

unusual observations

25 Jan	1 Lesser Black-backed Gull	Fort Moultrie	by Pete Laurie D. Chamberlain D. Forsythe
	1 Greater Cormorant	"	"
5 Feb	1 Osprey	Fort Johnson	P. Laurie
8 Feb	1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Charleston	E. Farrar
12 Feb	2 Greater Black-backed Gulls	Fort Johnson	N. Jenkins

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

THANK YOU !!

I have truly enjoyed being the editor for the CNHS's Squawk and will miss being a part of it. I will take this opportunity to thank all those kind people who helped me and were patient when I erred. I hope to see many, many of you here at Cypress Gardens on April 4.

NOTICE!!! "SQUAWK" NEW ADDRESS

Starting with the next issue (April issue), Julie Britt of Sullivan's Island will be the new editor for the "Squawk" and Mac Macmurphy will be the managing editor. All inquiries and articles should be sent to him at the following address: 1820 Ion Ave., Sullivan's Island, 29482. The deadline remains the same - the 15th of the month for the following month. Please remember that it is important to abide by this so that all information can be out before the first Tuesday of the Month.

COURTESY OF
CYPRESS GARDENS

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

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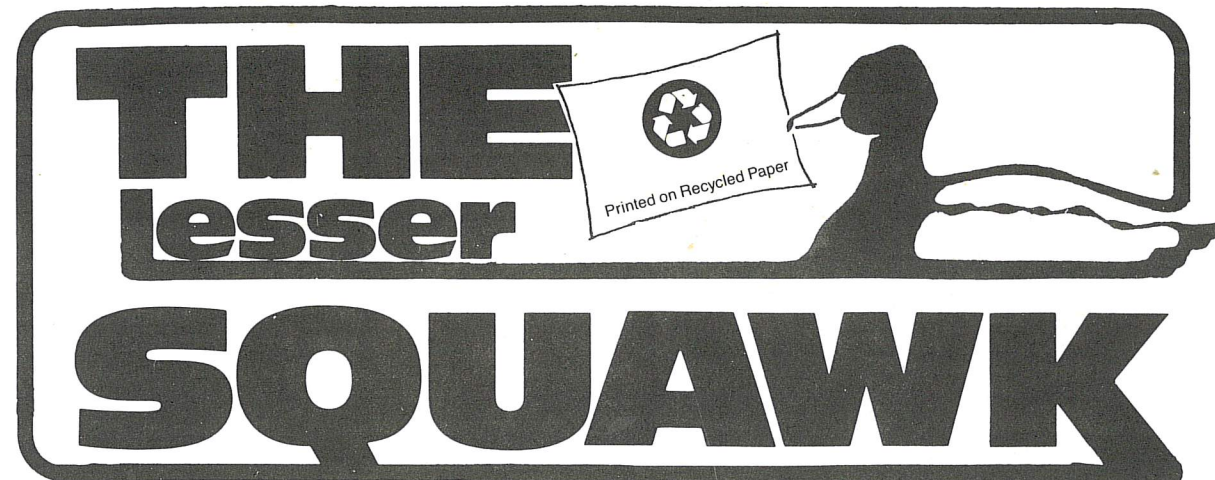
by Dudley Curry

*Lolly-biking on the beach road
ten speed
shorts and shoes
deep weaving in the sun
between sprints
wind free
palm swallowing sky drinking
pelican racing infinity bent*

*A gulf fritillary rusty orange
wing-eyed silver gilded underneath
flies into the rectangle of
chest, arms, handlebars
bangs against a bicep
bumps a nipple
ricochets from a wrist
beats upon a forearm
I brake down to let it loose
springing out, it brushes my chin
taxi fare paid in silver dust.*



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Polystyrene Recycling "Response"

by Cheryl B. Phillips

We received much positive group and individual response from the article "Styrofoam Recycling- GOOD NEWS!" Of all the inquiries we received, Miss Hayden McIntosh's was the only voice against the effort. The following are excerpts from her letter:

"...I'm afraid that your last article entitled "Styrofoam Recycling- GOOD NEWS!" was incredibly misleading.

In the first place, by advocating the recycling of styrofoam, you are advocating the use of it. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if that is DuPont's reasoning in supporting the program since they are the leading manufacturers of styrofoam. People need to be making an effort to limit their use of styrofoam and now that it will be able to be "recycled", they will see no reason for feeling guilty for using it. Because people link the word "recycle" to extremely positive images, it should not be used in connection with styrofoam.

...it is true that CFCs are no longer used in the production of styrofoam, but some incredibly similar blowing agents are used instead. They are called HCFCs and are far from "environmentally friendly."

The bottom line is that instead of working on a way to recycle styrofoam, we should be working on a way to ban its use. Even the word "recycle" used in connection with it cannot make it look harmless in the eyes of people who know better."

Obviously, if everyone shared Miss Hayden's views, there would be no polystyrene and, therefore, no reason to worry about its recycling. The truth is: polystyrene is a "necessary evil" of our fast-paced, money-oriented, leisurely lifestyles. For the few of us who have forsaken disposables (paper, polystyrene, etc.) there are millions who will forever remain addicted to them.

To this end, we are trying to further ease our burgeoning landfills burden by bringing polystyrene recycling to the tri-county area.

In closing, I would like to join Miss Hayden in reminding you: before you recycle, please always reduce and reuse!

Please call 553-0515 with any further questions or comments.

Editor's note: Polystyrene is commonly referred to as styrofoam. Styrofoam is actually one of several copy righted brand names of polystyrene. Although the name is often used as a "catch-all" word, when referring to the #6 plastic, the correct term to use is polystyrene.

Amoco, not DuPont, is the area's largest polystyrene manufacturer.

CONSERVATION CORNER by Hayes Patterson

WASHINGTON PARK HERONS

- What to do with the Yellow-crowned Night Herons (or the tourists/artist, depending on your point of view) in Washington Park? Mayor Riley finally decided that for this year the city will restrict its' efforts to removing dead limbs and installing fake owls to discourage nesting by the herons. The herons should be making their decision by the time you read this. We hope that they will be able to find suitable habitat to nest without being harassed. If nothing else, the extensive public discussion about the herons should have made downtown residents a little more understanding and tolerant of birds who nest in their yards.

WETLANDS - The White House has publicly announced that it hasn't given up on its' efforts to revise the definition of wetlands. The Council on Competitiveness, chaired by Vice President Quayle, has reaffirmed that it is committed to "assisting the four agencies responsible in correcting an overly-broad wetlands definition that has caused hardship and unnecessary interference with private property rights since its adoption in 1989" The administration is now trying to incorporate changes proposed by the 1991 revisions to the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands directly into federal regulations. After the disastrous reception to these proposed changes by the public and the scientific community, they now intend to simply implement them administratively. The Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Soil Conservation Service may have their regulatory definition of wetlands revised without any input from the scientific community or the public.

S.C. COASTAL COUNCIL - The Coastal Council's Management Committee has approved filling 9 acres of wetlands in Four Holes Swamp to expand the Chambers Oakridge Landfill. This landfill is located 6 miles downstream of Francis Beidler Forest, however, the swamp joins the Edisto River approximately 1/2 mile upstream of the water intake for Charleston's drinking water. The Coastal Council staff had recommended approving only 2 acres of fill in scattered isolated


wetlands. The Council's director of planning and certification, Stephen Snyder, and their attorney, Cotton Harness, both advised the committee that the permit request did not meet the requirements of the state's Coastal Zone Management Act and should be denied. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the S.C. Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources are both on record as opposing the fill. Unfortunately, Dorchester, Colleton, Bamberg and Hampton Counties all supported granting the permit since they all send waste to the landfill. The Charleston Commissioners of Public Works withdrew their objections after studying the issue and determining that it would not affect our water supply **if** the landfill is operated "properly." The Committee vote was 4 to 3 - so you will probably hear more about the permit in the future.

CHARLESTON AQUARIUM -

Although the cost keeps rising, the city's aquarium is still on track. Problems with the creosote deposits in the ground are being overcome. The size has grown from 60,000 to 85,000 square feet and the total estimated cost from \$27 to \$37 million. It is now being billed as a world class facility with a projected 850,000 per year. Unfortunately, board chairman, James Ferguson, has been quoted in the Post and Courier as saying that the future expansions will include dolphin and whale exhibits. This is something they had previously promised not to do, and will probably get them into trouble with animal rights activists who stopped similar plans for a commercial aquarium in Myrtle Beach.

BACK YARD BIRDER

by Bruce Krucke

 This is more like it - lots of goldfinches, several species of sparrows and robins all over the place. I'm sure our seed sources are happier too. Three cheers for Nelson Taylor who really keeps me posted on the doings at his feeders. He had 25 species (plus some unidentified sparrows) in late January, when he did his count for Cornell's Feeder Watch Program. This included Purple Finches, which have been rare this year, and a Painted Bunting, the second one reported recently. He's also had large flocks of robins and Cedar Waxwings devouring the privet hedge. They seem to prefer pyracantha here.

The goldfinches began appearing in large

numbers in mid-January and have kept increasing. I guess they finally used up the natural food up north. Sandy Inabinett, Connie Puckett and Van Atkins, from different areas, all have good sized flocks now. Van has over 150, with a couple of PineSiskins and 20 to 30 House Finches joining them. A Sharp-shinned Hawk took a Chipping Sparrow at Van's feeder and ate the bird where they could watch - a grisly, but fascinating part of nature. Van also reported a large flock of Cedar Waxwings in the oaks at the Battery.

Catherine and Gordon Locatis of Edisto sent me an interesting article from the Traverse City, MI, paper about the Christmas Count there. The highlights of which were the first Carolina Wren for their counts and a Mockingbird! They also noted more and more House Finches and Wild Turkey. Their most common bird was the Mallard, followed by the Black Capped Chickadee. To show how lucky we are with our winter birding, they only had 60 species, compared to our counts of about 160.

A Great Blue Heron has been at our little fish pond several times lately. I haven't seen him getting anything yet. I think the fish are lying low. The other interesting things I have seen recently were a Redheaded Woodpecker at Middleton Place, a Hermit Thrush at our bird bath, and eagles feeding their young at Bear Island. Our son, Kurt, saw an adult eagle bring a huge fish to the nest at Middleton.

The "Law" for March is one which is not enforced with song birds, but has to be in place to cover things like rabid raccoons and rogue alligators. May a person pick up an injured bird or animal and take it to a veterinarian? Officially, no. In a case such as this, the proper authorities - a conservation officer, a biologist with a scientific collectors permit, an animal control officer, etc., should be notified. They can take it to a vet or licensed rehabilitator. However, permission is hereby granted for to put a bird that hits a window in a safe, quiet place, and if there's an injury, I'm sure Dr. Beck at the James Island Clinic on Camp Road would accept it!

There should be lots of exciting things to report at your feeders now, so let me know.

Bruce Krucke, 7342 Toogoodoo Rd., Yorges Island, SC, 29449. Phone 889-6191.

PROVIDE A HOME FOR THE BIRDS

If you missed the first chance to help with this project, we hope you can make use of this second chance:

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.

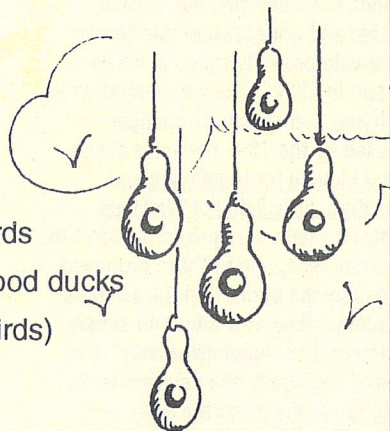


SPONSORS - A house for bluebirds, chickadees, wrens or other songbirds.

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

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

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