



Conservation

... with Marie Mellinger

Quality or Quantity

It is always a privilege to hear Dr. Eugene Odum, foremost ecologist in the southeast. In a recent talk at Calloway Gardens he compared man to a chicken and suggested that we have a choice of conserving and improving the quality of our environment, or living as chickens do in a confined modern broiler coop. He also spoke of the need of consolidating our efforts and the importance of personal involvement. In line with this everyone should see the film made by the University of Georgia and starring Dr. Odum. *A Search for an Ecological Balance* features Sapelo, but is equally applicable to any of the coastal areas of North and South Carolina.

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Seemingly the organization of a South Carolina Conservancy fell by the wayside, but we can report a new organization, *South Carolina Environmental Action, Inc.*, with Orion Hack, of Hilton Head, as President. This organization made a good beginning by sponsoring an essay contest for youths and a state wide photography contest publicizing polluted areas of South Carolina. Citizens of South Carolina interested in our environment might write Mr. Hack for details of this organization.

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Congratulations to Will Post on his fellowship grant from the National Wildlife Federation. His thesis will compare the productivity of undisturbed (unditched) and disturbed salt marshes using the Seaside Sparrow as an indicator species.

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There are more and more reports of birds succumbing from the direct and indirect effects of chemicals. We know the Bald Eagle is on its way to extinction. So too are the Osprey and the Brown Pelican. Now *Insight*, the news letter of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, reports that the White-faced Ibis has been reduced 91% in Utah.

Yet an editorial in the Anderson *Independent* quotes Glenn Kimble, spokesman for Union Camp Paper Company, as saying "people get emotional about losing a species. But animals have been dying out every year clean back to the dinosaurs, and in most cases man had nothing to do with it. For that matter, it probably won't hurt mankind a whole heck of a lot in the long run if the whooping crane doesn't quite make it." The editorial continues "if man goes on polluting the air, the water, and the land, man will pollute himself out of existence, and what difference will that make to the whooping crane?"

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Birders arise! We are equally at fault. We still have too many birders concerned only with the number of species on their life list. What good would be a list of 600 species if 500 species become extinct? Will it be fun to brag that "I saw the last Brown Pelican?" If birders do not do more than list species they will run out of species to list. A whole organization devoted only to "THE LIST" is a waste of a lot of valuable time and talent.

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And re pollution, The Rev. K. Neill Foster had some some pertinent remarks. "Everyone can be expected to be against pollution (at least until it begins to cost to clean up). Pollution many times is profit. Pollution is always people!" And finally a quote attributed to Senator Muskie, "Pollution is one of the dirtiest words in the language."

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Trees are increasingly important in our landscape as air filters and temperature controls. They also add greatly to the beauty of camp and recreation sites. Yet almost every recreation area we visited this summer had trees carelessly cut and slashed by knives, axes, and hatchets, with bleeding gashes left to doom the life of the tree. The same people who let their youngsters enjoy such acts of vandalism would complain long and loudly if there were no trees to shade their camp sites.

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In the final analysis, each of us is part of our environment. Each of us must do something about it.

And a must reading for everybody is *The Environmental Handbook*, edited by Garrett de Bell, available for \$1.00 from Dept. CS, Ballantine Books, Inc. 36 West 20th St., New York, N. Y. 10003.

Bald Head Fate Still Undecided

A proposal for the State of North Carolina to purchase Bald Head (Smith Island) will almost certainly come before the General Assembly in 1971. If you have not as yet expressed your views to Governor Scott, the Department of Conservation and Development, or your legislator, please do so promptly.

Cape Romain Wilderness Proposal

The Interior Department's proposal to designate as wilderness 28,000 acres within the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina is still pending. A map and other information about Cape Romain are available from the Refuge Manager, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, McClellanville, S.C. 29458, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Peachtree-Seventh Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30323. Written comments can be sent to the Regional Director in Atlanta until 1 March 1971.