

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



Deadline for orders  
for the Bird Seed Sale  
is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - see inside  
for details.

**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.

## Sundays at McAlhany Resume September 20<sup>th</sup>

Join us on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the exquisite beauty of this pristine sanctuary on the Edisto River. There's an ox-bow lake for fishing, trails for walking, along the river or the high bluffs in the upland forest habitat across the road. Now that the heat has died down, all will truly enjoy the Sunday treat. There are animals, reptiles, birds, mammals, and even a few people to be seen.

The house will be open and facilities available. Bring your own canoe, camera, food, drink to spend a day or an hour. There are facilities available and members present to introduce you to the property if you are not already a regular visitor. Can't wait to see you there!

*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.*

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



# The Lesser Squawk

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society

affiliated with NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY 1970

September, 1998

FOUNDED 1905

Vol. XLV, No. 6

## DHEC Board denies permit for proposed race track near Francis Beidler Forest, but proponents promise appeal

By Jane Lareau

Welcome back to a new year with the Charleston Natural History Society. We've got a lot planned for you this coming year, and we hope you'll join us on outings, programs, parties and picnics.

Please participate in our birdseed sale this year. You'll find the sign up form in this newsletter. We had a few mishaps with it last year, and fear we may have tried the patience of some of our best friends. Please give us a chance to redeem ourselves. The birdseed sale gives our members a great price break, they raise money for us, and we use that money to support efforts like the successful campaign to stop the race track at Four Holes Swamp, and the S.C. Center for Birds of Prey's study of the Swallow-tailed Kite.

Speaking of the race track, you probably already heard that the DHEC board voted to deny the race track permit. This is a smashing victory for conservation and common sense. We all owe a big thank you to the individual members of the DHEC board and the Governor for responding so positively to this threat. While we'd like this issue to go away, race track proponents have

indicated they will take this issue on to the next level of court. Also, there are other permits pending for the race track, and the whole issue could come before the DHEC board again. We should be generous in our thanks and give the board positive feedback when they do something right.

Here are the names and addresses of the DHEC board members. Please write each of them a quick note. It will be worth your time:

Cyndi C. Mosteller  
15 Dunecrest Lane  
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Brian K. Smith  
4030 West Beltline Blvd.  
Columbia, SC 29204

Rodney L. Grandy  
261 Magnolia Lake Road  
Aiken, SC 29803

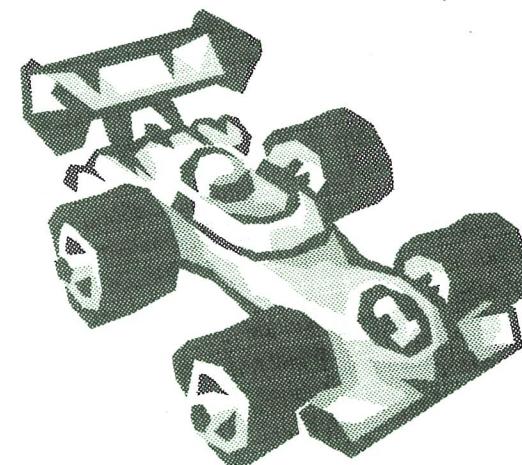
Mark B. Kent  
671 Runnymede Road  
Pickens, SC 29671

Dr. William M. Hull, Jr.  
Vice Chairman  
P.O. Box 2874  
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Roger Leaks, Jr.  
Secretary  
4519 Robney Drive  
Columbia, SC 29208

John H. Burris  
Chairman  
508 Evelyn Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210

Governor David Beasley  
The State House  
P.O. Box 11369  
Columbia, SC 29211



### 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.

## September outings better than ever!



Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
Wannamaker Preserve

Dr. Julian Harrison will lead an outing to the Wannamaker Preserve near St. Matthews, S.C., in Calhoun County. This property was recently bequeathed to CNHS, but Dr. Harrison has been leading outings to the area for several years and is very familiar with the territory. He will take you to see the stream bed and the bottomland (with some very impressive trees), among other places to spot birds, salamanders, snakes, frogs, or whatever else is around. Migratory birds, such as Warblers, should be spotted. This trip consists of some driving, with frequent stops to observe the wildlife of the area. This should be a very interesting and informative trip and we certainly hope to see you there. This trip will last until approximately 1:00 p.m. and you may want to bring lunch. Although the Wannamaker Preserve has no facilities, there are many along the way and nearby.

**DETAILS: Meet at 7:00 a.m. on SUNDAY, September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Wal-Mart parking lot at I-26 (Summerville exit). Expect to spend at least half a day, and bring your water, lunches, etc.; there are facilities available. We would like to arrange car pools as much as possible, so bring some friends. For more info, please call Julian at 795-1694.**

### 1998-99 Board Members:

Jane Lareau	795-2150
Sharon Richardson	577-6510
Maura Lake	889-3415
Cornelia Carrier Gibbs	577-6437
Joe Cockrell	762-3868

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>  
Parris Island

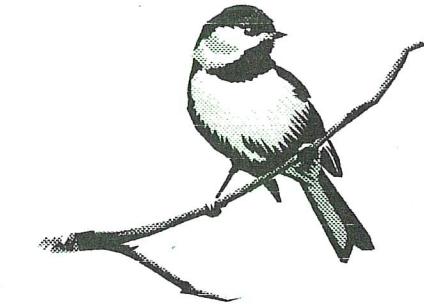
Join Bob Chinn for one of our less strenuous birding adventures to Parris Island. There's some driving, but there are many places to stop and observe an incredible variety of birds. Bob has been going to Parris Island birding for years, and knows his way around. Habitats include a salt water pond, tidal creeks and marshes, and pine and hardwood forests. Bob expects to see wading birds (Glossy and White Ibis, to name but two), shorebirds, terns, gulls, woodland birds, migratory warblers and raptors such (Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Eagles, to name but three). In September of 1996 Bob spotted Blackburnian and Cape May Warblers, which we know are quite rare sightings in this area. Please join Bob for an enjoyable and informative trip to Parris Island with frequent stops for birding and enjoyment of nature!.

**DETAILS: Meet at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Wal-Mart parking lot across from the new St. Francis Hospital. Expect to spend at least half a day, and bring your water, lunches, etc.; there are facilities available. We would like to arrange car pools as much as possible (Bob has room for 2 lucky people in his truck. For info, please call Bob at 552-7884.**

*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

## Backyard Birder

By Van Atkins



Wow! That was a fast summer. I was at work this morning at 6:00 a.m. and it was still dark. Well with September comes the return of many of our winter birds. Already I've found several Kingfishers and plenty of Red-tailed Hawks. Of course, Bob Chinn had a pair of Kingfishers all summer. They had a nest in a bank, but he did not see any babies. Later on he saw what appeared to be young Kingfishers. We had 13 baby Purple Martins this year. The Carolina Wren used the Williamsburg nest three times this season. The Bluebirds didn't nest here in the spring but later came for their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> nesting here, and they're still hanging around. Ben Smith had Bluebirds for the first time in several years. He also has Painted Buntings and Indigo Buntings at his feeder. Scott Hall called around May that he still had a Peregrine Falcon taking care of the Pigeon over-population. Giff Beaton has seen a lot of Black Terns and 2 Sandwich Terns where he works at the golf course. Ben, Giff, Charlie, and myself went down to the rookery at Yemassee, where we saw lots of Wood Storks, Herons and Egrets, as well as a lot of different passerines on both sides of the road.

Mr. Witherspoon of Mt. Pleasant called with a report of what he described as a Frigatebird soaring over the water in front of his house, and later called with 2 Swallow-tailed Kites. We have several Rufous-throated Hummingbirds this summer; they stay on the flowers most of the time but a few come to the feeders. Several people have reported seeing Mississippi Kites, and I have even seen a few over my house. We look forward to seeing you at the CNHS meeting on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (Charleston Museum).  
*Call me with your backyard sightings: 755-7000 or [vatkins@awod.com](mailto:vatkins@awod.com)*

Good Birding! Van.

September Meeting  
September 8th  
Charleston Museum  
7:00 p.m.

Meg Hoyle, a wildlife biologist with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, introduces us to the diamondback terrapin, the only turtle found in S.C. marshes. This quiet and shy reptile is on the decline and Meg's research concentrates on what may be done to reverse this problem. She will also share with us the incredible slides which she has taken during this research. Please come -- there will be T-shirts for sale, refreshments, and our usual good fellowship.

## UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS

By Bob Chinn

August 4<sup>th</sup> Trish Welling saw 2 Swallow-tailed Kites on the Shadowmoss golf course and on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bob saw Black-neck Stilts at the Magnolia Cemetery. Also Bob observed a pair of Kingfishers nesting near his home in Pepperhill. This is quite unusual because Kingfishers prefer steep banks for nesting.

Apparently this pair found the banks in Pepperhill just right, as Bob later spotted young Kingfishers hanging around.

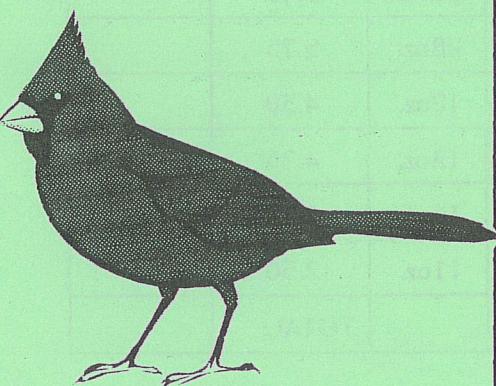
*Please call Bob with your unusual sightings at 552-7884.*

## Feed Preferences of Common Birds

*Help Support CNHS and lure this birds to your yard:*



Attract these birds to  
your yard while  
helping to support the  
CHARLESTON NATURAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY



Order Deadline Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>  
Pick up Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at  
Parts America  
Sea Island Shopping Ctr.  
Mt. Pleasant, SC

**Cardinals** will be attracted to your yard if you offer sunflower seeds. Research at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has shown that birds prefer the oil variety of sunflower seed two to one over other varieties. We offer black oil sunflowers as well as black stripe, blended and jumbo Sunflowers.

**Goldfinches** enjoy small seeds such as golden millet and niger (thistle) seed. In addition they enjoy sunflowers - especially fine sunflower chips.

**Juncos** will rummage for small grain seeds under your backyard feeder in an effort to find millet, wheat, and sunflowers. Take time to scatter some Naturalist's Choice seed directly on the ground for these "snowbirds."

**Finches** are a sociable little bird who will readily come to your feeder looking for millet, milo, wheat, niger and other small grains found in our Naturalist's Choice custom mixed wild bird feed. At the same time finches are readily attracted to sunflowers.

**Grosbeaks** area favorite of all bird watchers. They don't come down from Canada every year, but when they do be sure to have an abundant supply of sunflower seeds ready for them.

**Siskins** love niger (thistle) seed and will come to your thistle feeder in flocks. They normally will summer in Canada, but come south for the winter. They like to hop about conifer trees. Watch for them.

**Chickadees** love to eat the plump kernels of sunflower seeds. It is always fun to watch a Chickadee come to the feeder. Normally it will take just one seed, fly off, crack it open, and enjoy the meat of the seed. Then come back for another seed, over and over all day long.

**Blue Jays** are the watchmen of the bird feeder. They keep an eye out for predators and alert the other birds when there is danger. Blue Jays especially like peanuts, which are found in Naturalist's Choice premium wild bird feed.

**Downy Woodpeckers** are attracted to suet that you include in your bird feeding station. To a woodpecker suet represents a substitute for the insects and bugs it normally eats. Don't confuse the Downy with its large cousin the Hairy Woodpecker.

**CNHS Annual Bird Seed Sale**

Qty.	Description	Lbs.	Price	Total
	Premium (Regional) Wild Bird Seed	20	9.00	
	Premium (Regional) Wild Bird Seed	40	17.00	
	Special (No Corn) Wild Bird Seed	20	9.00	
	Special (No Corn) Wild Bird Seed	40	17.00	
	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	25	12.00	
	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	50	23.00	
	Striped Sunflower Seed	25	14.00	
	Striped Sunflower Seed	50	26.00	
	Cracked Corn (Fine/Medium)	25	8.00	
	Sunflower Chips	25	27.00	
	Peanut Splits (Pieces)	25	28.00	
	Peanut Hearts (Nibs)	25	26.00	
	Safflower Seed	25	19.00	
	Niger (Thistle) Seed	8	9.00	
	Niger (Thistle) Seed	25	27.00	
	Maine Manna Original Suet Bell	28oz.	5.50	
	Maine Manna Peanut Suet Bell	28oz.	5.75	
	Maine Manna Blueberry Suet Bell	28oz.	5.75	
	Maine Manna Original Suet Cake	12oz.	4.50	
	Maine Manna Peanut Suet Cake	12oz.	4.75	
	Pine Tree Seed/Suet	11oz.	2.25	
	Pine Tree Peanut Butter Suet	11oz.	2.50	
			<b>TOTAL:</b>	

**Deadline for Orders Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Pick up Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**at**  
**Parts America**  
**Sea Island Shopping Ctr.**  
**Mt. Pleasant, SC**  
**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Questions? Call 577-7100**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W)

*Please mail order & payment to:*

CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 504

CHARLESTON, SC 29401

*Please feel free to duplicate this form.*