

AUDUBON SHOP & GALLERY ADVERTISES BIRDING EXCURSION TO DELIGHTFUL DEVEAUX BANK

Join Chris Marsh, ornithologist, for a wonderful day and a half of birding adventure. This is taking place May 11-12, and will be the highlight of spring birding. Wednesday evening will begin with Chris' presentation of bird identification techniques featuring hands-on skins, slides, and time for questions. You will learn about habitat, nesting, and feeding behavior.

This class will also include a book (three to choose from) and a field list. There will be an opportunity to try several types of binoculars and scopes as well instruction in their use.

Chris Marsh has the enthusiasm and excitement that many people believe will make him the next Rudy Manke. He is a world-class ornithologist who can make the beginning birder feel comfortable, as well as challenging the skills of the most advanced. Well known for his photography as well as his knowledge, we feel fortunate to offer his leadership for this birding adventure.

Please call to reserve your space as soon as possible -- we can only accommodate 16 people for this wonderful experience. The cost is \$150 per person. It will include:

May 11 Wednesday 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Introduction - Presentation by Chris Marsh

Introduction - Binoculars by the Audubon Shop

May 12 Thursday

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Depart by boat for Deveau Bank

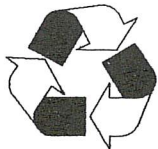
12:00 Return to Bohicket Marina for
box lunches

1:30 Shore birding to 4PM or until
exhausted

If you are a beginner, this is a terrific way to start. If you are advanced, you will love Chris' ability to improve your skills and add humor and wit to your knowledge. Remember, there are only 16 spots available and this will not be offered again this year. So come on -- wear a hat and let's go see the nesting habitat at Deveau Bank!!

Charleston Natural History Society
P.O. Box 504
Charleston, SC 29402

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



BEIDLER FOREST IN FOUR HOLES SWAMP

By JIM ROBERTS

Imagine watching the morning mists clear in the silence of a pristine wilderness, unchanged for thousands of years. See your travel agent? Equip yourself to brave the elements? Not necessarily. Right here in the Lowcountry we have one of the few remaining virgin forests in the eastern United States, the largest stand of uncut cypress-tupelo swamp in the world, Francis Beidler Forest near Harleyville.

From the comfort of Beidler's boardwalk, you can see Four Holes Swamp in the full light of day, watch the light fade on a Nightwalk, or wait for the sun on a Dawnwatch. You can feel the cool waters creep up your legs on a naturalist-guided Swamp Stomp. You can canoe by sun or moon. The National Audubon Society wants you to experience this natural treasure and has scheduled spring activities for many tastes.

Dawnwatch is the newest way to encounter the swamp. Not a guided tour, this is an extraordinary opportunity to be safely alone in the dark in an ancient wilderness. One recent early-morning observer saw a bobcat bounding down the boardwalk. Dawnwatches are scheduled for nights when the waning moon will set in the early morning.

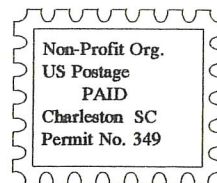
Moonlight canoeing is another addition to the Beidler Forest schedule. Canoeists will paddle deep into the swamp in the evening, picnic as the light fades, and thread their way back through the cypress knees by the light of the moon. These guided trips are for experienced canoeists only.

Daytime canoe trips have long been a favorite way to see Four Holes Swamp. The unmarked canoe trail begins in the swamp's largest lake but soon leads to narrow creeks which twist and turn until you will be very grateful that you have a guide. You lunch at a series of small lakes in the heart of the swamp, and then drift back down the trail.

Nightwalks. Even though you know the boardwalk is perfectly safe, mysterious grunts and splashes in the dark build tension, and then the maniacal laughter of the barred owls sends chill up your spine. Nightwalks are scheduled for full-moon Saturday nights.

For the most adventurous encounter with the swamp, wade in on a **Swamp Stomp**. Standing waist deep in the pure, flowing water under thousand-year-old cypresses gives a perspective unequalled by any tamer view.

Call Beidler Forest at 462-2150 for dates and possible reservations.



EXPIRES OCT94

MS. JANE E. LAREAU
2165 W RIVERS RD.
CHARLESTON SC 29412-2092



NEWSLETTER OF THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
CHAPTER, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

BACKYARD BIRD-A-THON ANNOUNCED

A new Birdathon has been created for the first time this year, according to Jan Snook, CNHS' Birdathon co-chairperson.

"Yes," she says, "for years now the Chapter has encouraged birders, novice and expert, to go into the fields, forests, fens, and flatlands of the Lowcountry to flush-out and focus on flocks of flying, floating, fishing, fluttering, fleeing, foraging, or frankly flummoxed avian species."

The birders count them and then dun their unwitting sponsors for the mountains of funds which have gone mostly to support classrooms of Audubon Adventurers.

Interesting, useful, and even fun to some, the classic Birdathon has failed, however, to reach multitudes of Audubon members and friends who are too old, tierd, sick, weak, busy, timid, distracted, forgetful, agoraphobic, ignorant of birding, afraid of snakes & aligators, or just too down-right lazy to participate, she explains.

This year is to be different, Ms Snook avers. "We are exhorting all members, friends relatives, birdwatchers, and innocent bystanders who have not yet conducted a classic Birdathon to seriously weigh and consider the possibility of doing a BACKYARD BIRDATHON this year."

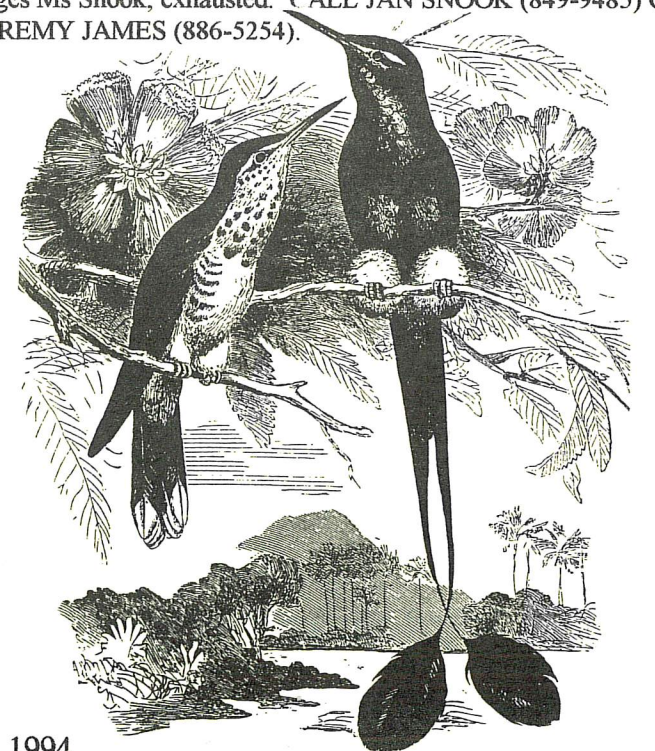
"A BACKYARD BIRDATHON is wonderful. It eliminates all the messy, tiring, time-consuming, backbreaking, neck-aching, and dangerous aspects of the old Birdathon (which is still being held this year -- Editor's note), Ms Snook trumpets proudly.

Nothing could be easier: just sign up, talk to a few friends, family members, neighbors, or co-workers (which you might do anyway), and then on May 9, or a day more convenient for you, simply count all the bird types that have wandered into your yard to eat all the lovely birdseed and suet you have so lovingly provided for them at great expense of time, money, and

effort."

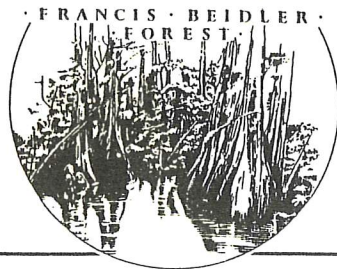
Although you do not need to leave the house, you are allowed to go outside, weather permitting, and count species of birds that you spot wandering unconcernedly by or creeping up quietly to get a closer look at the BACKYARD BIRDATHON going on. "You can even go into the FRONT yard, despite the carefully thought-out name," Ms Snook reassures.

"So for all of you interested in helping promote children's education and in saving the environment right here, this BACKYARD BIRDATHON is for you. Talk it over with your counselor, personal trainer, spouse, or minister and then sign up!" urges Ms Snook, exhausted. CALL JAN SNOOK (849-9485) OR JEREMY JAMES (886-5254).



APRIL 1994

APRIL



CNHS SECOND TUESDAY
Medical School Psych Auditorium
President Street
Park Free, "G" Lot, Bee Street
Tuesday, April 12, 8:00 PM
Archeology in the Francis Marion

The history of the City of Charleston has always been influenced by the great wealth of resources found in a great forest to its north. Now known as the Francis Marion National Forest, the area extends from the Cooper River to the Santee, and even in the deepest woods are to be found signs of man's industry. Ship building, plantations, battle grounds, and the secret camps of Marion himself have defined the history of the Lowcountry.

U.S. Forest Service Archeologist Robert Morgan will inform The Society of results of his investigations over several years, giving particular accounts of digs using local volunteer help. In addition, there will be the opportunity to sign up for some hands-on experience at an archeological site.

CNHS FIELD TRIP
Dr. Richard Porcher at
Bluff Plantation
Sunday, April 17, 8:00 AM

Can there be a more beautiful time for flowers than Spring in the Lowcountry? Join Citadel Botanist Dr. Richard Porcher to learn the spectacular diversity and lushness of floral specimens at historical Bluff Plantation on the Cooper River.

There is a range of habitat on this property that includes old fields, river bank, mixed hardwood, cypress swamp, and ancient domestic gardens.

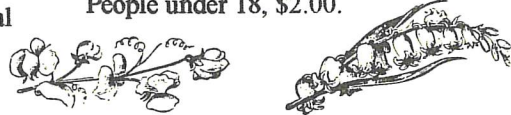
Dr Porcher is an engaging and enthusiastic instructor. That means bring your waterproof boots, the good stuff this time of year will have "wet feet."

Bring a picnic lunch. Bring your birding binoculars, too. Simply pretend to be looking for orchids. Meet in the parking lot of Johnson Hagood (Citadel) Stadium on the Hagood Ave. side, 8:00 AM.

DAWN IN THE SWAMP
Francis Beidler Forest in
Four Hole Swamp
Saturday, April 2; Sunday, May
1; Sunday, May 29

Experience dawn in an ancient wilderness. Enter Beidler Forest by the light of the waning moon. Listen for owls and bobcats. See stars mirrored in the black water. Wait for first light with cypresses that have waited for a thousand years. Hear the dawn chorus. Watch the sun rise and the morning mists clear.

This is not a guided tour, but an extraordinary opportunity to be safely alone in the dark in pristine wilderness. You may enter any time after 4:00 AM All visitors will be asked to be especially quiet for this special event. Adult admission is \$4.00. People under 18, \$2.00.



THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, FOUNDED 1905,

is a chapter of The National Audubon Society. Members of The NAS who live in the Trident area automatically become members of The Charleston Natural History Society. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 8:00pm, in the auditorium of The Psychiatric Institute on the campus of The Medical University of South Carolina. Field trips are held each month (except summer) and there are numerous special events.

MEMBERSHIP Membership dues for NEW MEMBERS is \$20. Members receive six bimonthly issues of National AUDUBON MAGAZINE and monthly issues (except summer) of THE LESSER SQUAWK, the CNHS newsletter. For information or a membership form, please call Herbert Macmurphy at 883-9252. To RENEW your yearly membership, please use the form mailed to you by National Audubon.

OFFICERS: CNHS Office phone (577-7100); President, Don Watts(797-6783), Vice-President, Hal Currey(883-9114), Secretary, Jan Snook(849-9485), Treasurer, Herbert Macmurphy(883-9252).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ed Blitch, Nathan Dias, Jose Escobar, Patricia Giddens, Sid Goff, Polly Holden, David Huff, Jeremy James, Jane Lareau, Terrence Larimer, Lee Lowder, Rose Mitchell, Hayes Patterson, Ann Shahid.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: MEMBERSHIP, Patricia Giddens (883-3937); CONSERVATION, Jane Lareau (795-2150); PROGRAMS, Lee Lowder (723-3057); BIRD COUNTS, Ed Blitch (795-5277); BIRD SEED, Rose Mitchell (723-7459), Patricia Giddens (883-3937); BIRD-A-THON, Jeremy James (886-5254); NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Herbert Macmurphy(883-9252).

Spring Schedule of Events
Francis Beidler Forest in
Four Holes Swamp

The Francis Beidler Forest is a National Audubon Society Sanctuary.

*** DAWN IN THE SWAMP**
April 2, May 1, May 29. Any
time after 4:00 AM.

***MOONLIGHT CANOEING**
April 22, 6:30 PM; May 20,
7:00. By reservation.

***NIGHT WALKS**
April 23, 7 PM; May 21, 7:30.
By reservation.

***SWAMP STOMPS**
April 23, 1:00 PM; May 21,
1:00. By reservation.

***SPECIAL PROGRAMS**
Gators -- April 2, 10:00 AM
Raptors -- April 9, 11AM, 1 PM
Children's Program -- May 14,
10:00 AM
Folk Music -- May 15,
Afternoon

***CANOE TRIPS**
Every Friday afternoon,
Saturday, and Sunday. Reservation.

***SELF-GUIDED BOARDWALK**
TOUR
9:00 to 5:00, every day except
Monday.

BACKYARD BIRDER
By BRUCE KRUCKE



Have you got your hummingbird feeders up? Are there purple martins in your apartments? Are there warblers at your suet mixture? Have your goldfinches come back? Are there bluebirds in your boxes? If so, then all's right with the world!

Hugh King saw about forty snow geese by the old bridge in Mt. Pleasant on February 1, and a hummingbird on the 21st. A lot of hummingbirds seem to have wintered over this year. Van Atkins saw about 200 cedar waxwings in Yeamans Hall. They have a bluebird box trail there with nearly 100 boxes which have about an 85 percent occupancy; in the past, some bluebirds have raised four clutches. Van saw the first cattle egret on February 28th. Charlie Walters and group saw a peregrine falcon by the Ashley River Bridge in late February.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has asked some of us to try to see if any birds eat milo -- that's the round red seed used as filler in mixes. Well, so far I've only seen two birds try it -- a blue jay and a dove. However, rabbits, raccoons, and flying squirrels seem to like it fine. This month's highlight at the feeders was four male towhees at once. They're one of my favorites.

As you know from the lead article this month, there's a Backyard Bird-a-thon coming up. I've volunteered to do a Backyard Bird-a-thon so more people can participate in the fund raising program. You can, of course, do a count in your own backyard, give a flat sum, or pledge a sum for each species of bird that I can identify from my property in one twenty-four hour period. To sweeten the pot a little, I'd like to offer an 8x10 print of my painting of a Christmas cardinal for anyone who pledges 50 cents or more per species, and a 12x18 print of my painting of ruby-throated hummingbirds for anyone who pledges \$1.00 or more per species that I see that day. Realistically, I can expect about thirty different birds in one day. Anything I can see anywhere on land, sea, or air from our property can be counted. Heard birds that are definitely identified can be counted also. I will probably do my bird-a-thon a little earlier than the official national day, because I think a lot of migrant warblers come through here then. So return your pledge cards and wish me luck.

Let me know what spring migrants you see at your feeders. Bruce W. Krucke, 7352 Toogoodoo Rd., Yorges Island, SC 29449. Phone: 889-6191.

OBSERVATIONS: 15 Feb to 15 Mar
By DON WATTS

Feb 12 5 Long-billed Curlews John Cox
Seen on the sand flats behind Fort Sumter from James
Isl. at low tide.
Mar 3 Peregrine Falcon Andrew Mylander
Seen at Patriots Point.
Feb-Mar 180 Avocets Van Atkins
300 Shovelers "
Van reports that Avocets have been at Crowders Isl. all
winter. The Shovelers were seen there in mid Feb.
Mar 3 Purple Martins Don Watts
Spring is here! The Martins have arrived.
To report your sightings call Don Watts at the Chapter
number, 577-7100, or at home, 797-6783. For info on rare birds in the
Carolinas call the CBC Hotline - 704-332-2473.
1,120 Hummingbirds have been color marked in S.C. See a
non-toxic bright green dye on lower throat/upper breast. Report
sightings to Bill Hilton Jr., Hilton Pond, 1432 DeVinney Rd., York, SC
29745. Include date and location.

IN SEARCH OF BOBBY BOOBY, THE BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY
By DENNIS FORSYTHE

Ever since I heard about the Blue-footed Booby at Granite Shoals, Texas, last June, Donna and I tried to find a way to get to Texas and see this bird. Finally, we were able to get away on January 4. We flew from Charleston to Houston, rented a car, and raced west toward Austin and Granite Shoals. Along the way we stopped at Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR. Our target was Masked Ducks, which had been seen there earlier. Unfortunately, we did not see this bird but were able to see American Bitterns and Fulvous Whistling Ducks. Next we stopped at Bastrop State Park and picked up some eastern species for our Texas List, including Carolina Chickadee and Red-bellied Woodpecker. We arrived in Marble Falls too late to look for the Booby.

At the crack of dawn the next day, we followed the directions of my good friend Dick Payne of Sam Houston State University. We found the location with no difficulty because there was a big sign in the yard saying, "Blue-footed Booby in back yard. Sign guest book on table. Please do not disturb the bird or the people." And there it was, big as life, sitting on a diving board on Lake LBJ! The bird was magnificent. This was a world life bird for both of us. After watching the bird for some time, and signing the guest book, we looked for other birds in the area. We picked up Blue Jay and Verdin for our Texas List and Donna added Harris' Sparrow to her lifelist.

On January 6, we made the long drive through San Antonio to Kingsville, home of the King Ranch. There on a small ranch pond we saw our next target bird, five Masked Ducks! We were both surprised at how small they were compared to Ruddy Ducks. On January 6&7, we drove up and down Highway 77 below Kingsville and were lucky to see large numbers of White-tailed Hawks and another life bird for Donna, both light and dark morph Ferruginous Hawk.

The rest of the trip was spent in the lower Rio Grande Valley at the usual spots (Laguna Atacosa NWR, Santa Ana NWR, Rio Grande-Bensen State Park, and Falcon Dam) where we saw a variety of the usual South Texas specialties, but missed the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl at Falcon Dam. We returned home on January 10, via Houston after stopping at Aransas NWR to see the Whooping Cranes. We had a great trip. I saw 2 life birds and Donna had 4. Our total trip was about 160+ species. We look forward to a return to South Texas.

OBServ Inc. Bird Tours Dr. Dennis Forsythe, Leader
EASTERN PASSERINE MIGRANTS WEEKEND
May 12-15

One of the great thrills of birding is watching spring passerine migration at places like Point Pelee, Ontario. Unfortunately, many well known places like Pelee have become crowded, with difficult access during peak migration periods. The Eastern Passerine Migrants Weekend is designed to give birders a Pt. Pelee-like experience by concentrating on the famous BIRD TRAIL at Magee Marsh, east of Toledo, Ohio.

The BIRD TRAIL is a mosaic of wet woods and marshes, including one of the northernmost stands of Bald Cypress, with breeding Prothonotary Warblers, right on the shore of Lake Erie. Due to the geography of the BIRD TRAIL, passerines concentrate in this seven-acre wood before starting their flight across Lake Erie to Canada. This migrant trap attracts large numbers of wood warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and other songbirds which can be easily viewed close-at-hand from the boardwalk. The average tour participant should see over 100 species.

Dennis Forsythe is a professional ornithologist and a native of Toledo. He can lead you to the best birding and the best ethnic restaurants of the area. Call 795-3996 right away for this OBServ Tour or for a full catalogue of 1994 OBServ events.