



ONE OF THE SCENES we expect at the beach is a gull flying against a blue-sky background.

## Enjoy The 'Open Environments'

BY BILL FAVER

There is a great advantage to "open environments" such as pasturelands, marshes, prairies, mountaintops, and large bodies of water. A great advantage, that is, if you enjoy scenic vistas and observing expanses of sky in search of flying birds. Our beaches provide us these special areas where we can look for pelicans, gulls, terns, osprey, gannets and many other birds.

With the coming of spring, we can look for many of those birds in the sky. The whistles of osprey call attention to their nesting and feeding and we'll soon see them attempting to teach their young to dive for food.

We can enjoy their circling overhead as they soar on the updrafts and their plummeting seaward to grasp a

fish in sharp talons. Perhaps we'll see them shake their bodies to remove water before heading homeward with the fish carried head-forward beneath them.

We also may see one of the vultures soaring high over the mainland, with their V-shaped wingspan giving them away. It may be the warm spring day and the gentle breezes they enjoy, or they may be gaining height to spot a road kill or other carrion on which to feed.

We'll surely find some gulls circling higher and higher and then gliding down to earth as we offer them some bread scraps or other enticements. One of the expected scenes at the beach is that of a gull flying against the blue sky.

We may expect to find the smaller birds, such as warblers, wrens, sparrows, and other songbirds among the shrubs and along the margins of field and forests. But in the open environments, these larger birds are easy to find and a thrill to see, no matter how many times we see them.



FAVER

### MORE LETTERS

## 'Danny' Thanked For Assistance

### Enjoys Quotes

To the editor:

I enjoyed reading the quotations in the Beacon's "Worth Repeating" section. They have been wise, humorous and thought-provoking.

Gladys Wagenseil  
Supply

### Fine Newspaper'

To the editor:

In trying to sell our home here, your fine newspaper and great reporting and columnists are our very helpful and positive hold on moving to the Shallotte community.

We really thank you for all the updated information that generally arrives via mail just a few days after publication.

We would love to start building on our property in July, so all pray-

ers and good wishes would be welcomed as another extension of kindness and courtesy of the wonderful people in Shallotte and Ocean Isle Beach.

Joan Rotanz  
College Pt., N.Y.

### Write Us

The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. Under no circumstances will unsigned letters be printed.

Letters should be legible. We reserve the right to edit libelous comments. Address letters to The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

## He's Back...It Really Must Be Spring

He's back!

No, not Freddie or any other monster. My favorite harbinger of spring has arrived, bringing with him the promise of hours of entertainment. No, not robins, or bluebirds or any of a thousand insects. They've been here all year. When this fellow shows up, you can be sure spring has arrived.

Last year we almost blew it. When the ruby-throated hummingbirds began their flight back from South and Central America, we were not ready.

The local "scout" appeared and found us lacking. He buzzed the usual hang-out, saw nothing of interest and vamoosed. That was in late March, early April. While my sisters had plenty of hummers at their feeders, we didn't see another one until at least June. Then all of a sudden the feeder was popular again and hummers were all over, buzzing flower pots and flower beds when they weren't hovering at the feeder. (We heard a nearby subdivision had a bumper crop of hummers last year; this may have been the overflow.)

This year we were ready. We replaced last year's feeder (plastic, it had experienced slight melt-down) and filled the new one with homemade solution.

Don and I happened to be outside, hanging a window box beneath the kitchen window. The hummers' feeder hangs outside this same window; they don't seem to mind the clutter of dishes after the first day or two.

Vr-o-o-m! Don instinctively ducked as the scout skimmed our heads in a curving path that brought him close to the feeder. Vr-o-o-m! Vr-o-o-m! He whizzed by three, four more times, and seemed just a little put out that we were still piddling around in the vicinity of the feeder.

Susan  
Usher



Or were we just imagining that?

Anyway, taking the hint, we went inside, leaving the scout to check out the feeding station first-hand. Next morning, an inch of solution had disappeared. I don't think it was a matter of evaporation; that tiny fellow must have been quite hungry.

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