

The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
PO Box 504
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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.



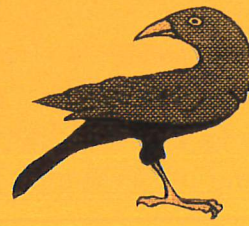
Mark Your Calendars

Here is the schedule of upcoming events:

- Dec. 4 - Julian Harrison will lead an outing to Huntington Beach State Park. Meet at 6:15 am at the Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant. Look for gray Trooper parked near Hwy. 17.
- Dec. 11 - Potluck Christmas party at Fish Fry Shack on Sullivan's Island 6 to 9 pm.
- Dec. 18 - Christmas Bird Count - McClellanville.
- Dec. 28 - Christmas Bird Count - Charleston.
- Dec. 30 - Christmas Bird Count - Litchfield/Pawleys Island.
- Jan. 2 - Christmas Bird Count - Ace Basin.
- Jan. 2 - Christmas Bird Count - Santee.
- Jan. 15 - Santee National Wildlife Refuge outing.

DON'T FORGET BIRDSEED PICKUP

Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9 am to 1 pm at
Abide-Awhile Nursery and Garden Center,
1460 Hwy. 17 North Bypass
(Behind Ryan's Steakhouse)



1999 Board Members

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Hicklin is November Speaker

Robert M. Hicklin, Jr., an expert on Southern Art and owner of the Charleston Renaissance Gallery, will speak on natural history as depicted in Southern art at the meeting Tuesday, Nov. 9.

He will talk about the naturalists who were hired by curious Europeans to collect speci-

mens of flora and fauna and record what they saw in the South.

A wine and cheese reception begins at 6:30 pm with the program at 7 pm in the Charleston Museum.

Mr. Hicklin has graciously donated a copy of *The Charleston Renaissance*,



which he published, to be raffled for our Turtle Fund.

Leisurely Wambaw Paddle Set for Fall Foliage

Saturday, Nov. 20, Tripp Compton will lead a canoe/kayak trip down Wambaw Creek through a National Wilderness Area



in the Francis Marion Forest. Meet at the Sewee Center, Hwy. 17 N at 11 am. It will be an easy trip, paddling with the tide. Fall foliage should be at its peak so bring your camera, binoculars, picnic lunch, etc. The trip will last approxi-

mately four hours, with take-out by 4 pm. Please call Tripp to sign up at 763-4639.



McAlhany Sanctuary Monthly Open House

Join us at the McAlhany Sanctuary from 9 am to 5 pm. Sunday Nov. 21. Jeff Dennis will lead a hike around the oxbow lake at 9:30 a.m. Directions: Take Hwy. 61 to Cannadys Crossroads and turn right onto Hwy. 15. When you reach the small community of Grover, take the first left onto Wire Rd. Go over I-95 and across a small creek. Then look for our sign on the left side of the road. The trip takes a little more than an hour. Hope to see you there! Questions? Call Jeff at 577-8890.

Hearing Nov. 17th On Port Expansion

Charlestonians face a momentous decision about the future of our area. The proposed port expansion, which the S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources has formally opposed, would cause serious damage to the environment and quality of life.

More than 167 acres of wetlands and open water would be dredged and/or filled. The project would require 842 acres of pavement and generate 27,000-plus vehicle trips a day.

The expansion would ultimately bring some 30,000 new residents to our area. A 12.9-mile railroad through the Francis Marion Forest will impact four red-cocaded woodpecker nesting sites.

Attend the meeting Nov. 17th at 7 pm in the Performing Arts Center of the North Charleston Coliseum to learn more about the environmental impacts and to express your views.



Message from the President

Dry weather helped us celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week Oct. 16 with our picnic at Grove Plantation in the Ace Basin refuge. Twenty-four people spanning seven decades enjoyed good food, nature and fellowship.

Richard Clarke-Pounder, chief of our Audubon Refuge Keepers program, and Donny Browning, Ace Basin Refuge manager, announced the good news that we will build not one, but two, observation platforms on the refuge this winter. The \$5,000 grant our society received, plus donations of supplies by various local businesses, was parlayed into a matching grant of an additional \$3,000!

Donny showed us the plans for one handicapped-accessible platform that will

overlook an impoundment that features thousands of ducks in the winter. This platform is a short walk from the plantation house. We piled into cars and the back of two pick-ups to drive to the other site which has shore birds year-round.

Richard was accompanied by his wife Audrey and daughters Christine and Catherine. Christine kept the bird count which totaled 20 species including black-throated blue warbler, sharp-shinned hawk, palm warbler, swamp sparrow, eastern phoebe and white eyed vireo.

Highlights of our nature hikes



were a barn owl's nest (complete with owl pellets, two tiny mice skulls and bones plus crab shells) and a baby

garter snake which fascinated the children.



Those enjoying the day were Reavis and Sue Chancellor, Paul and Veronica Melish, Earl and Valerie Warren, Sandra Grauer and Herb Shoenberg. Joan Whitlatch was accompanied by her daughter, Lisa Hodiern, and two granddaughters, Catherine and Sarah Hodiern. Joe Cockrell and his wife, Mary, treated us to our first viewing of their precious brand new daughter, Elizabeth. Bob Chinn and Joe were the chefs. Other board members attending were Laura Jewell, Jeff Dennis and Jennifer Lamar.



Bird Count Needs Volunteer Boat



The fact that Christmas falls on a Saturday this year poses problems for our Christmas Bird Count. During the winter, the excursion boat to Bulls Island runs only on Saturday.

Ed Blitch has chosen Tuesday

Dec. 28th for the bird count, and it would cost \$800 plus dollars to rent the excursion boat for that day. Does anyone have a boat that could ferry four or six birders to Bulls Island and wait a few hours to bring them back? Please contact Ed Blitch as soon as possible at 795-5277.

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE

www.audubon.org/chapter/sc/charleston
contact Webmaster Bob Chinn for info. or suggestions
843-552-7884 or e-mail rchinn@cchat.com



Backyard Birder by Van Atkins



The winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club went smoothly and a great big thanks to the CNHS for sponsoring us. Everyone commented how good the social hour was.

We had a total of 178 birds for the weekend, a lot of good birds were seen at Magnolia Gardens. Thanks to Mrs Hasti for giving us passes for the weekend. It was one of the highlights. We had field trips to 35 different locations so I will not be able to tell about all of them. The Dill property had a lot of good birds—the most notable was Wilson's warbler. Four or five were seen there. A merlin and a

peregrine falcon were a couple of the many birds seen at Capers Island. Medway plantation was a special place for all who went, thanks to Bob Horton for being a gracious host and so willing to share the history of the Plantation with the group.

On Sunday morning Giff Beaton had a large flock of migrating warblers come to his place including a Cape May warbler.

I haven't had any calls about birds at your feeders. Migrants should be coming now. The hummingbirds are still in our yard, but it won't be long before they head south. However, don't take down your feeders, and you may get a rufous hummingbird this winter.



Sightings by Bob Chinn

Ed Blitch - rose breasted grosbeak while deer hunting in early October.

Several people - rose breasted grosbeaks on the Dill Property outing Oct. 9.

Anne Shahid - gray cheeked thrush at Biedler Forest Oct. 5.

Hal Curry - collared doves on Sullivan's Island Oct. 11.

Bob Chinn - immature Baltimore oriole in backyard (North. Charleston) Oct. 21.

Mark Jenkins - Four ospreys diving for fish; four wood storks and two kingfishers at a pond off Savannah Hwy. south

of Bees Ferry Road Oct. 25.

Report rare or unusual sitings in the Charleston coastal area to Bob Chinn, Tel. 552-7884 or e-mail him at rchinn@cchat.com.

Aquarium Tour Set Nov. 6th



The South Carolina Aquarium will offer CNHS members a tour of the facility housing animals collected for the aquarium. The tour begins at 11 a.m. Nov. 6. Those interested should RSVP to Denise Ciccarelli at 579-8661.

Dennis Forsythe called with a long list of migrating birds that came by his area including several different warblers as well as several thrushes. He also flushed a American bittern at the pond at Patriots Point. There were also song and swamp sparrows there. Good birding to you all! Don't forget to call Van Atkins at 766-7000 or e-mail vatkins@awod.com.

Dill Outing Tallied Thirty-Two Species

The Wilson's warblers had left, but a black-throated blue warbler in bright spring(!) plumage was the highlight of the October outing to the Dill Property. Under the leadership of Van Atkins, 32 species were sighted including prairie and magnolia warblers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo bunting, American kestrel, sharp-shinned hawk, chimney swifts and redstarts.

There were numerous immature little blue herons, black clouds of migrating tree swallows, and formations of flying double-crested cormorants and white ibis (mixture of mature and immature). Enjoying the beautiful weather were Katherine Fleming, Nancy Sliwa, Burton Moore, Don Jones, Richard Clarke-Pounder, Charlie Walters and Cornelia Carrier Gibbs.

Carolina Dog Was Fascinating Subject

At the October meeting Lehr Brisbin spoke on the Carolina Dog and other topics for one of the most engaging programs in memory. For the unlucky ones who missed his talk and attendees who would like more information about this primitive dog, check out the website:

www.carolinadogs.org