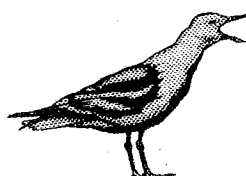


**The Lesser Squawk**  
**Charleston Natural History Society**  
P.O. Box 504  
Charleston, SC 29402  
(803) 577-7100

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

**Deadline for orders  
for the Bird Seed Sale  
is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - Pick up  
is Saturday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>**



EXPIRES Apr-98  
CHRISTOPHER WALTER  
2 MABELENE RD # 55A  
HANAHAN SC 29406-5309



**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.*

**OCTOBER MEETING:**

**STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
LEAST TERNS IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Tuesday, Oct.13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Charleston Museum**

Mark Dodd, a wildlife biologist working in the wildlife diversity division of SCDNR, will present a lecture and slide show on the nesting of Least Terns. These birds are still endangered on the West Coast and Midwest, but on the East Coast they are no longer considered endangered, BUT in South Carolina Least Terns are threatened due to the enormous decline of nesting colonies. These birds prefer to nest on wide, flat beaches and thus have lost a lot of nesting habitat due to human encroachment. Mark specializes in wading birds and Least Terns, and will share his beautiful slides with us. Least Terns were almost wiped out in the late 1800s as they were killed for their plumage. It is always nice to hear when conservation efforts have been effective in reversing the extinction of a species, and we are sure you will enjoy the program. There is free parking behind the Charleston Museum; come early for refreshments and good company.



**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.



# The Lesser Squawk

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society

FOUNDED 1905

affiliated with: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY 1970

Vol. XLV, No. 7

October, 1998

## Sneaking around those pesky environmental laws ... (You won't mind what you don't know, will you?)

By Jane Lareau

If you aren't hooked up to e-mail, and wired into a dozen different national environmental organizations, you may not be aware of something really creepy going on in Washington. It's a new way the anti-environment senators and house members have figured out to pass legislation without you knowing about it.

Let me give you one example. There is a particularly scary piece of legislation called the Endangered Species Act Reauthorization bill (S.1180). This act doesn't protect endangered species. In fact, it will make it much more difficult to do that. But you wouldn't know about that, because you aren't supposed to. The bill hasn't been debated and you haven't been allowed to learn about it and weigh in with your Senator. But it's being proposed as a rider to a big budget bill. And there's a reason for that.

The anti-environment congressmen (and women) couldn't gut the Clean Water Act, or the Endangered Species Act, and several other good environmental laws, because the public doesn't want them to. So what they are doing is stripping them one provision at a time, by adding things they want (or want killed) as riders. A road here, suspend environmental review there. One rider at a time they are trying to gut the laws, and the environment. Call it the death of a thousand cuts.

Riders are really bad business. Because they are jumbled up in the really big money bills, it is difficult for senators or the President to vote against them or veto them -- especially if its just one little tiny rider.

Here are just a few that are already attached to federal spending bills:

- mandate increased logging in the Tongass National Forest
- block salmon restoration on the Columbia River
- delay Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mining reform
- allow continuance of illegal fishing in Glacier Bay National Park
- allow grazing on public lands without environmental review
- allow a road through the Izembek Wilderness in Alaska without environmental review
- preserve subsidies for oil industry
- prohibit funds to decommission National Forest System roads
- delay National Forest planning
- undermine prescribed burning management

There's not a lot of room here to give you all the details. But you should call, e-mail or fax your Senators and Congressmen (info below) and tell them to take a strong stand against this sneaky way of passing legislation. It deprives you of the opportunity to

weigh in on very important legis-lation, like the Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Things like that shouldn't be tacked on as afterthoughts to unrelated bills.

Call the White House too. The message is simple - all anti-environmental rider must go. Ask President Clinton to oppose the Kempthorne anti-ESA bill as a rider or a stand alone bill. The White House Comment Line is: (202) 456-1111

Urge Senators Hollings and Thurmond and Congressman Sanford to vote against any budget bill that contains anti-environmental riders and especially to oppose Kempthorne's anti-ESA bill.

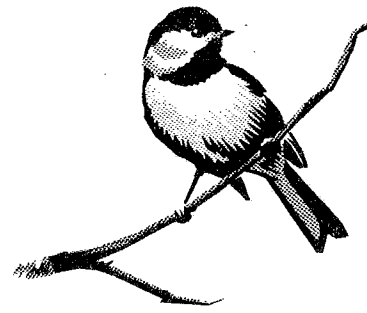
(Con'd on page 2)



*It's the only Earth we have  
We need to protect it  
Please see page 2 for phone & fax  
numbers of our representatives.*

# Backyard Birder

By Van Atkins



September has been a slow month. Not one phone call about birds in your backyards. Ya'll do still have birds flying around don't you? We have been blessed with several Hummers the past two months. Butterflies are taking advantage of all of the flowers still blooming in our yard; we have 50 or 60 on any given day. There are at least six Hummers feeding on the flowers with only one or two coming to the feeders. Other birds seen in our yard have been the White-breasted Nuthatch; Bob White Quail (it spent an entire day taking dust baths and eating white millet under the feeders); Robins; Tufted Titmouse; Carolina Chickadee; Carolina Wren; Brown Thrasher; House Finch, Grackles; Morning Doves; Blue Jays; and Downy, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers, as well as Cardinals.

I had a gentlemen from Goose Creek call me and ask for the formula for Hummingbird nectar. I told him it is 4 parts water to 1 part sugar; to mix, heat the water until it just starts to boil, then add the sugar, let cool, fill your feeders, and store remaining nectar in the refrigerator. While we are on the subject, now would be a good time to talk about housekeeping for birds. During hot weather don't leave the Hummingbird feeders up more than a few days without bringing them

in for a good cleaning with hot water. If there is any build up of black mold then use vinegar, hot water and grains uncooked rice or BBs; shake vigorously, then rinse. Leave the feeders up all winter in the hopes of feeding a migrant (there are several here each winter). Only fill it half full and change it once a week. Also make sure to check and clean the bird feeders that you have seed in. Moisture causes mold to build up in the bottom which could cause birds to die. Take the feeders apart and wash them out really well, dry and refill them with the seed you ordered from CNHS Bird Seed Sale (see flyer enclosed).

Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> Ben Smith and I did the Migration Count. We went to Patriots Point for a great day. A few of the better birds were 4 Woodstorks, 5 Baltimore Orioles, a lot of female Painted Buntings, and many Common Yellowthroat and Palm Warblers. If you want a good place to bird near by, I recommend Patriots Point.

Now next month's article will be even more interesting if you are in it and the only way that will happen is if you call me. 766-7000 or [valkins@audubon.com](mailto:valkins@audubon.com) Good Birding! Van.

## A Sad Good-bye

Long-time Audubon Society member Sarah Taylor passed away on September 2, at her cabin in Cedar Mountain, North Carolina. She was quite the world traveler, and had been to every continent, including islands in the Caribbean and Pacific, to see rare birds. Sarah was regular and welcome face at all the CNHS meetings. She was planning to go to Ethiopia this month. Gentle and concerned about her community and her environment, she will be sorely missed.

## Environmental Law

(Cont'd from page 1)

Here are there numbers:

Hollings: (202) 224-6121,  
fax (202) 224-4293;

Thurmond: (202) 224-5972,  
fax (202) 224-1300;

Sanford (202) 225-3177  
fax (202) 225-3407.

It might be better if you call and fax, since time is running out. You can write any of the three at Senator or Congressman, US Senate or US House, Washington, DC 20510 or 20515 (for Sanford.) Call me at 723-8035 if you have any questions.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
The Bird Seed Pick up will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, not on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> as printed on the original flyer. I regret the error and thank you for your patience.



## OCTOBER OUTING: TO BEARS BLUFF NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

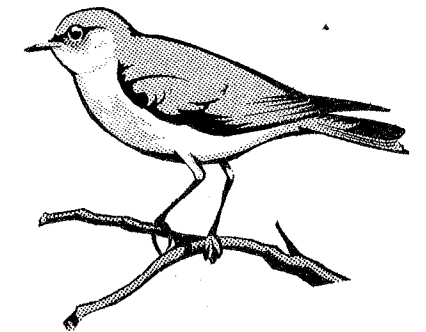
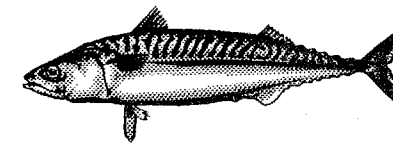
SATURDAY, OCT. 17<sup>TH</sup>

Hatchery manager Kent Ware will brief us on the research and activities involving the endangered shortnose sturgeon. This site on Wadmalaw Island is also an excellent birding location. Wear your walking shoes and plan to spend half the day enjoying this beautiful area. Meet at 8:30 at the McDonalds on Johns Island at the intersection of Maybank Hwy. and Main Rd.. For more information please call Joe Cockerell at 727-4707, ext. 17.

## Spend Sunday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at McAlhany Reserve

McAlhany Sundays continue on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Please come, bring friends, food, binoculars, paddle boats, whatever and take advantage of the good weather.

*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.*



## OCTOBER OUTING: TO DUNGANON HERITAGE PRESERVE

SATURDAY, OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup>

Located near Hollywood, Dunganon is one of DNR's newest preserves. It is comprised of 643 acres of wetlands and uplands. We will be walking approximately 3 miles of trails. Bring binoculars, camera, bug spray, and lunch. Meet at 8:00 at the Amoco at the intersection of U.S. 17 South and SC 162 (across from Nancy's Exotic Plants) For more information please call Joe Cockerell at 727-4707, ext. 17.

## 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 Cockerell	762-3868	Julian Harrison	795-1694
		Arch McCallum	883-9818

*The Lesser Squawk*, the newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society is published monthly except for the months of June, July and August. Deadline for copy is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Editor, Maura J. Lake 889-3415