

The Lesser Squawk
Charleston Natural History Society
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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.

Sightings

by Bob Chinn



- In May, Sandra Grauer had a turtle dove in her yard for approx. 3 weeks. She also saw additional turtle doves along the interstate.
- A Wilson's warbler was seen by many people at the Dill property on James Island, 9/ 24-26
- On Monday the 27th of September my wife and I saw a magnificent frigatebird at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, near Beaufort.
- A local fisherman said he first saw the frigate bird on Friday the 24th.

Sightings area is for reporting and getting info about rare & unusual sightings in the Charleston & coastal areas. If you have a rare or unusual sighting call Bob Chinn @ 843-552-7884 or e-mail rchinn@cchat.com

Come Look For Wilson's Warblers On Dill Property

Carolina Bird Club members saw Wilson's Warblers on the Dill Property during their meeting here Sept. 24-25. Come out with Van Atkins Saturday, October 9th at 8 a.m., and maybe we'll see some of these rare visitors to our area along with other fall migrants. Take Folly Road to Camp Rd., take a right (unless you are coming from Folly Beach, then take a left) continue to Riverland; take a left and go .9 miles. Wait inside the gate.

Aquarium Facility Available for Tour

Christopher Andrews, Ph.D., executive director of the South Carolina Aquarium, will offer CNHS members a behind-the-scenes look at the thousands of animals collected for the aquarium. The tour will begin at 11 a.m. Nov. 6. Those interested should RSVP to Denise Ciccarelli at 579-866.



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October 1999

PICNIC AT ACE BASIN HONORS REFUGE WEEK

Come one, come all! Although Floyd cancelled our September program on the Audubon Refuge Keepers program (ARK), we will launch our ARK and celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week with a picnic October 16 at Grove Plantation in the Ace Basin.

At 11 a.m. will have a very informal groundbreaking ceremony for the Ace Basin Refuge's first observation platform. CNHS was awarded a \$5,000 grant to build this platform which will overlook an impoundment area within walking distance of the historic plantation house (it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places). Construction will begin sometime in November.

The picnic will feature Chinn Chili, hot-dogs, potato chips and apples as well as beer and cold drinks. If you don't like the menu, bring your own picnic lunch. Vegetables, salads or desserts to share will be welcome. There will be plenty of time for hiking and looking for fall migrants. Children are welcome.

Since we need to buy food, please RSVP by Oct. 14. Sue Wallace will keep the tally. Call her at 843-722-8279. If she is not there, leave your name and number attending on her answering machine.

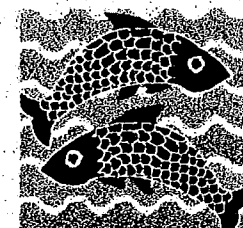
Directions to Grove Plantation: Take Hwy. 17 towards Savannah. When you see the sign for the Ace Basin, turn left onto Hwy. 174. At the caution light in Adams Run take a right, continue along this road and look for signs. Take a left at the refuge entrance sign and continue along this dirt road for about 2 miles to the plantation. Trip takes about 45 minutes to an hour from downtown.

At press time, 25 questionnaires had been returned. Thank you so much for responding and special thanks to those who offered to volunteer. But we have 1200 members, and that response rate is a mere 2%! We have enclosed the questionnaire a second time. We want your views. We need your views to determine the future of our society. It only takes a couple of minutes. PLEASE respond!

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Lehr Brisbin Talks on Carolina Dog

Lehr Brisbin will speak on the Carolina Dog at the October 12th meeting of the Charleston Natural History Society. The program at the Charleston Museum, begins at 7 p.m., preceded by a reception at 6:30 p.m. Wine, soft drinks, cookies, cheese and fruit will be served. Bring your dog lover friends. Brisbin, a senior ecologist at the Savannah River Ecology Lab, will talk about his research on the Carolina Dog, an ancient breed of pack dog that resembles the Australian dingo.



McAlhany Sanctuary Open House October 17th

Join us for a day in the country at the McAlhany Sanctuary from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, October 17th. Enjoy birdwatching, canoeing, hiking, etc. Directions: Take Hwy. 61 to Cannadys Crossroads and turn right onto Hwy. 15. When you reach the small community of Grover, make your 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 Dennis at 577-8890.

Message from the President Suburban Sprawl: From Marsh to Mall

Do you ever dread to look at the Homes Section in the Sunday paper? I do, because it usually features a development that has destroyed still another natural area.

Certainly the evacuation for Floyd has emphasized the population increase in our hurricane-prone area since Hugo. Many of us are part of this population increase. I moved here in the fall of 1994, and I hardly recognized what I first saw that year. Since I moved here the James Island connector has opened with its Lowe's right there on the marsh. The Glenn McConnell Parkway with St. Francis Hospital, Home Depot, Lowe's and its new residential development are all new since my arrival. Mt. Pleasant has extended itself miles beyond the boundaries I first saw.

Of course it's not just Charleston. I evacuated to Hendersonville and Charlotte during Floyd. Subdivisions are eating into the forest in the mountains of North Carolina and malls and subdivisions are spreading over the Piedmont around Charlotte. I read recently that Ralph Nader was questioning the effect the Internet would have on the prices of retail real estate as more and more people begin shopping online. It could indeed be a blessing if the internet succeeds in stopping the proliferation of shopping malls that reach into undeveloped areas. When stores move to the latest mall location, they abandon the old shopping center that becomes an eyesore. Each mall has destroyed a natural habitat, native plant communities and the parking lots contribute greatly to urban runoff that pollutes natural waterways.

We don't want to be like so many who invade a place and then want to pull up the bridge to keep others out of the paradise we have come

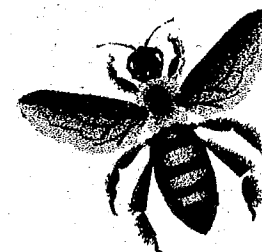
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to love, but something has got to be done or the paradise will be lost. The tri-county population will add a quarter of a million people in the next three decades.

Watch for an outcry for more evacuation routes that would involve widening existing roads or creating new ones -- eating up still more of our natural environment.

The Charleston Natural History Society has signed on as one of the sponsors of the Greenbelt Education Project which you have read about in the newspaper. The project will address the issue of suburban sprawl by advocating the following tools: town zoning, concentration of infrastructure investments, open space zoning, donation of conservation easements and purchase of development rights. We hope that this set of relatively small, mutually reinforcing actions will work to protect rural communities and the surrounding landscape from unnecessary suburban development. We'll be writing more about these tools in future newsletters.

Cornelia Carrier Gibbs,
President



Join the Charleston Natural History Society!
Join the National Audubon Society and you will automatically become a member of CNHS.

First Time Members - \$20 Renewing Members - \$35
Senior Citizens/Students - \$15

Name _____
Address _____
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Zip _____ Telephone # _____ (optional)
Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center
PO Box 51003, Boulder, CO 80323-1003
Please make checks payable to NAS, write Chapter Code U-51

CHNS is now on the internet!

The address is

www.audubon.org/chapter/sc/charleston.

Contact Webmaster Bob Chinn for info or suggestions.

Planning Ahead

Several who have returned the questionnaire requested more advanced notice about our outings and programs so here is the schedule for the next couple of months:

Oct. 25 - deadline for ordering bird seed

Nov. 9 - speaker will be Robert M. Hicklin, Jr., owner of the Charleston Renaissance Gallery. Mr. Hicklin, who is considered the authority on Southern art, will speak to us on flora and fauna in the art of our region. He has graciously donated a copy of the book he published "The Charleston Renaissance" to be raffled for our Turtle Fund.

Nov. 13 - birdseed pickup 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nov. 20: a 4-hour canoe/kayak trip on Wambaw Creek to view fall foliage in this national wilderness area within the Francis Marion National Forest. Tripp Compton will lead this trip. We need to know in advance who is going. So call Tripp at 763-4639 to sign up or ask questions.

Dec. 4 - Julian Harrison will lead an outing to Huntington Beach State Park.

Dec. 11 - Christmas party on Sullivan's Island.

1999 Board Members

Cornelia Carrier Gibbs	577-6437	Sharon Richardson	556-2281
Jeff Dennis	577-8890	Joe Cockrell	762-3868
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