



The Lesser Squawk

Newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society/Local Chapter of the National Audubon Society
FOUNDED 1905 affiliated with NAS in 1970

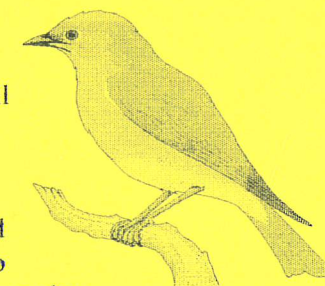
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April, 1999

BACKYARD BIRDER

By Van Atkins

I read the other day on the e-mail that a person was putting up his Hummingbird feeder and taking down his bird feeders for the summer. I don't agree, in that even if the birds don't need my help during the summer, I still like to watch them. And what better place than my den window?



Do you have a Bluebird box but no Bluebirds? Try putting out mealworms for them. If you need a Bluebird house you can purchase them anywhere birding supplies are sold. It is still not too late to put up a Martin house, but if you get one now you might want to consider buying a continuous loop tape with a Martin call on it to play it for several hours each day.

I hope you are all aware and concerned about the new rules that are being suggested for the Santee Coastal Refuge. These new rules would provide more access to hunters and less to the public (birders, for example). Contact your local representative to let them know you are concerned.

Mary Myers says she has only had one Goldfinch this year and only on one day. Marge and Vic Del Ben were privileged to see a pair of Great Horned Owls last week. Ben Smith says all of the ducks are gone from his pond -- just Coots left. Did you know they are in the Rail family? I still have White-throated and Chipping Sparrows in my yard, but the Juncos have left. Carolina Wrens, Carolina Chickadees, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds and Purple Martins are nesting in the yard. Yesterday I noticed 4 Black Vultures circling overhead, one pair higher than the other and doing what appeared to be a courtship flight. Love is blind!. Call me with your sightings 766-7000 or fax 556-1592 or e-mail vatkins@awod.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

By Bob Chinn

Dorothy Glover saw an albino Chipping Sparrow in January and a Whip-o-will on Marsh 27th. Betsy Weatherly says a Snow Goose spent this winter with the domestic geese at who works at Cainhoy Stables on Clements Ferry Road. Ruth DeHaven has seen a white Carolina Wren off and on over the past year down town. Bob Chinn saw 4 Ospreys on April 4th and they appeared to be courting. Must be the season.



Call Bob at 552-7884 or e-mail him at rchinn@cchat.com.

The Lesser Squawk
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MAY is WETLANDS MONTH.

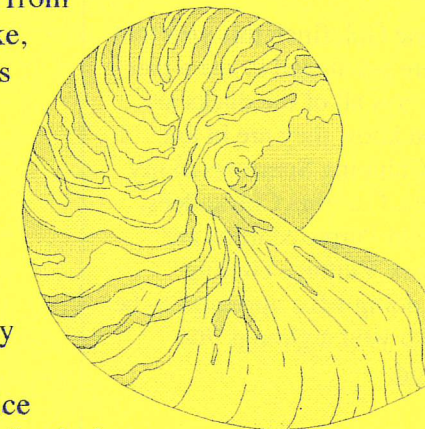
CNHS Mission Statement:

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.

RUDY MANKE:

APRIL MEETING BRINGS BACK AN OLD FRIEND

Join us on **Tuesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Charleston Museum** to hear from the ever-popular Rudy, Manke, of PBS' *Naturescene*. Rudy is always entertaining and has an amazing and interesting repertoire of stories of the natural world — from seashells to mountain laurels, he knows our state very well. If you missed Rudy last year, be sure to ask him about his grandmother's advice regarding snakes (she wasn't fond of them). He is one of South Carolina's best known naturalists -- don't miss this opportunity to listen to his stories and question him about puzzling things you have seen. Come early for refreshments. Free parking behind the Museum.



APRIL OUTING:

SUNDAY AT MCALHANY IN THE SPRING

Come visit the pristine McAlhany Sanctuary on **Sunday, April 17th** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to enjoy this beautiful sanctuary is located by the Edisto River just outside of Grover, South Carolina. Plenty of room for picnics, hiking, boating, lazing around, fishing, or just taking in the beauty of nature. For directions call Jeff Dennis at 577-8890.