

Charleston Natural History Society  
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# The Lesser Squawk

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society

Vol. XLVII, No. 5

MAY 1997

## Memories and New Beginnings

by Lee Lowder

### 'Play On Birds'

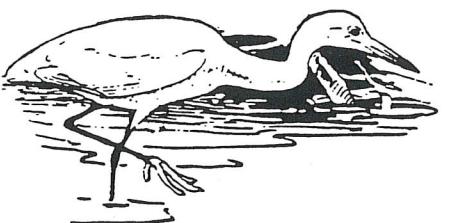
**Peewee's Day Off**  
**The Coot, The Bat and The**  
**Ugly Duckling**  
**Grebe Expectations**  
**The Crane Mutiny**  
**The Finch Lieutenant's Woman**  
**Ducktor No**  
**Citizen Crane**  
**Owl's Well That Ends Well**  
**Robin Hood**  
**Pippit Longstocking**  
**Last Days of the Third Shrike**  
**Thrasher in the Rye**  
**Wren Johnny Comes Marching**  
**Home**  
**The Greatest Crow on Earth**  
**Ani**  
**Skua for Scandal**  
**Dr. Killdeer**  
**Bulbul Durham**  
**LAWRENce of Arabia**  
**Ani Get Your Gun**  
**Bulbul Without a Cause**  
**A Smew Good Men**  
**The Gadwall of China**  
**Owliver**  
**Noah's Awk**  
**Looking for Booby Fisher**  
**Alice Doesn't Live Here Any**  
**Moa**  
**Sora! Sora! Sora!**  
**Trogon With the Wind**  
**The Rookie**  
**The Roc**  
**Terning Point**  
**Down Periscope**  
**City Flickers**  
**Drakefast at Tiffany's**  
**Midnight Cowbird**  
**Ma & Pa Kettle**  
**Osprey Can You See**  
**Fiddler on the Ruff**  
**Taras Bulbul**  
**Loon Over Miami**  
**Law of the Toucan**  
**Kowloon Assignment**  
**Loon Struck**



## 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.



### 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.

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Before I became president of this chapter, I believed that we could reach out and change anyone's view of the natural world if we just "educated" them. I have reluctantly realized that there are many well educated people who know about sustainability and interdependence, but continue to *knowingly* make decisions that are harmful to the environment. They have money, undeserved influence and, tragically, are often elected to office or appointed by like-minded people to environmental boards and park commissions. They will never get it and therefore we must stay vigilant and watch them like a Buteo!

I have enjoyed being your president. I regret my achievements failed to keep pace with my imagination, but that is the nature of dreams. To those members and nonmembers who called with misgivings about flower-munching deer, barn-drilling pileated woodpeckers, Carolina wrens nesting in geraniums, sneaky squirrels, gatherings of geese, "dam" beaver and sinister snakes I say, enjoy! Convenient, well behaved wildlife enriches no one. It's against the very nature of nature.

## 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 Inabinett: 884-3997  
Maura Lake: 889-3415  
Herbert McMurphy: 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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28 21st Ave.  
Isle of Palms, S.C. 29451

## May CNHS Events

### May Field Trip The Washoe, Blake's Reserve in the Santee Coastal Reserve Saturday, May 17

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Gregorie's Texaco, Highway 17 North and 41. We will see warblers with possibilities including yellow-throated, prothonotary, parula, and pine, as well as Eastern kingbirds, and great crested flycatchers. Bring water, lunch and insect repellent. This will be a half-day trip.

### Open House at McAlhany Sunday, May 11 Gate Opens at 8:30 a.m.

Come enjoy spring at the McAlhany Sanctuary May 11. 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.

### New Plant Society Organizing

A Lowcountry chapter of The South Carolina Native Plant Society (SCNPS) that was started last year at Clemson is being organized, according to John Brubaker. The society is a non-profit organization founded in the upstate in 1996 by a group of people dedicated to the promotion of awareness and appreciation of our native plants and their habitats through education, research, and community outreach. SCNPS provides speakers for interested groups, such as gardening, conservation and civic organizations and schools. Members make presentations for special programs, lead field trips, and write articles for the quarterly SCNPS Newsletter. Speakers from across the state will lecture and conduct workshops on gardening with native plants, identifying native plants in the field, and preserving habitats at the first SCNPS symposium on May 24 at Clemson

One of the group's top goals is the protection of native plant communities. The society is committed to creating public support for preservation and conservation through education and to supporting legislation to protect rare and endangered plants and habitats. Members act to preserve natural plant communities through plant relocation projects, stewardship programs and cooperation with other environmental organizations in preservation initiatives.

Application forms and additional information are available through John Brubaker, 42 Warren Street, Charleston, SC 29403, (803) 722-4333, or Rick Huffman, South Carolina Native Society, P.O. Box 759, Pickens, SC 29671.

### May Program Prescribed Burning in the Forest May 13 at 7 p.m. Charleston Museum 360 Meeting Street Charleston

A representative of the U.S Forest Service will discuss prescribed burning in long-leaved pines. Partial burning techniques offer many benefits to the forest and its inhabitants. Officers for next year will be elected.



## Backyard Birder

### By Bruce Krucke

Mike Milligan, ornithologist for Cypress Gardens, has been sending me wonderfully thorough reports of the birds at the gardens. He saw 85 species in March. Some of the highlights were prairie warblers, prothonotary warblers, white crowned sparrows, kestrels (probably nesting), baby great horned owls, house wrens, yellow throated vireos, and hundreds of tree sparrows. (swallows??) Dot Reed still had goldfinches (in bright spring plumage) in mid-April. They were feeding with the house finches that are found year-round now in Colony North. Their first indigo bunting was a thrill. We've been enjoying both indigo and painted buntings here — the best view being their sitting side by side on a millet feeder — wow! In Kings Grant, Paul Kushubar watched a red-bellied woodpecker maneuver himself around until he could drink out of the hummingbird feeder.

Here are the recommended plants for our location for a hummingbird garden: sweet william, foxglove, nicotiana, red salvia, Indian paintbrush, bleeding heart, jewelweed, cardinal flower, bee balm, pinks, cross vine, trumpet creeper, red morning glory, cypress vine, honey suckle and confederate jasmine.

I haven't heard a lot of purple martin reports. We've finally gotten rid of the starlings here by having nothing but gourds, no apartments. So far I've seen only one pair in a gourd.

Someone sent me a column from Georgia showing a leucoistic (partly white) cardinal that was divided exactly in half — red and white. No one saw the famous white mockingbird at the end of Toogoodoo Road in 1996. Maybe this year.

While watching a luna moth on my windshield one evening, we noticed another bug on the roof of the car. It was a medium large beetle with a gold shell and beautifully luminous

turquoise to identify it with the use of my son's Audubon insect guide. It was a real goldbug — of Edgar Allan Poe fame!

Since this is my last column, I want to review a few basic rules for attracting birds to your back yard. You need to provide water, cover, nesting areas and food — in that order of importance. Native plants are always best. Leave some areas natural. Have grasses, flowers, small shrubs, large shrubs, small trees, large trees, evergreens, deciduous trees, and always choose specimens that flower and fruit. Don't cut everything — let some go to seed. If you're going to feed, feed throughout the summer — that's when there is the least natural food available before plants go to seed. You don't have to offer a huge variety of seeds. The essential ones are black oily sunflower seeds and plain white millet. Corn and wheat attract black birds. Peanut butter and suet mixtures are very popular. Leave a dead tree. Have a brush pile from the early fall until all the cold weather is through. Offer nesting materials in the spring. Have hanging feeders, tube feeders, platform feeders, sprinkle seed on the ground, keep the bird baths clean and filled. Etc., etc., etc! Enjoy!

## CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY T-SHIRTS ARE HOT!

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## Observations

Apr. 23	1 Dickcissel	North Charleston	Bob Chinn
Apr. 27	12 Painted Buntings	(off Cross County Road) Guerins Bridge Road	Bob Chinn
May 5	2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks	Wando Store near Deytens Shipyard & Dunes West	Betty & Andy Anderson

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.