



*Take some time this summer to watch the birds and other parts of the natural world.*

PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

# The Quality Of Our Future

**BY BILL FAVER**

**A**fter many years of neglect and sometimes outright exploitation, it would seem this year we are beginning to take our natural environment seriously. There are many signs, such as global environmental conferences, a national administration and a vice-president with more than casual environmental concerns and policies, corporate approaches which do more than offer



a public relations image, and millions of citizens who are concerned about the future welfare of their neighborhoods, cities, and states.

These are not just the hikers, the bird-watchers, hunters and fishermen who love the out-of-doors and want to protect it for their uses. These are people who realize the quality of our future is going to be determined by the quality of our relationship to the Earth.

What better time than our July 4th holiday to think about our natural environment? After all, much of our heritage and our history is tied to our land—clearing it for homesteads, farming it for our

livelihood, defending it, developing it, and buying and selling it!

Some see the future offering greater and greater advantages to those who focus on environmental concerns. New businesses, new and better products, safer processes, and wiser practices are expected to become economically feasible and will solve some of the problems we face. At the heart of all of this is an individual concern and caring for our natural places.

Those who visit the beaches this summer have an opportunity to experience the natural part of this environment. Sure, you can take advantages of all the man-made offerings and the fishing, golfing, sailing, etc. Just leave some time to meditate with the birds in song, or the ghost crabs in hiding, or endless motion of the waves as they wash the beach. Examine the flowers (and the weeds), follow the tangle of vines, listen to the ripening of beach peas in the dunes, feel the wind on your face!

As you learn from nature and improve the quality of your relationship to Earth, you learn more about who you are and how you should live, and you improve the quality of our future as a nation.