laurie

* Don Watts had a fall plumage male Western Tanager eating sunflower seeds at his feed for several days. Several other birders also observed this bird.

**Brenda Tucker reported an adult male Painted Bunting at her feeder on James Island beginning on January 11. The bird was still visiting the feeder on January 15.

***I saw a female Western Tanager eating privet hedge berries in my yard on the morning of January 12. The bird was olive green with prominent yellow wing bars and the "saddle back" as described in Peterson (1980). I watched the bird at 30 feet with 7X glasses for 10 minutes.

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

SERENDIPITY

by Pat Leonard

*Searching for a golf ball in the woods,
I looked up and there he stood,
A young buck of perhaps a year
Gazing at me without fear.
His dark, limpid eyes met mine and we
Stood staring at each other endlessly
Until at last a word was spoken
And the spell forever broken.
Alarmed, he bounded off;
My attention returned to golf.*

fr. pg. 3 (birder)
Bitter cold is predicted for mid January. Maybe the feeder activity will pick up. Hope so. Let me know what you get! Bruce W. Krucke, 7352 Toogoodoo Rd., Yonges Island, SC, 29449. 889-6191

CYPRESS GARDENS DAY

Watch for details in the next issue of your SQUAWK concerning a day of birding and just "hanging out" at Cypress Gardens for CNHS members. Saturday April 4 we are planning bird walks to be led by Pete Laurie and Cheryl Phillips. There will be coffee and donuts for the "early" birders.

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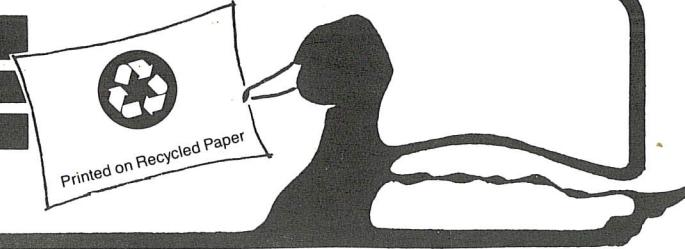
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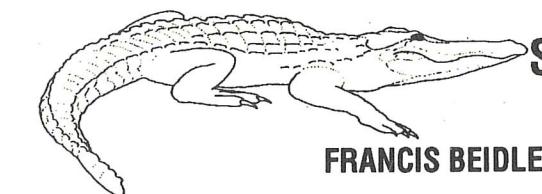
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SWAMP NOTES

NEWS FROM

FRANCIS BEIDLER FOREST

by Mike Dawson

You work in a what?! That is the usual response I get when telling people that I work in a swamp. Their expression is invariably accompanied by that little sneering lip curl, that translates into "ooh, yuck!" That lip curl says a lot. It tells me that the individual is conjuring up images of slimy, stagnant water with big glorpy bubbles popping; neck deep quicksand; snakes dangling from every tree (89% of them poisonous); clouds of mosquitoes; rank odors; and Lizard Man, Swamp Thing or other swamp monsters lurking in the shadows. You know what I mean, the "Hollywood Swamp!"

Patiently, I explain that swamps are not necessarily so objectionable, and that they are, in fact, extremely valuable to both people and wildlife. I let them know that swamps are being abused and destroyed at an alarming rate, and explain that swamps that happen to be nasty are only that way because people have messed them up. Afterwhich I usually get the double raised eyebrow look, which translates into . . ."Yea, right, so go play in your precious swamp you bonehead and leave me alone."

If you happen to be one of those skeptics who consider me a bit touched to love working in a swamp, I would like to invite you to visit my swamp and see for yourself. I would like to tell you that it is the National Audubon Society's Francis Beidler Forest in Four Holes Swamp, and that there is a boardwalk trail and nature center that allows you to see the swamp with dry feet. I would like to tell you that Beidler Forest contains the largest remaining stand of virgin Cypress swamp forest in the world, complete with 1000 year old trees! I would like to tell you all of this, but I won't. That would be too much like a self-serving advertisement and not the highly refined and educational literary treatise I intended this column to be. Hey, put those eyebrows down!!

Well anyway, if you live in the Low Country, you live near a swamp. In the coming months I hope to use this column to share Four Holes Swamp with you . . . how it works, who lives here, what threats it faces, what good it is, and why we bother protecting it. I'll share interesting wildlife stories that I've experienced here (everything from mating otters to close encounters of the alligator kind.) I'll also discuss some of the cultural history of swamps, areas that are a big part of our heritage.

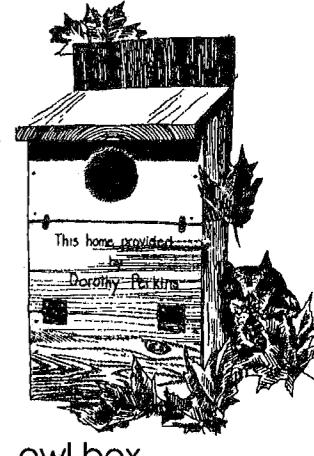
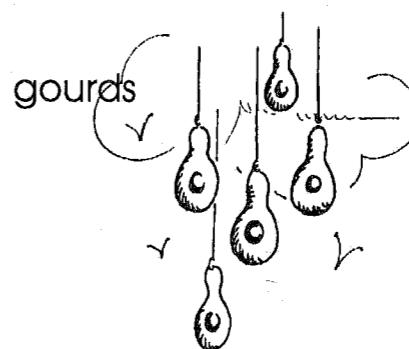
Enough of this introductory stuff, let's get started with our sojourn together, the path of "swamp enlightenment," if you will. Just what is the definition of a swamp anyway?? Probably the simplest and easiest definition is that of a "flooded forest." The water can be fresh or salt, the trees can be any number of species, but ALL swamps have the combination of those two elements. I can fine tune the definition a bit. Many swamps experience seasonal spells when it is entirely possible to be bone dry. It is probably more appropriate to call a swamp, "trees in the water part of the year." Don't confuse a swamp with a marsh, however. A marsh is "flooded grassland" and a swamp is "flooded forest." Two very different and important wetland ecosystems that are common in the Low Country.

For a better view of the swamp come vist me at Beidler Forest.

PROVIDE A HOME FOR THE BIRDS

CNHS has been maintaining the McAlhaney property on the Edisto River since 1987 when it was given to the Society by Mrs. Cleo T. McAlhaney. The property covers 370 acres with 1 1/2 miles along the Edisto River bank. In the past few years Don Watts has been actively working on various projects at the McAlhaney property. The latest project is to provide homes for birds and to raise a little money for things needed to help maintain the property. Don will provide all the labor to build and erect the bird houses on site. Your donations will pay for some materials that have not been donated and the remainder will go toward things that are on the McAlhaney Property wish list. If you would like to be a part of this project, please complete the form on the back of this and mail it with your check (made out to CNHS) to: Don Watts, 9 Clarksville Lane, Goose Creek, SC, 29445 - and Don will build your choice of one of the following:

small song bird



owl box

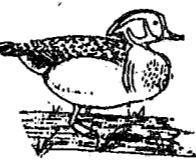
WANTED: Small outboard motor needed for boat used in wood duck project.

OTHER NEEDS:

Tractor - bush hog - various small tools.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: For planting trees in conjunction with a Soil Conservation Service program at McAlhaney.

If you can help with any of these or have questions call Don at 797-6783.



PROVIDE A HOME FOR THE BIRDS

Here's a wonderful opportunity for you to help your favorite birds find homes and at the same time support the CNHS efforts at our McAlhaney Property. With your contribution we will construct a home, especially inscribed with your name or that of a friend, if you wish to make it a gift or a memorial. We will then place the birdhouse in an appropriate location on the McAlhaney property. If you choose, we'll send you a photo (on location) of your birdhouse and inscribe your name on a special plaque on the house. Contributions may be made in any of three ways:

DONORS - Purple Martin gourds.

SPONSORS - A house for bluebirds, chickadees, wrens or other songbirds.

BENEFACTORS - A house for songbirds or larger birds, such as, wood ducks, screech owls or kestrels.

Yes, I'd like to provide a home! (check the desired category)

- Donors (\$25) Purple Martin Gourds
- Sponsors (\$50) wrens/chickadees bluebirds
- Benefactor (\$100) kestrels/screech owls wood ducks

(or either of the above songbirds)



Inscribe as follows: (20 character limit)

This home provided by _____

This home in honor of _____

Send photo of home with inscription on location at the McAlhaney Property to this name and address: _____



THE BIRDS AT MCALHANEY THANK YOU!!