

The Lesser Squawk
Charleston Natural History Society
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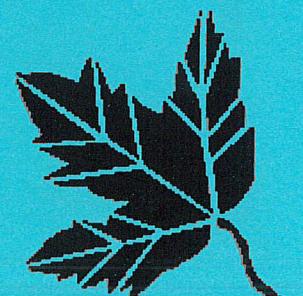
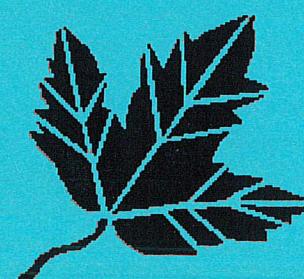
The Charleston Natural History Society is a nonprofit environmental organization and chapter of the National Audubon Society that actively promotes awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, sponsored research and social activities.

Sightings
by Bob Chinn



- On July 28th, I saw a broad winged hawk that appeared to be migrating South, in the N. Charleston area. Not unusual except pretty early for migration.
- From CBC rare bird alert: A roseate spoonbill was seen on Kiawah Island in July. Kiawah Island is just south of Charleston. A reddish egret was seen in the jetty pond at Huntington Beach SP, in July
- 5 reddish egrets present on Deveaux Bank, SC in August.

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



The Lesser Squawk

The newsletter of the Charleston Natural History Society Local Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Founded 1905

NAS affiliation 1970

Volume XLVI No. 6

September 1999

Message from the President

My goal as the new president of the Charleston Natural History Society is to get more of our 1,200 members to participate in our activities. I know that many of you get this newsletter because you are longtime members of the National Audubon Society and continued your membership when you moved to this area. I have had people come up to me and say, "Oh, I've seen your name in The Squawk newsletter. What is that?" Well, The Squawk is the newsletter of the local chapter of the National Audubon Society. A bit of history: The Charleston Natural History Society was founded in 1905, and became affiliated with the National Audubon Society in 1970. Although we generally use the original name, we are in fact the Charleston Audubon Chapter. A dynamic new board of directors is working hard to make our chapter more active and interesting for all our members. As you can see we have an expanded newsletter with a new format. We welcome your suggestions about the contents of the newsletter. There were some problems last year, and several newsletters arrived in your homes the day of the meeting. We promise to have the newsletter out in advance of our meetings and outings.

Though the CNHS is 95 years old, we are up to date with the latest computer technology. Visit our new web page at www.audubon.org/chapter/sc/charleston. Then log on to the Charleston chapter. Longtime member and hard worker Bob Chinn is our webmaster. Give him your suggestions.

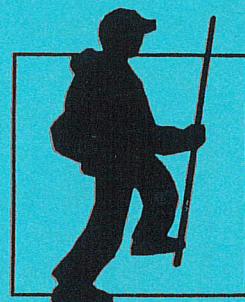
The subject matter of our programs is also greatly expanded. This year we plan to have speakers on flora and fauna in Southern art; research on the Carolina dog; archeological digs in South Carolina; dinosaurs and the phenomenon of Carolina Bays. We hope for the following return engagements: Dr. Richard Porcher to talk about his newest book on South Carolina wildflowers and Jim Elliott to talk about the swallow-tailed kite study which our chapter helped finance (Jim always brings some beautiful raptors for us to view up close). All of the speakers graciously contribute their time for our programs and member attendance expresses our gratitude. Each program begins at 7 p.m. preceded by a reception at 6:30 p.m. with wine, soft drinks, cheese, fruit and cookies.

We are expanding our outings choices too and will tailor them to fit the results of the enclosed questionnaire. We have a wonderful group of active members. If you are one of our 1,000 plus inactive members, do come join us for some of these outstanding programs and outings. Other articles in the newsletter discuss some of our planned projects for the year. We need volunteers for these programs. I know many of you are retired with varied talents that that you could bring to the society. Please let us hear from you. We need your input to energize our chapter. Enclosed in this newsletter is a questionnaire. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to us (include it with your birdseed order if you like). Hope to see you at the September meeting and throughout the year.

Cornelia Carrier Gibbs
Board President, CNHS

McAlhany
Sanctuary
Open House
September 19th

Jean Everett will lead a wild-flower walk starting at 9 AM. Open House at the McAlhany Sanctuary is every third Sunday in the month. Join us for a day in the country. Entertain yourself via bird watching, canoeing, hiking, etc. Facilities available. The hours are 9 to 5. 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 across I-95 and a small creek, then look for our sign on the left side of the road. The trip is a little over an hour. Hope to see you there! Questions? Call Jeff Dennis 577-8890.



National Meeting of the Earth Stewards by Sue Wallace

The Earth Stewards National Program meeting was held June 22-24, 1999 at the Cape Romain Wildlife Refuge. Sue Wallace attended this meeting and reported to the CNHS board at their summer meeting July 22, 1999. Help is needed in many areas including working with students in the field as well as donations of material and money. If you feel that you can help or would like more information, please contact Sue Wallace at 722-8279 in Charleston.

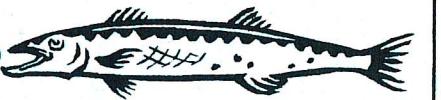
Earth Stewards is an environmental education collaboration among the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, schools, other governmental agencies, businesses and local organizations. It empowers neighborhood schools and their communities to become stewards of fish and wildlife habitats.

School teachers and administrators work with natural resource professionals to develop and teach interdisciplinary curriculums that are issue based and community based. Local national wildlife refuges and other federal lands become "natural classrooms", illustrating concepts discussed in class. Field trips and student stewardship projects connect classroom lessons to the real world. Student stewardship projects have included wetland restoration, stream cleanup, tree planting for erosion control, stream bank revegetation and soil erosion containment.

from Joanne Goodwin, Earth Stewards Coordinator

National Audubon Society 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20006

(202) 861-2242 (202) 4290 fax or jgoodwin@audubon.org



BACKYARD BIRDER



by Van Atkins

Welcome to Hotalina formally known as Carolina. If you have seen a bird with its mouth shut it was probably dead; all that I have seen have had their tongues hanging out looking for water. Speaking of such I hope everyone has bird baths out with clean water in them. Moving water is even better; the birds love a dripper or mister. See your local bird supply store for ideas of what is available. The Humming Birds are back for awhile on their way south this is just a stopover to put on a store of fat for their trip. So you can help by keeping the Humming Bird feeders 1/2 full of fresh sugar water. In this heat don't leave it out more than a couple of days as it will spoil fast. Fungi will form on the inside of the feeder after just a few days. One of the easy ways to clean it is put in a few grains of uncooked rice add a little water and shake. Then you can wash with hot soapy water and rinse. Once the Ruby throat's leave don't take down your feeder as a lot of us have been having the pleasure of feeding Rufous Hummers thru the winter. I have several Ruby Throats at my feeders and flowers now; they are so great to watch.

I hope most of you have planted for Birds and Butterflies in your yard. There are hundreds of different plants you can use. A few of the easily cared for ones are ConeFlower, Four O'clock, Butterfly Bush, Vinca, Petunia, Salvia Daisy, Mexican Sun Flower and Zinnias. I will have plenty of seed for Mexican Sun Flower and Zinnias if you would like some for next year.

Not much in the way of birding I have been seeing a lot of Painted and Indigo Buntings in different places. Giff Beaton called he has Simipalmated Plovers on the Isle of Palms. Others have called with the usual feeder birds.

On September 24th-25th I will be heading up the winter Carolina Bird Club meeting here in Charleston. We will have 35 field trips to choose from with local leaders offering their help in locating and identifying birds. The cost of the meeting is \$15.00. On Friday at 8:00pm Tom Bladon will speak and show slides. On Saturday at 8:00pm Bob Sargent from Arkansas will be talking about Humming Birds. There is no charge if you want to come to just the meetings. They will be at the Airport Holiday Inn off Aviation Ave.

I will have a Schedule at the September CNHS meeting. You can contact me 766-7000 or by e-mail vatkins@awod.com.

1999 Board Members

Cornelia Carrier Gibbs	577-6437
Jeff Dennis	577-8890
Norm Brunswig	(843) 688-5833
Christopher Walter	569-1062
Robert Donato	849-7139

Sue Wallace	722-8279
Sharon Richardson	556-2281
Joe Cockrell	762-3868
Jennifer Lamar	588-9714
Julianne Harrison	795-1694
Richard Clarke-Pounder	767-9331

September Speaker

Mary Elfner, the executive director of the Coastal Georgia Land Trust and president of the Ogeechee Audubon Chapter in Savannah, will be the speaker at the September 14th meeting (reception 6:30 p.m., program 7 p.m.) at the Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street. Mary will present a fabulous multi-media program on our

nation's wildlife refuges and tell us about the needs and threats the refuge system faces. She will share information about ongoing projects her chapter has with refuges in the Savannah area as part of the Audubon Refuge Keepers (ARK) program. We are hoping to start an ARK program of our own with the ACE Basin Wildlife Refuge so come and get some ideas from Mary.

Roughly three years ago, the National Audubon Society started a program called the Audubon Refuge Keepers, or "ARK", to protect the critical conservation role of Refuges through public education, citizen science, volunteerism, fundraising, and advocacy. To date, National Audubon has enrolled more than 60 local chapters in this crusade, and the Charleston Natural History Society has recently added its name to the list.

Along with representatives from local Audubon Chapters and Refuge managers from coastal South Carolina and Georgia, several CNHS Board members attended an introductory conference on the ARK program earlier this summer in Savannah. They came away from this meeting with enthusiasm, ideas, and a deep concern for the fate of our local Refuges at Cape Romain and in the ACE Basin. Through interviews with managers at both Refuges, various needs have been identified from trail construction and banding survey program participation, to operational assistance, advocacy, and public relations, just to name a few.

In order to take advantage of a pressing deadline and kick-off our fledgling ARK program, the Conservation Committee scrambled to prepare a \$5,000 grant application to National Audubon and other partners for the construction of the first wildlife observation platform, designed to be handicap accessible, at the ACE Basin Refuge. Just last week the grant was approved, and on October 16, 1999 we will launch the program by laying the groundwork and holding a celebration picnic at the Refuge. Along with potential partners the National Civilian Conservation Corps, we will begin construction some time this November.

This is your chance to do something tangible and lasting for conservation in the Lowcountry. The platform will not only provide a great location for observing the rich diversity for which the ACE is renowned, it will provide a powerful tool for education and will increase the visibility of this young Refuge that is right in our backyard. Greater visibility and understanding is sure to lead to public support that can only strengthen the cause of our Nation's premiere conservation lands.

For this initiative to succeed, we need the support and assistance of the CNHS membership. If this project is successful, others are guaranteed to follow, with the possible expansion of our efforts to Cape Romain. If you are interested, or even just curious, please call Richard at 767-9331. Oh, and don't miss the presentation by Mary Elfner at our September membership meeting, highlighting the experience of one local Audubon Chapter with ARK and the Savannah Refuge.

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 _____

City _____ State _____

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.

CNHS is creating an ARK!

Enacted by Presidential Order in 1903, The National Wildlife Refuge System now comprises more than 500 Refuges covering 93 million acres of some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the U.S. While the primary mandate of these lands is the protection and preservation of wildlife and their habitat, the system today faces critical challenges in the form of grievously inadequate budgets, harmful legislative initiatives, and incompatible activities on and adjacent to these protected lands.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like your views. Please check as many as apply to you.

Would you go on the following outings?

- canoeing
- kayaking
- hiking
- camping
- trips where you have to commit in advance
- trips where there is a fee

The Conservation Committee hopes to devote some time to current environmental issues. What concerns you the most?

- pollution
- land use
- wildlife/endangered species
- local/state issues
- regional (Southeast) issues
- national issues
- other? _____

Would you prefer another time for our meetings?

- 5:30 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m.

What sort of projects will you volunteer for?

- education
- leading outings/nature walks
- construction/trail clearing
- birdseed sale
- manning booths at environmental fairs
- writing articles for newsletter
- editing/desktop publishing

Name _____
Tel. _____

What sort of programs would you prefer?

- birds
- naturalists
- other environmental group leaders
- archeologists/paleontologists
- animal experts (dogs, primates, snakes, amphibians etc.)
- members, trip slideshows
- program on identifying bird songs (paid presenter)

What articles would you like to see in the newsletter?

- more articles on birds
- more articles on local environmental issues
- more articles on national environmental issues
- excerpts from other publications

Other suggestions _____

Please fold, tape closed and return. Thank you for your suggestions!