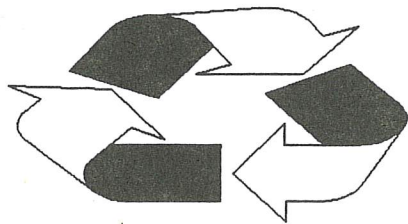


UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS

By Pete Laurie

10 Apr	1 Sw.-tailed kite	Wambaw Creek	R. Tyler
12 Apr	1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak	McClellanville	"
16 Apr	1 Roseate Spoonbill	Cainhoy	S. Stuhr
17 Apr	26 Woodstorks	Santee Delta	B. McCord
	11 Glossy Ibis	"	"
	1 Hooded Merganser	"	"
25 Apr	1 Cape May Warbler	Beidler Forest	J. Cox
	6 Blue-winged Warblers	"	"
26 Apr	1 Scarlet Tanager	McAlhany Preserve	H. Macmurphy
	1 Yellow Warbler	Sullivan's Island	"
28 Apr	10 Black-th. Blue Warblers	Beidler Forest	J. Cox
	1 "	College Park Rd	"
28 Apr	1 Bald Eagle	Shadow Moss	Mrs. D. Hihn
2 May	1 Lawrence's Warbler	Mt. Pleasant	B. Keefe
4 May	1 Golden-winged Warbler	Folly Beach	D. Forsythe
17 May	1 Black-necked Stilt	Waterway, I. of Palms	H. Currey
			H. Macmurphy
20 May	4 Black-necked Stilts	Bear Island	P. Laurie
29 May	2 Sooty Shearwaters (dead)	Sullivan's Is.	D. Chamberlain
3 May	1 Scarlet Tanager	Slann Island	E. Hull
21 May	1 Swallow-tailed Kite	Adams Run	"
28 May	2 Great-horned Owls	Slann Island	"
31 May	1 Sooty Shearwater (dead)	Raccoon Key	D. Chamberlain
	1 Solitary Sandpiper	"	"
	4 Marbled Godwits	"	"
13 June	2 Black-crowned Night Herons	Slann Is.	E. Hull
16 June	1 Wood Stork	"	"

To report UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS, contact:
Pete Laurie, 750 Copperhead Trail, Johns Island, SC 29455
559-2046 (Home), 762-5076 (Work)



Printed on Recycled Paper

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Birder

you'll have algae in the summer. Generally, a more secluded and fairly shady place is better, with overhead branches for drying and preening, but no real close bushes where cats can hide. Having the bath not open to overhead view helps against attacks from sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. The depth should slope from one-half inch to two inches and have a textured surface to prevent slipping. Clean the bath with a hard hose spray and occasional stiff brushing with a mild bleach solution. If you can rig up something so that water drips into the bird bath, you'll attract a lot more birds--the sound is like a magnet for birds and may bring some rarer ones, such as warblers and flycatchers.

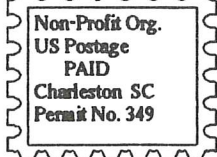
Okay, I'm ready for your phone calls about interesting things in your yard and questions you have that you'd like to see discussed in this column. (For new readers, Bruce is a she.)

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

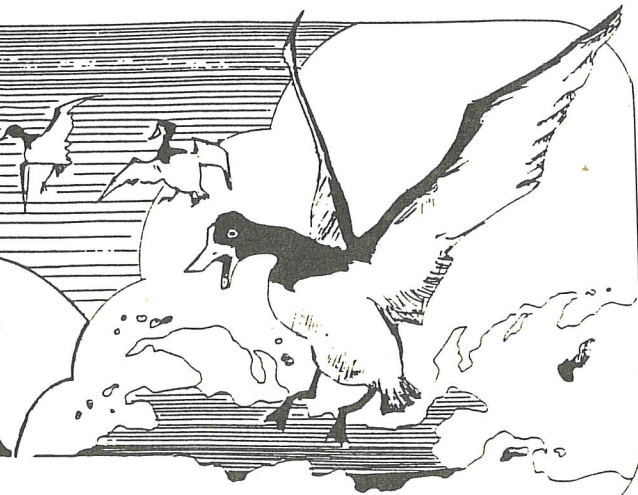
TECHNICIANS NEEDED

Position available for study of powerline structural effects on avian flight behavior. On Tuesdays, technician will make observations for 4 hours in morning starting at sunrise & 4 hours ending at sunset, documenting flight behavior as various species of birds cross powerlines. LOCATION: Mt Pleasant, SC; START: Immediately; END: June 1994 (or negotiated); PAY: \$5.27/hr, Average 10 hours/week HELPFUL QUALIFICATIONS: Experience identifying shorebirds, wading birds, and raptors.

CONTACT: T. J. or Lynette Savereno
Home 849-6124
Office 762-1200 ext 74



THE LESSER SQUAWK



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

FROM THE HEART OF THE SWAMP
By Michael Dawson, Assistant Manager, Francis Beidler Forest

Since the creation of the Francis Beidler Forest sanctuary in the late 60's, our principal claim to fame was the fact that it contained the largest remaining stand of virgin baldcypress and tupelo gum swamp forest left anywhere in the world! Nearly 1,800 of our 5,800 acres are in this old growth grove. At one time there were hundreds of thousands of acres of similar swampland in the southeast. Sadly, precious little remains untouched today. The turn of the century demand for cypress lumber, the conversion of swamps to farmland, and untold numbers of roads, dams, and ditches have forever changed the character and diminished the beauty and value of the vast majority of our nation's wetlands.

And so...almost out of place in the face of this man-driven onslaught...stand the thousand year old baldcypress of Beidler Forest. If trees had brows instead of boughs, I am sure they would be wiping the cold sweat off of theirs at having narrowly escaped the proverbial ax in the hands of man. One year later, and the Audubon Society would not have been able to save this forest, as it too was scheduled to be cleared!

1000 years! Think about it! In the year 992 these trees were struggling to break up into sunlight, and only inches tall. Now they stand 130 feet tall and 21+ feet around! With all the fuss this year over the 500th anniversary of Columbus' bumping into the New World, it has become our slogan to say that "Our trees were already 500 years old when Columbus was still playing with boats in the bathtub!" These very trees were already large when native Americans were the only peoples in this part of the country! CONT ON PAGE 3

BIRDS-R-US...NOT!

Three years ago I was at an Audubon workshop at which attendees were asked to think of a catch phrase that summed up the Audubon image. At the time our beloved Egret had been snatched from the national logo and there was a decidedly reactionary mood among S.C. Auduboners. Before long, though, things got silly, and my favorite suggestion (Mary Pringle's) "JUST BIRDS", lost out to "BIRDS-R-US".

Lots of fun, sure, and a tweak at National, but I think it is true that most of our CNHS members would be happy to let a little birding be the sum of their Audubon involvement. With few exceptions, we all came to Audubon either to learn about birding or to further a abiding interest. But, BIRDS-R-US...NOT! Gang, I'm here to remind you that membership in CNHS and The Audubon Society offers opportunities to be involved in the scientific, political, managerial, social, and ethical environmental choices that face our neighborhoods and our planet. Heady stuff, but true enough at a time when the last remnants of diversity, ancient habitat, and natural systems are under assault, the human population could nearly double before the last baby boomers pass on, political calculus discounts the threat, and I'm not feeling too good myself. Hear now of a few efforts engaged in the name of Audubon and The Charleston Natural History Society.

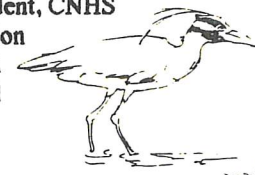
For starters, CNHS fought a classic Audubon battle against commercial interest in discouraging a nesting colony of Yellow-crown Night Herons. The

exploitation of this very bird led to the founding of the Audubon Society over one hundred years ago. CNHS endorsed the plan to preserve the historic character of the upper Ashley River, and helped embattled Drayton Hall fend off sight pollution threats. CNHS met with principals of the Guggenheim Foundation to comment on evolving plans for the development of Daniel Island. CNHS established a Wetlands Committee of chapter specialists to influence S.C. law and oppose proposed changes in national wetlands designation. CNHS officers went to Washington, D.C., to lobby our senators and congressman for support of the Endangered Species Act. CNHS was instrumental in reducing the impact of a landfill above fabled Four Hole Swamp and the Charleston fresh water intake, in the process, changing Coastal Council permit review rules. CNHS sponsored "Audubon Adventures", getting the environmental message into 101 lowcountry classrooms. And, at our McAlhany Nature Preserve, we added many Bluebird, Owl, Martin, and duck boxes; at one point we had 200 Wood Ducks nesting. Maybe Birds-R-Us after all.

I guess the message is that we are an environmentalist Society. In the CNHS name you can both pad softly under a forest canopy, and clack down the marbled halls of Congress.

Herbert Macmurphy
President, CNHS

P.S. Did I mention that we doubled our Loggerhead Turtle Project?



SEPTEMBER

September 8, 8 p.m.
**Environmental Problems in
the Coastal Zone**

Jane Settle, Water Quality Specialist for the S.C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept., will discuss the types of environmental problems faced by regulatory agencies and resource managers in the coastal zone with respect to wetland alterations and pollution.

ED. NOTE: Those of us who live in the coastal zone owe it to ourselves and to our friends the birdies to stay on top of local water quality issues.

Sunday Sept 13, 9:00a.m.

Get to know the new Old Santee Canal State Park. On the three mile boardwalk and nature trail you'll pass limestone bluffs, Biggen Creek (with its Southern Wild Rice), baldcypress trees, and numerous other bird and wildlife habitat. Plus artifacts of the old canal. Plus canoes for water exploration.

Carol Moore, Audubon member and Park Curator, will lead our tour of the park's natural history.

Group size is limited, so please call Carol at 899-5200 to register. Park admission is \$3 per carload. The park opens at 9:00a.m..Meet at the Interpretive Center at 9:15.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hgwy 52 to the intersection with old Hgwy 52 (first

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 Macaurnphy at 883-9252. To RENEW your yearly membership, please use the form mailed to you by National Audubon.

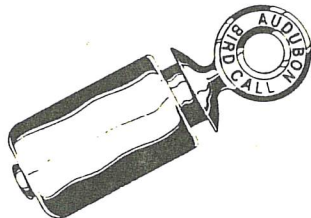
OFFICERS CNHS Office phone (577-7100); President, Herbert Macmurphy (883-9252); Vice President, Don Watts (797-6783)
Secretary, Bobbin Huff (886-6911); Treasurer, Cindy Dickerson (884-0147)

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 (); BIRD-A-THON, Jeremy James; RECYCLING, Cheryl Phillips (899-7635); NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Herbert Macmurphy (883-9252).

stoplight in Monk's Corner---follow Park signs for 1 1/2 mile.

Bring binoculars and lunch. We should be able to add some fall migrants to the Park's birdlist.



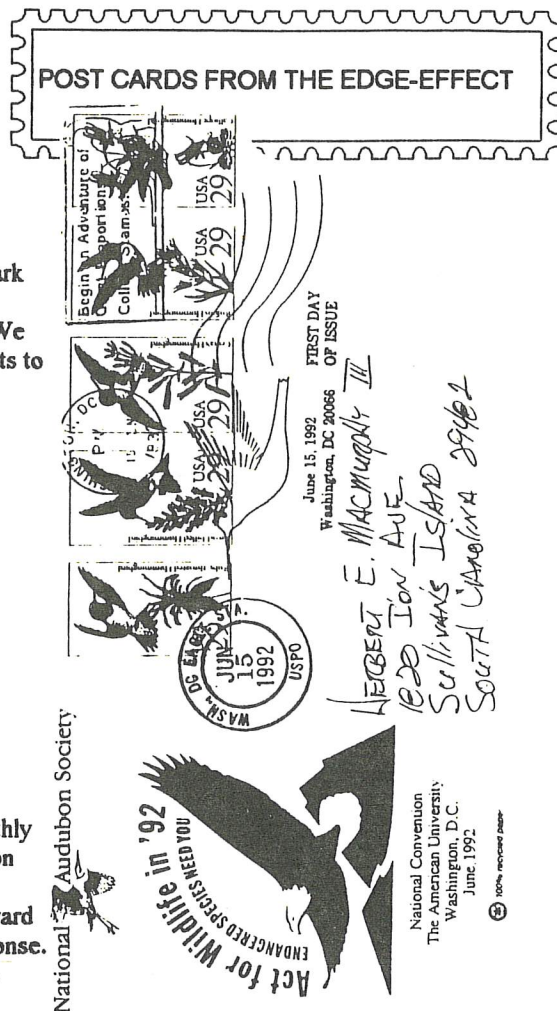
LET'S TRY SOMETHING NEW !!!

Everyone coming to the monthly meeting is asked to bring their Audubon Bird Call. Let's hear what a combined chorus sounds like. Maybe we can reward speakers with a peculiarly CNHS response. Bird Calls will be available at the door.



On emblazoned wings
they cross our paths
unexpectedly,
blessedly
A moment ago, their existence
unknown
a moment later, they are gone

Heraldic visitors
bearing exquisite glimpses
of Eternity



By Bruce Krucke

It's hard to believe the summer is nearly over. One look at the birds at the feeder confirms it, however. They all look ratty; blue jays and cardinals with one-feather crests, wrens with bald spots, and brown thrashers with two-feather tails. This, too, shall pass and they will be beautiful again after their molt.

South Carolina continues to lead the United States in the number of certified Backyard Habitats. Most of the credit for this wonderful statistic goes to local garden clubs, all of which have a bird project every year. In many of these clubs, 100 percent of the membership have registered their backyards with the National Wildlife Federation. Is yours? It's very easy to do.

Walter Swanson, who lives West of the Ashley, rescued a baby dove that fell out the nest, which was the usual casual arrangement of a few sticks on a pine branch. He used a peach basket to prevent interference from the cat and all went well. Walter also reported an interesting experience he had on vacation in Florida where there was a vulture roost tree near them. He was able to count 78, and they squawked all night!

The Knoxville News-Sentinel's nature writer, J.B. Owen, wrote recently of a photo he received from one of his readers who never did believe that plastic owls did any good. He had them in his apple orchard, but the birds still kept eating the fruit, so to prove it, he drilled an inch and a half hole in the owl's breast. The photo he sent showed a baby blue bird reaching out of the hole, with open bill, to be fed by the parent ! Another plastic owl in Knoxville was placed to keep starlings off a billboard; they all sit together now. We discovered the same thing with the plastic owls put up in Washington Park to discourage the yellow-crowned night herons. I've often seen grackles or gulls perched atop the fake owls on local docks. It's assumed that either the keen eyesight of the smaller birds, the lack of movement on the part of the owl, or, perhaps the fact that there's no temperature or odor from the fake bird, let the smaller birds know this is just

an owl-shaped post. Have you had any experiences with things meant to discourage unwanted birds?

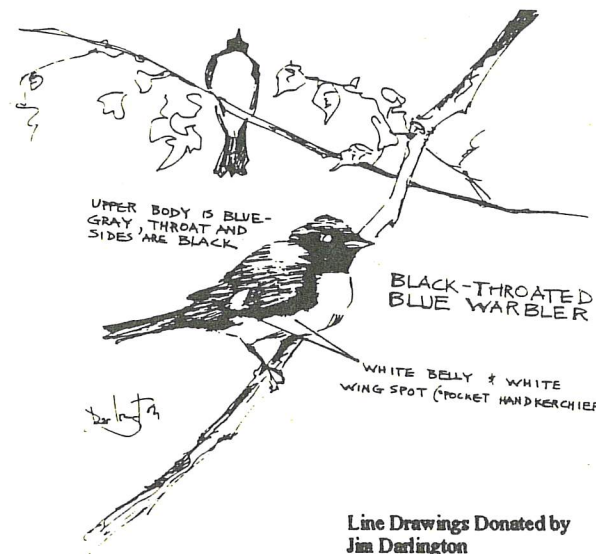
With fall migration in progress, we're reminded that there really aren't as many birds as there used to be. Here are two lists: the first of species that have been declining for forty years, and the second of birds that have plunged in the last ten years.

1) American redstart, black & white warbler, black-throated blue and green warblers, blackpoll, Canada, magnolia, parula, and Wilson's warblers, great crested flycatcher, northern waterthrush, ovenbird, and Swainson's thrush.

2) Bay-breasted, Connecticut, Kentucky, and worm-eating warblers, Chuck-Will's-widow, summer and scarlet tanagers, veery, wood thrush

and yellow-billed cuckoo. These neo-tropical migrants are affected by the massive deforestation of their wintering grounds in North America, but even more by the clearing of forests in this country. These lists cover species in the eastern U.S. and come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the records of Dr. Norman Hill of Massachusetts.

Many people will start filling their feeders now that summer is over and then will wonder where all the birds are. Natural food is most abundant in the fall, so the birds don't need us now; they really needed us more in early summer when the natural food was used up. They still need water most of all, so keep your bird bath in good condition as you'll attract more birds. They seem to prefer water at ground level, but it's safer from predators when on a pedestal. Where to place the bath is difficult: in full sun, only brave birds will visit and the water will stay warm in winter, but get it too hot and



The history they have seen! They still stand despite such advances as stone axes and such steps backward as hydraulically equipped, diesel powered, four wheel driven industrial logging skidders. They stood with Carolina Parakeets and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers perched in their crowns. They stood when the whole country was basically old growth, back when 1000 year old trees were no big deal, and in some circles, actually considered quite young! They stood, when Hurricane Hugo did its best to topple them in 1989, and through probably dozens of other big blows in their lifetime. There is a certain awe and fascination in the tenacity and toughness it takes for a living organism to fight the inexorable pull of gravity, and the wear and tear of weather, to survive for so long. Perhaps it is the short time span that we inhabit that draws us to these trees. Whatever it is, I cannot pass a huge cypress without thinking a moment about what the swamp was like when this tree started; what the world was like when this tree started! 1000 years... think about it!

Here at the Forest, we never promise that visitors will see wildlife. We can't...it is just too unpredictable. However, we can always guarantee that they will see huge trees and an untouched forest. If their track record is any clue, the trees that here yesterday will more than likely be here today! I hope you will come and visit us at the swamp. I promise that you will see some tremendous trees! If you stand next to one of the ancient ones, close your eyes, and listen real hard, you might just hear the echoing laugh of an Ivory-bill, of the "thunk" of an arrow slamming into the trunk...having missed its mark. Or maybe you will just hear the wind...of time.

Micheal Dawson, Francis Beidler Forest
462-2150

