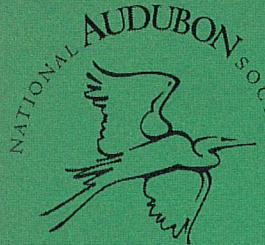


The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
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THE LESSER

Newsletter of the *Charleston Natural History Society*/local chapter of *The National Audubon Society*

Founded 1905

SQUAWK

NAS Affiliation 1970

Volume XLVII No. 8

December/January 2000

Green Holiday Party Evening of Dec. 9th

Come join us for the Third Annual Green Holiday Party **Saturday, December 9**, 6 to 9 pm at the Sullivan's Island Fish Fry Shack.



It's a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share plus your own plate, cup and utensils. The groups will provide drinks and music. There will be free drawings for donated items. Besides CNHS, groups participating are the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, the Sierra Club, the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, Charleston Bicycle Advocacy Group, Native Plant Society, Earth Force and S. C. Center for Birds of Prey.

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.



McAlhany Sanctuary Open House Dec. 3rd

At the McAlhany Sanctuary open house **Sunday, Dec. 3**, Joe Cockrell will lead a stroll in the cypress/tupelo bottomland (currently dry) on the property. 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. Questions? Call Joe at 763-3868.

Note: There will be no open house in January.

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 13 - Dr. Dennis Forsythe, professor of ornithology at The Citadel, will be our speaker.

April 10 - Dr. Richard Porcher, author and professor of botany at The Citadel, will speak on his new book on the wildflowers of South Carolina.

April 21 - Dr. Richard Porcher will lead a wildflower walk as a follow-up to his talk.

May 8 - James Elliott, executive director of the S.C. Center for Birds of Prey, will speak and bring live birds - an annual tradition and treat.

Recruit New Members!

CNHS / National Audubon Society membership
(First Time Members)

Regular- \$20 Sr. Citizens/Students - \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to:

National Audubon Society,
Membership Data Center, PO Box 51003,
Boulder, CO 80323-1003

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society
Write Chapter Code U-51 on your check.

Joint January Meeting CNHS and Sigma Xi

On **Tuesday January 9**, we will hold a joint meeting with the local Sigma Xi chapter to hear **Fred Holland**, director of the Marine Research Institute at the SC Dept. of Natural Resources, speak on the ecology of Charleston Harbor. This joint meeting will be held as usual at the Charleston Museum. The wine and cheese reception begins at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7 pm. Refreshments will be courtesy of Polly Holden, owner of The Audubon Gallery, 177 King St.

Birdseed Sale Raised \$ 972

Thanks to the hard work of coordinator/member **Gerald Muckenfuss**, our birdseed sale was a success. We raised \$972, and members seemed happy to have a choice of two pick-up sites.

We also want to thank Bruce Donaldson of Abide-a-While Nursery and Herb Goldstein of The Sofa Superstore for use of their businesses and members Bob Chinn, Joe Cockrell and Joan Whitlatch for their help.

Xmas Bird Counts

Note: National Audubon charges participants \$5.00 each to defray the cost of publishing the results.

McClellanville, Saturday, Dec. 16. - Meet in downtown McClellanville, near the Arts Council Center by 7 am and plan to be in the field for at least 8 hours. We need two or three boats to properly cover the marshes. If anyone has a boat and knows the area, we would appreciate their help. They do not have to know birds because experienced birders will go with them. Boat owners and experienced birders who are willing to lead a party, please contact Perry Nugent at 556-3841.

Charleston, Tuesday, Dec. 24. - Meet at the traditional meeting place at intersection of U.S. Hwy 17N and SC Hwy 41 at 6:30 a.m. For more information, call Edwin Blitch III at 556-2626.

Litchfield-Pawleys Island, Thursday, Dec. 28. - Meet at 6 am. Participants working east of the Waccamaw will assemble at the parking lot of the park office/store at Huntington Beach State Park. Participants working west of the Waccamaw will assemble at the gates of the Plantersville sod farm on the Plantersville Loop road. The roundup will start at 5 pm at The Hanser House Restaurant, located on the East (northbound) side of Route 17 just north of the Litchfield Exchange, a few miles south of the state park. Participants please call Jack Peachey (compiler-East) at 843-347-5810 or Tonya Spires (compiler-West) at 843-397-0384.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, Dec. 30. - Meet at the Visitor's Center at 6:45 am. For more information, contact Lex Glover at 803-438-9855(h); 803-419-9645(w) or e-mail at bglvr@clemson.edu.

ACE Basin, Sunday, Dec. 31 - Meet at Angler's Mart in Jacksonboro at 7 am. For more information, call David Chamberlain at 884-0019.

South Tibwin Plantation Jan. 13 Nebo Nature Trail In Afternoon

Our first field trip of the new year will be to **South Tibwin Plantation** and the recently completed Nebo Nature Trail at the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center, Francis Marion National Forest, **Saturday, Jan. 13, 2001.**

Meet Leader Julian Harrison at 7 am. at the Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant, the area nearest the entrance from U.S. Hwy 17 North. Look for Julian waving an "Audubon Trip" sign! Bring binoculars, field guides, water, lunch and/or snacks. This is a half-day trip but after lunch at South Tibwin, those who are interested can accompany Julian to the Nebo Nature Trail at the Sewee Visitor Center.

South Tibwin is located about 12.5 miles north of the

Sewee Visitor Center and features bottomland hardwoods, pine uplands, tidal marshes, freshwater ponds, and waterfowl impoundments. There are five miles of primitive roads, and the area is open to hikers and mountain bikers only. The difficulty level is said to be easy. We will take our time and look for wintering waterfowl, hawks, eagles, and owls, as well as finches, sparrows, and other birds.

The Nebo Nature Trail is a one-mile loop behind the Sewee Visitor Center and includes a 2000 foot boardwalk, longleaf pine savannas, and the Nebo Ponds. It is an easy walk and features a variety of birds, turtles, alligators, and other critters.

Marrington Plantation Set for Jan. 20th

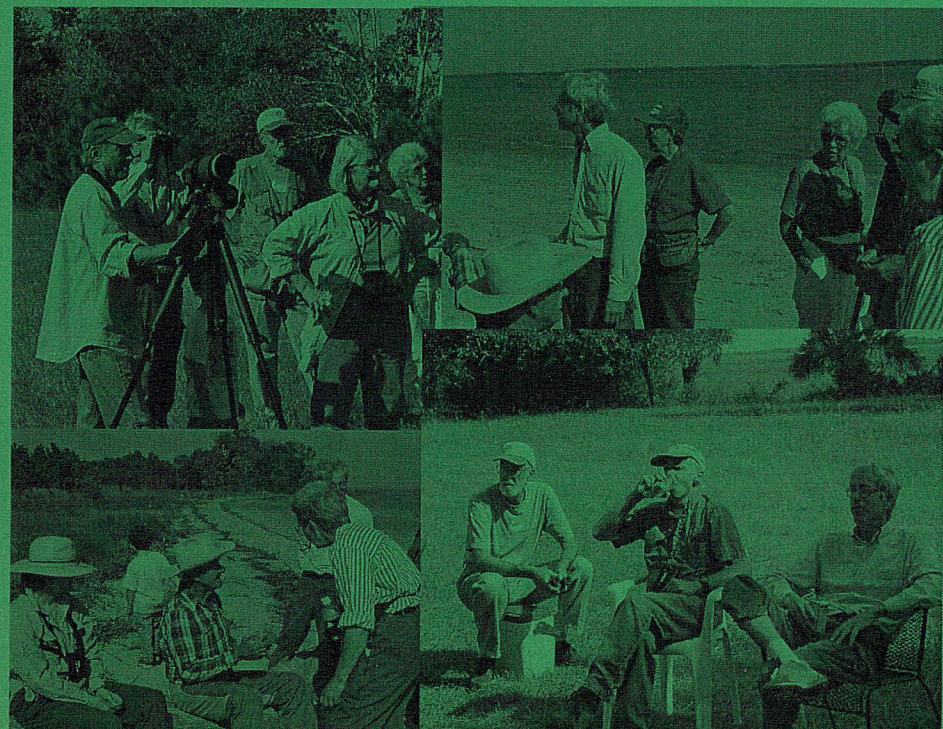
Julian and Bob Chinn will lead a trip to **Marrington Plantation** on **Saturday, Jan. 20.** Meet at the Super K-Mart on Rivers Ave. at 7:30 am or meet at the entrance to Marrington at 8 am. This is a half-day trip. Bring lunch, water, appropriate clothing and field guides.

Marrington Plantation is a Navy Outdoor Recreation

Area, a part of the Naval Weapons Station that includes wildlife impoundments (remnants of former rice culture in the area), pine and hardwood forests, wetlands, and boardwalks along a mile-long interpretive trail.



Point of Pines - Seventeen members attended the October outing to Point of Pines Plantation. Attendees are pictured birding, enjoying the beach with host Burnet Maybank and relaxing on the lawn after lunch.
Photos by Bob Chinn



BOARD MEMBERS

Cornelia Carrier 577-6437
Julian Harrison 795-1694
Christopher Walter 569-1062
Richard Clarke-Pounder 767-9331
Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833
Joe Cockrell 762-3868
Hal Currey 883-9114
Jeff Dennis 577-8890
Mollie Hartzog 556-1110
Jennifer Lamar 588-9714
Morgan McClure 763-0222
Jill Midgett 556-7164
Sharon Richardson 556-2281

Buy and/or Sell Tickets For Raffle Fundraiser; Win \$700 Spotting Scope

For our winter raffle, Robin Hanckel, owner of The Audubon Shop, 99 Market St., has offered us a Bausch and Lomb Elite 60 mm waterproof spotting scope and tripod at cost! The scope's power is 15-45 and the tripod, which extends up to 60 inches and folds down to 23 inches, weights only four pounds. The scope will be on view at our Jan. and Feb. meetings with the drawing scheduled for February if enough tickets have been sold by that time. If purchasing by mail, do not forget to enclose coupon and self-addressed, stamped envelope!

RAFFLE TICKETS BY MAIL

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number of Tickets _____

Amount Enclosed _____

One Ticket for \$5; Six tickets for \$25

Don't forget to enclose this coupon and self-addressed, stamped envelope!!!

Mail to CNHS, PO Box 504, Charleston, 29402

Tidelands Birding Festival, Feb. 22-25

South Carolina will be host to the Tidelands Birding Festival **Feb. 22-25, 2001**, at Huntington Beach State Park and nearby sites.

Check-in is Thursday, Feb. 22 from 4 to 7:30 pm. Guest speakers, Dr Richard Phillips (duck behavior), Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux, (migration), Mr. Ian Thompson of Scotland's Aberlady Bird Sanctuary (shorebirds) will be presenting on Thursday, Friday and

Saturday evenings respectively.

Come join us for guided bird watching trips with expert leaders. Three types of trips are offered: advanced birding, casual birding and general wildlife. Also available are free workshops on using binoculars and bird guidebooks plus bird identification.

Tours include kayaking, plant walks and tracking a radio-collared

Backyard Birder by Van Atkins

Fall is here and with it comes our winter birds that the Yankees have the rest of the year. The Bald Eagle is in full swing, adding to their nest to get ready to deposit their first eggs. I have seen several pair already in the local area.

In our backyard we have the white-throated and chipping sparrow, palm, pine and yellow-rumped warbler, as well as blue jay, cardinal, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren and white-breasted nuthatch.



**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO
NEWSLETTER IN JANUARY**

wild black bear. Enjoy exclusive festival-only trips into protected areas ordinarily not accessible to the general public, including Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, Hobcaw Barony and Waites Island. (Two guided trips per day Friday and Saturday and one on Sunday).

Advanced registration is required. Friday dinner is included with \$30 registration. Also included are a seven-day pass to Brookgreen Gardens, and entrance to the state parks.

For information, call 1-888-887-2757 (8:30 am to 5 pm EST) or online at <http://www.ac.coastal.edu/~miles/tbf.html>.

Festival sponsors are SC Sea Grant Recreation and Tourism Program, SC State Parks and the SC Nature Based Tourism Association with volunteer help from Waccamaw Audubon.



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cnhsaudubon](http://www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon)
contact Webmaster Bob Chinn
843-552-7884
rchinn@cchat.com