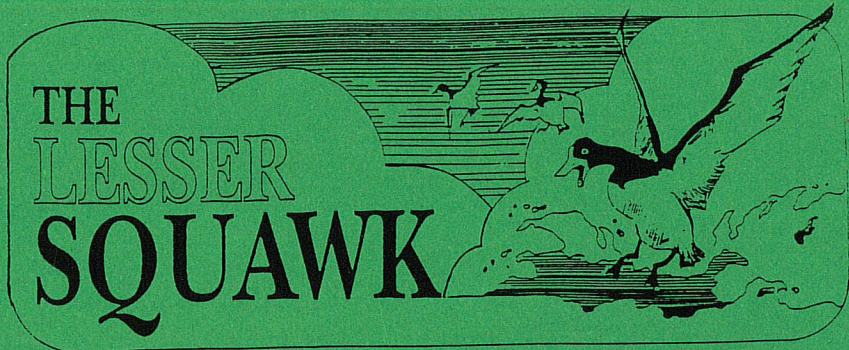




DECEMBER

CNHS OYSTER ROAST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
FORT JOHNSON OYSTER PIT

The holidays are here and in the best tradition of the Charleston Natural History Society and the South Carolina Lowcountry we are celebrating with an oyster roast.

Please join us as we "shuck 'em" at the Fort Johnson Wildlife and Marine Resources Center oyster pit and pavilion located on James Island. Last year's event was enjoyed by nearly 50 members who raved about the expertly prepared fresh local oysters, the delicious fish stew, mouth-watering cornbread, tasty deserts and satisfying beverages. Similar victuals and libations will be presented for your dining pleasure December 18th, from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. Cost is only \$7.00 per person! Children under 12 free.

The set-up for oysters at Fort Johnson is perfect, with numerous stand-up tables, a large oak-fire pit and steel plate for steaming oysters under wet burlap, and a harbor-side setting behind an old plantation house. Remember the spectacular view of the city across the harbor often comes with a brisk breeze, so come well dressed for the occasion if the weather calls for it.

Questions or inquiries for directions may be directed to Terrence Larimer at 571-5936. Hope to see you there.



CHARLESTON CHRISTMAS
COUNT
Sunday, Dec. 26, 6:30 A.M.
Meet at Texaco Station, Hgwy 41
& Hgwy 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 parts of the Cape Romain Wildlife Refuge, the Francis Marion Forest, Capers and Dewees islands and their marshes, 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 Ed Blitch at 795-5277. A fee of \$5.00 goes to national tabulation and publication in The Audubon Society's *American Birds*.

Bring lunch and dress for the weather.

DATES AND CONTACTS FOR
OTHER LOWCOUNTRY
CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Dec 19	McClellanville Perry Nugent	556-3841
Dec 26	Charleston Ed Blitch	795-5277
Dec 30	Litchfield-Pawley's Jack Peachey	347-5810
Jan 1	Santee NWR Lex Glover	438-1703
Jan 2	ACE Basin Pete Laurie	762-5076

BIRDING HOTLINE
1-704-332-2473

To report the really unusual sightings or learn of the reports in both Carolinas, call this Carolina Bird Club Hotline.



BACKYARD BIRDER

By Bruce Krucke



Some people say they don't want to start feeding the birds because they're

going to be away so much. It's nice if you can find a neighbor to keep your feeders filled while you're gone, but you shouldn't be overwhelmed with guilt if you do not. There are probably other feeders in your neighborhood and anyway, most birds feed primarily on natural foods, especially in an area like ours where there is no snow cover. However, birds are creatures of habit and you may be dropped from their regular daily rounds of feeders if they're empty too long. Also, don't worry about the birds becoming too dependent on your largesse. Studies with chickadees have shown that the birds get a rather small percentage of their energy requirements from feeders and they also have no trouble finding natural food even if they've been raised on feeders.

It's very important to reduce the spread of disease at your feeders. If there are large flocks of social birds such as blackbirds, goldfinches, doves, etc., the large amounts of droppings can contaminate your platform feeder or your ground space. It's best to rotate your ground feeding space and rake the droppings from the space that is "resting". It's recommended that you scrub and disinfect any platform feeders once a week. Hanging feeders are the safest as long as you're careful not to let residue and mold accumulate in the bottom. Clean with a long-handled brush and hot water with detergent.

One of the latest recommendations for preventing birds from killing themselves flying into windows is to have the hanging feeders close to the windows; the birds don't have enough space to build up speed and if they do hit the window the blow isn't as hard.

We added bird species number 154 to our yard list on November 8th. It was sort of a mixed blessing—a new bird is always exciting, but I'd have preferred it to be something other than an English sparrow! That was a day of "ones" at the feeder: one English sparrow, one junco, one phoebe, one goldfinch, one red-winged blackbird, one Carolina wren, one cowbird, one female house Finch, and one bluebird; they were all balanced by sixteen cardinals!

By this time next month I hope to have heard that you have all sorts of goldfinches, purple finches and juncos. And, I especially want to hear if you have pine siskins or evening grosbeaks. Bruce W. Krucke, 7352 Toogoodoo Rd., Yonkers Island SC 29449. Phone: 889-6191.

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

*****5-DIGIT 29412
EXPIRES OCT94 11*
MS. JANE E. LAREAU
2165 W RIVERS RD.
CHARLESTON SC 29412

BIRDSEED SALE:

This year's birdseed sale was a grand success, topping recent efforts. There are as usual some few bags of each variety that were not picked up or were ordered extra. This birdseed is now available as Christmas gifts to your friends, human or otherwise.

Please call Patricia Giddens at 883-3937 to buy some seed. Although she says she wants to keep our meager profit margin, it's my guess she will soon want to decorate her living room for Christmas and will be willing to deal with those who come to Sullivan's Island for pick-up. Otherwise, Patricia has generously offered to deliver. Any seed still remaining will be available at the CNHS Oyster Roast, December 18.

