

**ACE BASIN AUDUBON
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT-
1991**

by Pete Laurie

Twenty birders tallied 133 species of birds during the 1991 ACE Basin Christmas Bird Count on December 15, up from last year's 130 species.

Five field parties, each led by an experienced birder, combed 177 square miles in the standard 15-mile diameter circle, centered at the Ashepoo River bridge on Hwy. 26, near Green Pond.

Counters logged more than 140 miles by car, 15 miles on foot and more than 20 miles by boat. More than 20,000 individual birds were recorded - no rare or unusual species. The most numerous birds were fish crows, red-winged blackbirds, yellow-rumped warblers, double-crested cormorants and green-winged teal.

Christmas Bird Counts, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, began in 1900 with 25 counts. Today more than 42,000 Americans participate each year in about 1550 counts held across the continent. The Christmas Bird Counts provide a nationwide data base used to determine long-term changes in species abundance, range shifts and migration patterns. Each count is conducted during a 24-hour period between December 15 and January 3, within a designated 15-mile diameter circle.

The ACE Basin consists of 350,000 acres in portions of Colleton, Beaufort and Charleston Counties. The relatively undeveloped area is made up of a variety of habitats and supports many wildlife species, including several endangered plants and animals. The ACE Basin count circle was drawn to include a variety of habitats within the basin of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers in lower Colleton County.

For the past several years, a number of conservation organizations, including the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been working with private landowners to protect the area. Because of the area's significance to waterfowl, the ACE Basin is a key component of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Waterfowl Management Plan, which strives to restore waterfowl populations to an annual fall flight of 100 million birds by the year 2000.

"We very much appreciate the excellent cooperation we received from the owners and managers of many private plantations within the ACE Basin," said David Chamberlain of Charleston, one of the organizers of the count. "Count participants were given full access to many excellent areas not generally open to the public."

An evening reception for count participants was held at the Ducks Unlimited lodge on Mary's Island. The Pinckney Cafe in Charleston catered the affair, with funding provided by the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund.

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However, polystyrene is stable. Once in the landfill, it does not leach harmful contaminants into the groundwater.

Recycling polystyrene is a large, but necessary undertaking. The proper balers, trucks, and machinery are important, but all the mechanics in the world will not make this program work...you will! Together, we can bring polystyrene recycling to the lowcountry! Call 553-0515.

Little Dark Toads



by Dudley Curry

Sea island rains come for days.

*Little dark toads appear to hop
whole*

right from the sand - -

now you see them where you didn't.

*Three could sit upon a quarter
and have change left over.*

Little eyes, little mouths, little feet.

*Cup one in your palm,
listen for its breath.*

*Thousands sit, hop, bound
twig-logs half an inch high,
bump against the side of your sole.*



*Each one has a tiny beating heart
you could find with a micro-scalpel.
All the thousands throb a rhythm
echoed in your own pulsing
mammal muscle evolved in common
passage through the stage of gills.*

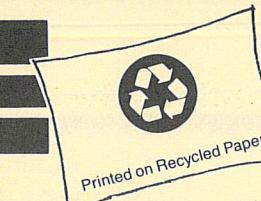
Try to step between them, find a hole.

*No use, many die, each one bumps
against the side of your soul.*



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Cooper River Recyclers Association, consisting of DuPont, Cypress Gardens, Kittredge, Pimlico, and other surrounding neighborhoods, is formulating a styrofoam recycling program. It will be an extension of the Association's initial recycling venture: drop-off recycling convenience bins that were installed in September 1990, and are still available to the public, 7 days a week in the DuPont visitor's parking lot.

Styrofoam (technically referred to as polystyrene) has some unique properties. Consequently, it requires different collection processes than those we presently employ for other recyclables. Polystyrene is light but bulky (being composed of 90% air), and must be densified under extreme pressure to effectively remove this air. Polystyrene's small, varied, often odd shapes pose another baling problem that we are presently working on as we talk with several southeastern polystyrene recycling markets.

Transportation is another factor we are studying: how to easily and economically get the material from homes, schools, offices, restaurants, etc. to central locations where it is compressed and baled for the final recycling market.

As we are studying all the logistics, we are also making contacts throughout the tri-county area with all the pertinent information. If you would like to become a part of Cooper River Recyclers Association with your polystyrene recycling, call Cheryl Phillips at 553-0515.

A few fun facts about polystyrene:

Polystyrene is a wonderful insulator.

The universal plastics code for polystyrene is PS #6.

Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) is the blowing agent that was once used to aerate the polystyrene plastic resin to make it into foam.

Not all polystyrene is manufactured with a blowing agent. Some appears like any other thin plastic. Always look for the universal plastics code stamped on the container.

CFCs are no longer used in polystyrene manufacturing. Today's blowing agents are much more environmentally friendly. CFCs are still used in refrigerants, automobiles, appliances, and in halon fire extinguishers. Please, for ozone's sake, make sure these convenience items are maintained in tip-top shape with no leaks! When your car A/C has to be serviced, ask the dealer if he has a "vampire" that can safely contain your freon. Do not let the freon escape directly into the air!

Polystyrene is a single use, disposable item.

It takes up valuable landfill space.



