

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

Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
Charleston, SC
Permit No. 349

**Bird seed pick up
is Saturday Nov. 7th
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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Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society

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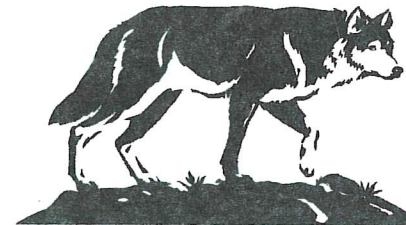
November, 1998

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

**NOVEMBER MEETING
TUESDAY, NOV. 10TH
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 contro-
versial 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
2nd 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. 15TH
8:30 TO 5:30
INCLUDES BREAKFAST
(RSVP)**

This month's
Sunday at McAlhany will
be held on Nov. 15th and
includes breakfast at 8:30
a.m. Please rsvp to Don
Watts at 797-6783 by Nov.
13th 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 approxi-
mately 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.*

NOVEMBER OUTING TO LAUREL HILL PLANTATION:

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14TH
8:00 AM
MEET AT TEXACO, US
17N AND HWY. 41,
MT. PLEASANT**

Bob Chinn will take
us to yet another of his
favorite places: Laurel Hill
Plantation which is located
off of Hwy. 41 near Mt.
Pleasant. This plantation
encompasses several
hundred acres, with both
salt marsh habitat and a
fresh water pond habitat, as
well as wooded areas. The
trip will last about 3-4
hours; trails are easy; wear

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?

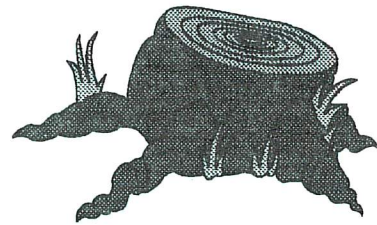
Since the beginning of time, we have used forests. But whatever damage we did was relatively hard to see up until this century. Now our damage is easy to see globally. During this century we destroyed half of the world's forests. Each year another 40 million acres of forest disappear as land is cleared 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.



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 5th. 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 17th. 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 7th at the Parts America in Sea Island Shopping Center.

Call me with your backyard sightings: 755-7000 or 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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