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Sound Of Surf (Continued From Page 9)

every mosquito and fly. The usual shipment of insecticide wasn't needed...

"Thus began one of those great inexplicable love stories," the article reports, "as America took the purple martin to its heart. When the birds arrived in Illinois in 1905, the governor proclaimed it 'Purple Martin Time,' and the mayors of many towns followed suit. Motels served 'purple martinis;' rural towns held purple martin festivals... and served 'purple martin juice.'"

Some places along the line I heard there was a question of whether or not the spraying-machine would be making runs on the beach this summer. I assume it's too late for this year, but maybe more of us could do more to help the martins help us in an insect-abatement program.

And I have noted a goodly number of barn swallows hereabouts, who also delight on a diet of flying bugs — and they fly much closer to the ground, which is where I sit and sleep in the sun. Nature has her way of taking care of us, despite all we don't do.

"No grapes!" gripes the mockingbird and mocks us from the deck railing: "Cheap! Cheap! Cheap!" For more than three weeks now, nary a grape can Steve find in Shallotte. But last Tuesday she spied some on a trip to Southport and now we have grapes, and so does the mocker. Talking with Mrs. Rose Smith (122 Shrimp), she said "Maybe there's a message" — and passed along her March issue of "Wildlife in North Carolina." (Now I have mailed a dollar to the Wildlife Resources Commission in the Albemarle Bldg., Raleigh, 27611, and they'll be mailing me my very own copy every month for the next year.)

An article titled "To Feed or Not to Feed" provides food for thought. Most of us probably will go on feeding the birds regardless, particularly in the winter, even if we read the entire article. But Nell Lewis, a long-time birder and conservationist in Greensboro, does give a new twist to an old activity.

"A great number of people consider feeding the birds one of winter's special pleasures and spend hours enjoying and sharing the flocks of wanderers that add color to the drab landscape," she writes. She points out how "during the long summers and gentle autumns, insects lay egg masses which, if left undisturbed, yield billions of offspring. Some of these eggs hatch early to send grubs to winter in the earth, root systems of plants, or in trees; while others await springtime to release their charges. Hungry birds search out these grubs and eggs during the cold lean months when flying insects are at a

Instead Of Doshier

Trauma Center Suggested Here

The conversion of Doshier Memorial Hospital to an emergency care "Trauma Center" has been endorsed by the board of trustees of the new county medical facility.

Brunswick County Memorial Hospital trustees, meeting April 24 in Shallotte, received a letter from hospital consultant A. Gibson Howell stating that he and a Mr. Felts recommended that Doshier be closed and a new building be constructed.

The trustees replied to Howell that "it would be a workable program" if the emergency facilities at Doshier hospital were retained. The new hospital board noted there was "financial concern" whether a new building should be constructed in Southport.

In other business before the

minimum." She speculates on what the insect population might be if all the birds found all the food they wanted at amply-stocked bird feeders. A well-fed bird is not likely to scratch or grub for its food.

Ms. Lewis reported that she abandoned any artificial feeding, yet her yard was filled with many birds throughout the winter. "Each tree was checked daily by these unsolicited but welcome exterminators, and the soil was vigorously probed for fresh meat wintering in its depth. Her yard also provided nourishment from other natural foods: "seeds of a stately poplar tree enticed many cardinals and berried shrubs brought countless birds, especially mockingbirds."

"Also noteworthy," she writes, "was the absence of squabbles among the birds. Many fights have been witnessed between these feathered brothers at filled feeders, whereas when left to their own resourcefulness they displayed harmony, no doubt proving that even a bird appreciates that which he works for more than that which is given to him. The wisest course after all," she concludes, "may well be to simply plant evergreen and berried trees and shrubs to provide shelter and food for the birds — and leave the rest of their diet to Nature."

Brunswick hospital trustees, the use of Sheriff Department communication equipment at Supply was recommended to coordinate the work of the hospital and the various rescue squads in the county. James Robinson of the Shallotte Rescue Squad said squads now "work closely with law enforcement agencies in about 75 percent of their calls."

An application for doctor recruitment with the Division of Facility Services was completed, and a letter was written to Elizabeth Mason of that department informing her that the application was forthcoming. Prerequisite is the deposit of \$4,250 by the county commissioners for doctor recruitment.

ANNOUNCE BIRTH

Mr. and Mrs. William Franklin Deitz announce the birth of a son, William Franklin Deitz, Jr., on May 5 in New Hanover Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Deitz is the former Douglas Diane Bogie.

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