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## New Officers Nominated

The nominations for members of the Executive Board and officers of the Charleston Natural History Society for the upcoming year are:

Jane Lareau, president; Sharon Richardson, vice president; and Cornelia Gibbs, treasurer. Executive Board members nominated are: Maura Lake, Sarah Brunson, Lee Lowder, Norman Brunswig, Karen Beshears, Arch McCallum, Jeff Dennis, Robert Donato, Julian Harrison and Jeremy James. New board members will be elected at the May meeting on May 13.

### Backyard Birder

(Continued From Page 3)  
and poison ivy (unless you are allergic) are all recommended weeds for attracting and benefiting birds. Seems like the best thing would be to just let it all go!

Let's have lots of reports for my next and last article. Bruce W. Krucke, 7352 Toogoodoo Road, Yonges Island, SC 29449. Phone: 889-6191



### Become a Member of CNHS

(U51)

All you have to do is subscribe to Audubon Magazine (\$20 for a year). Your membership in CNHS is automatic.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51003, Boulder, Colorado 80323-1003



# The Lesser Squawk

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society

Vol. XLVII, No. 4

### A Message from the President.

I'm delighted that Rudy Mancke has agreed to be our speaker at the next member's meeting. This meeting will also serve as a membership drive for the chapter.

Why do we need more members? We need more members because we need more people to care about their environment and the awesome natural wealth here in the Lowcountry. In order to care about something, one must have an understanding. We achieve that understanding through education and personal interaction.

We not only need more understanding, caring members, we also need more active members. There are roughly 1000 people in this chapter, yet all the projects, functions and planning are handled by roughly 8 people. This is not healthy for an organization.

In May a new, dynamic board will start a new era in this 92 year old society's long history. Help us write that history. Painted Bunting cookies will be served at the April 8th meeting from 6:30 to 7:00, just prior to the meeting.

### Beidler Forest Appeal

In it's fight against a proposed stock car racetrack adjacent to Four Holes Swamp and the Francis Beidler Forest Wildlife Sanctuary, sanctuary manager Norman Brunswig is making an appeal for more donations. In spite of legal setbacks, sanctuary proponents have taken their case back to civil court where they are continuing the fight to steer the speedway to a more suitable location. If you would like to make a donation, send it to the National Audubon Society, Francis Beidler Forest, 336 Sanctuary Road, Harleyville, SC 29448.

April 1997

## Education Corner

### Courtenay Middle School Project Set

By Sarah Brunson

Bird feeders made by Boy Scout troop #108 were put up at Courtenay Middle School by students with the help of Karen Beshears, Carl Broadwell, Cornelia Gibbs and Don Jones. Their help was much appreciated. The bird feeders were filled with birdseed donated by Polly Holden and The Audubon Shop and Jennifer Brasch. Polly donated 80 pounds of seed!

Dates are tentatively set for talking to Courtenay students at their school and taking them on a field trip. Classroom lessons are scheduled to take place on May 6 and May 9 from 9:45 to 11 a.m. A training session will be held in the evening of May 5. The field trip has been tentatively set for the morning of May 16. The seventh grade will be divided into groups of approximately 40 students. Each group will visit one of four city parks including White Point Gardens, Hampton Park, Brittlebank Park and Waterfront Park. We need volunteers to assemble materials for the classroom lessons, teach the classroom lessons, and take the students birding! Please call me at (803) 889-8198 if you are interested in helping with any part of the Courtenay Middle School Project.

I will be setting up Charleston Natural History Society information tables at the Charleston County Recreation and Park Commission's (April 19) and MUSC's (April 22) Earth Day festivals. If you would like to help me staff these events, please call!

### Education "Wish List"

Access to a Xerox

Flat folders for 8x10 paper

Lamination paper

Birdseed to refill feeders at Courtenay Middle School

16 magnifying glasses

Modeling clay

Pipe cleaners

Styrofoam

one pack straws

32 pairs of chopsticks

24 pairs of pliers

16 large slotted spoons

24 small strainers

24 small fishnets

8 small logs

8 6x6" plastic

containers

8 10x10" plastic

containers

16 plastic containers —

approximately

12x10x10"

8 tall thin vases

Fake rubber worms

String

Charleston Natural  
History Society Officers:

President: Lee Lowder 769-4186  
V. President: Jane Lareau 795-2150  
Secretary: Bobbin Huff 886-6911

Executive Board Members:

Sarah Brunson: 889-8198  
Bob Chinn: 552-7884  
Cornelia Gibbs: 556-7806  
Bob Hanlin: 577-5315  
Julian Harrison: 795-1694  
Sandra Inabnett: 884-3997  
Maura Lake: 889-3415  
Herbert MacMurphy 883-9252

Committee Chairs:

Conservation: Jane Lareau: 795-2150  
Education: Sarah Brunson 889-8198  
Field Trips: Bob Chinn 552-7884  
Membership: Don Watts 797-6783  
Newsletter: Bobbin Huff 886-6911  
Backyard Birder Column: Bruce Krucke 889-6191  
Observations Column: Box Chinn 552-7884  
Programs: Lee Lowder 769-4186  
Property: Jane Lareau 795-2150  
Publicity: Maura Lake 889-3415

*The Lesser Squawk*, newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society, is published monthly except for the months of June, July and August. The deadline for copy is the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send submissions to:

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886-6911  
rwhuff@awod.com

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Isle of Palms, S.C. 29451

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## April CNHS Events

### Open House At McAlhany Sunday, April 13 Gate opens at 8:30 a.m.

Come enjoy spring at the McAlhany Sanctuary April 13. Special features include an oxbow lake, hiking trails, and a cabin which provides facilities. To get to the McAlhany Sanctuary, take highway 61 North to U.S. Highway 15, turn right (North). Follow 15 to Grover, SC. In Grover, turn left onto Highway 19. Just past intersection of Highway 19 and county road 26, you'll cross Cattle Creek. The entrance to McAlhany will be on the left side of the road. McAlhany is about 8 miles from Grover.

### Earth Day Celebration: Spring At McAlhany Boating, Camping Trip April 19-20

Members of CNHS will be joined by Sierra Club members for a camp-out and boat excursion at McAlhany Nature Preserve. Participants are invited to camp out Saturday night and bring canoes and kayaks for a boat trip on Sunday morning. Boaters will put in at the Rt. 321 Bridge (5 or 6 miles up river) and take out at the McAlhany property. (This is a one to two-hour trip.) Those who want to just come up for the boat trip are welcome to arrive Sunday morning. Plan to meet for carpooling early Saturday afternoon for the trip up. Call Mac MacMurphy for the meeting time and place at 883-9252.

### Spring Bird Count Sunday, April 27, 6:30 am at Gregorie's Texaco. Intersection of Highways 41 and 17 North in Mt. Pleasant. All interested parties should contact Lee Lowder at 769-4186 or the count coordinator Ed Blitch at 795-5277, or just meet us there!

### Trip to "Little Eden" Dixie Plantation Saturday, April 20 7:30 a.m.

Dixie Plantation, the former home of bird painter and world traveler, John Henry Dick, will be our destination on Sunday, April 20. Dixie, with its magnificent avenue of oaks, maritime forest and marshfront areas offers a rich array of habitats for warblers, waders and other wildlife. Dick called it, appropriately, his "Little Eden," Dick willed the plantation to the College of Charleston with the goal of preserving the natural state of the land and providing a wonderful natural laboratory for science faculty and students from the College. Meet to carpool at 7:30 a.m. at The Pantry, John's Island turnoff on Highway 17 South. The trip will be led by Julian Harrison.

### Rudy Mancke to Speak April 8 at 7 p.m. Charleston Museum 360 Meeting Street Charleston

Naturalist Rudy Mancke, star and producer of *Nature Scene*, the award-winning show on South Carolina Educational TV, will speak on "Connectivity in the Natural World" on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. at the Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street. Mancke has taken his crew to all parts of the world to film his *Nature Scene* program. He is an engaging and entertaining speaker. Don't miss it!



## Backyard Birder

than we got to) New Zealand pigeon, several shags (cormorants), and many gulls and sea birds. It seemed strange to see wild turkey in the fields with cows and sheep, California quail, myna birds, magpies, and English house sparrows everywhere, even way out in the country in huge flocks like bob-o-links in the fields.

Several aspects of nature there surprised me. New Zealand has no native mammals (except for one bat) and all the introduced ones (Australian possums, rabbits, rats, mice, ferrets, stoats, wild pigs and deer) cause problems in the destruction of native bush and flightless birds. Of the 220 birds offered in their guide book, 80 are sea birds, 30 are migrating shore birds, and of the other 110, only 50 are native and many of them are found only on the small, neighboring islands, such as Chatham, Bounty, Aukland, Campbell, MacQuarie, Pitt, and Stewart. We went to Stewart, which is the only place to see Kiwi in the wild, but it turns out that we should have reserved a spot on the boat to see them when we made our lodge reservation in October. One goes by boat at night to the other side of the island and looks by moonlight, if it's not raining, from the boat to see the kiwi come out on the beach to forage in the seaweed. The people we talked to said they were pretty sure they saw one.

We did see kiwi's in captivity. We went to Ulva Island also which is a preserve from which they've eradicated all the introduced plants and animals. There, weka, another flightless bird very similar to the kiwi, but not nocturnal, walked around our feet as if we weren't even there. Other native birds we enjoyed seeing and hearing were the tui, bellbird, grey warbler, tomtit, fantail, rifleman, silveryeye, New Zealand kingfisher, yellow-crowned parakeet, Kaka, (the keas were still at higher elevations

from his hummingbird feeder. Both these reporters seemed to think the goldfinches were leaving early. There was very little snow in the northeast this year for a change. Judy Hines saw two ospreys over the Ashley near The Citadel, also on March 13. This is the first time she'd seen them there.

Your hummingbird feeders should definitely be out now. They have always arrived in March in past years. Many birds are nesting too. In the houses, the all-pine-straw, very round nests belong to bluebirds. The nests made with mostly mosses and hair, tightly packed, are built by chickadees, and similar nests, but with varied things such as small leaves, snake skin bits, and grass are constructed by titmice.

Much as you may hate them, dandelions are indispensable to birds because they are most prolific in the very early spring and are therefore some of the earliest plants to bear seeds. Mullein, pokeweed, bittersweet, nightshade, chicory, smilax, panic grass, thistle, goldenrod, knotweed,

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## Observations

Feb. 12	Pair common eiders	Folly Beach near near Coast Guard Station	Don Jones
Feb. 20	1 Rough-legged hawk	Bear Island	Nathan Diaz, Burton Moore
Mar. 17	12 Northern rough-winged swallows	Magnolia Gardens	Bob & Billie Chinn
Mar. 18	1 Rose-breasted grosbeak	Mount Pleasant	Carol Boone
March	Great-horned owl babies	Atop SCE&G poles*	Thousands driving from Isle of Palms to Mount Pleasant
	Osprey pair building nest	Mt. Pleasant side	
		Rt. 526 leading to Isle of Palms	

\*SC Electric and Gas Co. erected another, taller pole to accommodate the ospreys who failed to dislodge the nesting owls.

The Observations column includes unusual sightings, birds not usually found in this area, or seen at an unseasonal time. To report unusual sightings, call or write Bob Chinn at 552-7884, 7666 Chippendale Road, North Charleston, SC 29420.