

# science & TECHNOLOGY

## SPEEDO AQUABEAT WATERPROOF MP3 PLAYER

By Julia Houtchings  
Science and Technology Editor

Splash! "I'm leavin', never to come back again, you found somebody who does it better than he can..." Those are the sounds of you listening to your new Speedo Aquabeat Waterproof MP3 Player when you jump into the pool and start swimming laps. Speedo recently released a 1GB mp3 player that is completely submersible in water up to 3 meters (roughly 9.8 feet), available in the ever-classic black and two other flashy colors: pink and lime.

The built-in memory for the Aquabeat holds around 250 mp3 or 500 wma files, so you have plenty of songs to cover the entire length of time you spend swimming laps (or if you are anything like me, just splashing around). This cool mp3 player clips onto swimsuits, goggles, board shorts, basically anything you have in the water with you.

The Aquabeat houses a battery that is rechargeable simply by hooking it up to your computer through the USB port, a feature that seems to be appearing in more and more digital music players. Each charge provides approximately 9 hours of listening time; so once again, you are definitely covered for your time in the water.

Perhaps the coolest feature? The Aquabeat floats hence no need to swim to the bottom of the pool to recover this nifty new device. Don't worry about the earphones, either. The earplug-like earphones are waterproof, too.

For more information or to buy the Aquabeat, visit [www.speedoquabeat.com](http://www.speedoquabeat.com), which lists the price for this mp3 player at \$144.99. ■



Photo Courtesy Speedo

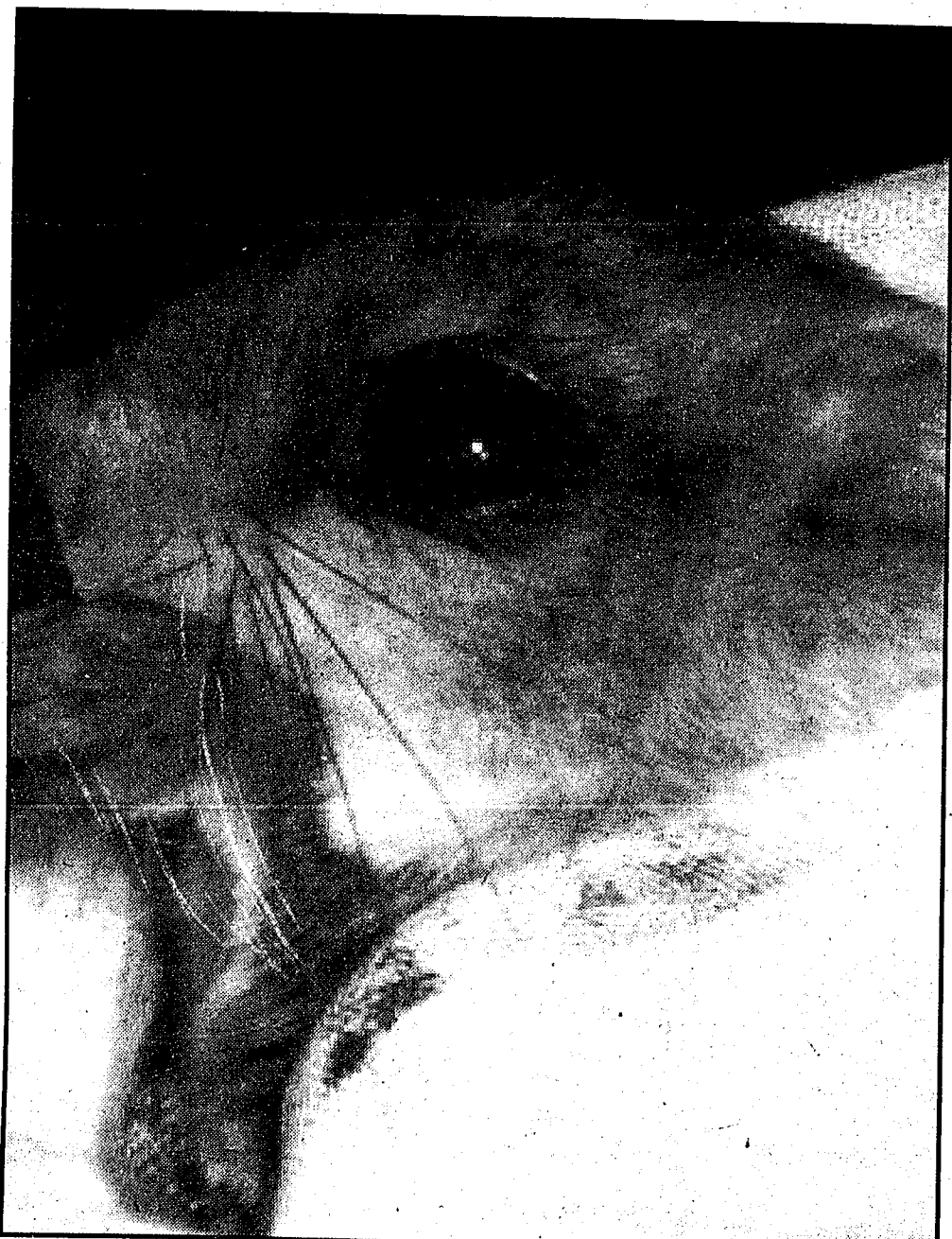


Photo Courtesy of Calley Jones

## IN MEREDITH'S BACKYARD

By Calley Jones  
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Meredith College has students from Kenya, Sri Lanka, and several other countries across the world, but Meredith's diversity isn't found only in the classroom. We've all seen the geese and the squirrels, and maybe you've even gone down to the pond to feed the turtles, but those aren't the only animals that Meredith is home to.

In the spring of 2007, I started a project to trap small mammals for a biology research class. I expected to trap mainly the White Footed Mouse that my project focused on, and I wasn't sure that I would get high trapping rates. The forest on Meredith's campus is fragmented and covers only a few acres; it doesn't seem like it would be able to support much wildlife. Imagine my surprise when one morning I opened a trap to find a Southern Flying Squirrel. I knew they were native to North Carolina, but I never thought I would see one in the small forest near the maintenance barn.

Over the course of the past two years, I've captured seven individual flying squirrels, which is

a very healthy population. I've also captured Eastern Chipmunks, Hispid's Cotton Rats, several species of birds, and even a five-lined skink once. I've seen white-tailed deer, grey fox, or black rat snakes, juvenile brown snakes, box turtles, ground hogs, and red-tail hawks. I've seen a dozen different species of mushroom suddenly "appear" after several days of rain.

Other projects have identified several types of spiders and catalogued many species of tree. It amazes me that all of this happens right in our backyard and most Meredith students have no idea. If you've ever walked on the Greenway, you've probably walked right by my research site and never realized just what you were walking past.

Some students would probably be happier not knowing that we have snakes and mice happily roaming our campus, but for biologists, this is exciting. Despite its small size and proximity to so much urbanization, our little forest is quite healthy and productive. ■

