

**The Lesser Squawk**  
Charleston Natural History Society  
P.O. Box 504  
Charleston, SC 29402  
(803) 577-7100

Bird seed pick up  
is Saturday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

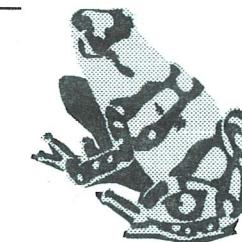


**CNHS Mission Statement:**  
The Charleston Natural History Society is a nonprofit environmental organization and chapter of the National Audubon Society that actively promotes awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, sponsored research and social activities.

## WANNAMAKER BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Charleston Natural History Society is conducting a biological assessment of our Wannamaker Sanctuary. We will be conducting monthly site visits and recording all the birds, mammals and amphibians encountered on this beautiful property. Leading our November 21, 1998 outing will be Julian Harrison. to date we have identified at least 12 species, but we expect there are likely to be at least 150-200 other birds who use the variety of riparian and forested habitats for nesting, breeding and feeding. We invite all members to join us, no prior experience necessary. Future site visits will focus on amphibians and plant communities.

If interested, please meet Julian on November 21, 1998 at the Walmart on 17A in Summerville (exit for 17A off of I-26N) at 6:30 am. We will carpool up to St. Matthews. Please bring boots, bug juice, and binoculars. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Richardson at 577-6510.



### Join the CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

If you join the National Audubon Society for \$20 a year, you automatically become a member of CNHS.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE:

Mail to the National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51003, Boulder, CO 80323-1003. Please make checks payable to NAS  
To join CNHS separately, please contact a Board Member and/or come to a meeting.

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# The Lesser Squawk

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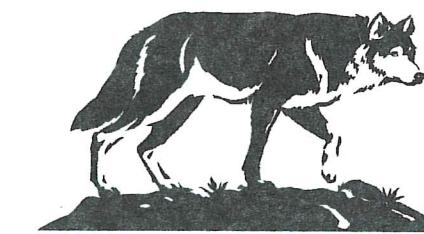
November, 1998

### WOLVES AND SHRIMP: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAPE ROMAIN NWR

NOVEMBER MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOV. 10<sup>TH</sup>  
CHARLESTON MUSEUM  
7:00 P.M.

Larry Davis, Director of the Sewee Visitor Center, will give a compelling talk about the endangered Red Wolves on Bull's Island and an update on shrimp baiting in this nationally important wildlife refuge. The wolves are at an interesting impasse. They have been reproducing pups, but the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Officials are running out of places where they can release them.

Another issue of interest is the rapidly escalating number of shrimp baiters using the refuge for this controversial practice. The number of baiters has increased 20,000% in 10 years! Larry will give an update on both issues, and answer questions. Please join us for this important and interesting program.



CNHS membership meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (except June, July & August) at the Charleston Museum at Meeting & John Streets at 7:00 p.m.

your walking shoes - bring bug spray, water, etc. This is a unique opportunity to visit this area of refuge which is being surrounded by intensive development. You can expect to see some wading birds, migrants (from the small Warblers to the much larger Bald Eagle). If you have any questions, please call Bob at 552-7884 or email him at rchinn@cchat.com.

SUNDAY AT  
MCALHANY NOV. 15<sup>TH</sup>  
8:30 TO 5:30  
INCLUDES BREAKFAST  
(RSVP)

This month's Sunday at McAlhany will be held on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and includes breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Please rsvp to Don Watts at 797-6783 by Nov. 13<sup>TH</sup> if you are coming for breakfast) If you don't want breakfast, just come to enjoy another beautiful fall day by the Edisto River.

Directions: Take Hwy. 61 north to Hwy. 15 and turn right; follow Hwy. 15 to Grover, in Grover turn left onto Hwy. 19; just past the intersection of county road 26 and Hwy. 19 you'll cross Cattle Creek; the entrance to the sanctuary is on the left side of the road approximately eight miles from Grover. From I-26, take the St. George exit and turn left onto Hwy. 15; follow Hwy. 15 to Grover and in Grover turn right on Hwy. 19 and proceed as above.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: TROPICAL FORESTS: CONSERVATION VERSUS CONSUMPTION

By Jane Lareau

I got into a — let us say animated — discussion with two women in a gift shop recently. When I entered the tiny store, the proprietor welcomed me and we had a friendly discussion about the crafts she was selling that benefitted underprivileged people worldwide. Another woman came in and they began talking about a wonderful little shop that specialized in tropical woods. "You simply must go there," one said to the other. "The furniture is so beautiful."

I stood nearby, staring at bric-a-brac. I don't think, under normal circumstances, I would have done this. But the atmosphere invited intimacy and the conversation about buying tropical wood was in stark contrast to the woman's purported desire to help poor people in other countries. Before I thought the thing through very well, I spoke. "I'm amazed people still feel it is okay to buy tropical wood, knowing what we do about the destruction of tropical forests worldwide and the damage it does to people and wildlife," I said.

It deteriorated rapidly. Their arguments were, incomprehensibly, "we should be concerned about humans and not just trees," and, "poor people have a right to tropical wood too." I guess I'm used to peoples' ignorance about environmental issues. What stunned me was the vehemence with which they defended their right to use what's left.

One more story. I recently visited a flooring store. I was thinking of replacing my carpet with a wooden floor, since I have such bad allergies. I asked the clerk if he had "certified wood" or wood that was reclaimed from old buildings, or otherwise labeled as environmentally okay. He had no idea what I was talking about. He called for the manager, who had no idea what I was talking about. No one had ever come in and asked for sustainably harvested wood.

There are so many points to make. I guess the only one I want to make here is, I'm worried. Is nobody listening? Do they really not care?

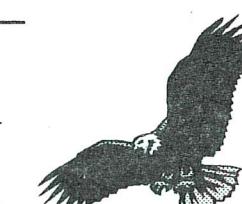
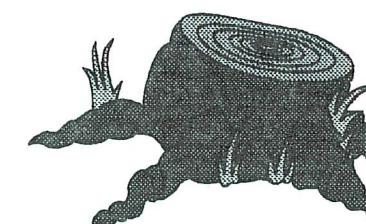
Since the beginning of time, we have used forests. But whatever damage we did was relatively hard to see up until this century. Now our damage is easy to see globally. During this century we destroyed half of the world's forests. Each year another 40 million acres of forest disappear as land is cleared by timber operations or converted to other uses, such as cattle ranches, plantations or small farms. In the past 30 to 40 years, the vast majority of deforestation has occurred in the tropics, where the pace is accelerating. Indeed, between 1960 and 1990, one fifth of all tropical forest cover was lost.

No wonder I can't stand quietly as people wax romantic about a beautiful mahogany sideboard. All I can see is the raging fires in Indonesia, brought on by logging and clearing, where 5 million acres of primary jungle were lost forever in one season. Why don't you cheer me up? Write to me at CNHS, P.O. Box 504, Charleston, SC 29402, and tell me how you have changed your purchasing habits over the last decade to reduce your impact on native forest and jungles. I'll print your responses in next month's column. And maybe I'll shed this gnawing fear that deep down, no one really cares.

### UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS

by Bob Chinn

At Parris Island, Bob and Bobbie saw 7 Wimbrels together and a Marble Godwit at the same time. Previously, They previously had seen only solitary Wimbrels. Please call him with your unusual sightings at 552-7884 or e-mail him at [rchinn@cchat.com](mailto:rchinn@cchat.com).



## BACKYARD BIRDER

By Van Atkins

What a beautiful October we have had. Great weather and lots of birds. In our backyard we still are blessed with the occasional appearance of the Bobwhite Quail, and the White-breasted Nuthatch is still taking sunflower seeds. A Kestrel and several Pine Warblers are here each day. A Chestnut-sided Warbler spent one day looking for insects in our trees and shrubs. My wife found two Gray Catbirds in the River Birch. Hummers are still here also.

Ben Smith had a Sharp-shinned Hawk whiz past him in his yard. He also had Redstarts, Black-and-white Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos and a male Painted Bunting which he saw on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Joan Rhett reported seeing a Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, three fledgling Red-tailed Hawks, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Great Horned Owl.

Mary Myers reported seeing a Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrows on October 17<sup>th</sup>. These are the first winter Sparrows she has seen.

Dennis Forsythe also had his first White-throated Sparrow and says "winter is here."

Richard Clark-Pounder of Summerville had two Rufous-sided Towhees, that being their first appearance in his yard. He also saw a common Yellowthroat, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, as well as a Northern Flicker. He saw a Bald Eagle fly across the Ashley River, and all the usual feeder birds are still at his feeders.

Judy Shillito in Fiddlers Marsh in Mount Pleasant has a pair of Pied-billed Grebes in her backyard. Lucky her.

Remember during the winter is when we feed the birds because they need it, not just to watch them! Have plenty of clean water (more important than seed) moving or dripping if possible. And don't forget to pick up your bird seed on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Parts America in Sea Island Shopping Center.

Call me with your backyard sightings: 755-7000 or [vatkins@awod.com](mailto:vatkins@awod.com)  
Good Birding! Van Atkins

### 1998-99 Board Members:

Jane Lareau	795-2150	Norm Brunswig	462-2150
Sharon Richardson	577-6510	Jeff Dennis	577-8890
Maura Lake	889-3415	Robert Donato	849-7139
Cornelia Carrier Gibbs	577-6437	Sue Wallace	722-8279
Joe Cockrell	762-3868	Julian Harrison	795-1694
		Arch McCallum	883-9818

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