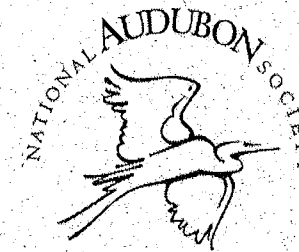


The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
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Charleston, SC 29402

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THE LESSER SQUAWK

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

Founded 1905

NAS Affiliation 1970

Volume XLVII No. 4

May 2000

Ecologist To Inspire With May 9th Talk

Dr. George Folkerts, naturalist, ecologist, scientist and professor at Auburn University will speak on *Rare and Little-Known Habitats in the Southeast* at the May 9th meeting. Dr. Folkerts' enthusiasm for nature is contagious, but he will also sound the alarm to protect to our beloved Southeastern habitats. This will be our final meeting of the year and special events are on the agenda.

The Charleston Museum has graciously mounted a special art exhibit from its collection for our exclusive viewing. Included will be works by Mark Catesby and Alexander Wilson plus plates from the museum's Octavo (Audubon) folio.

We'll draw the winning number for *The Life of Birds by David Attenborough*. You can still buy a raffle ticket for the 5-tape set (10 hours) of this fabulous show. Tickets are \$5 for this \$99 value. You may be the lucky winner!

The meeting in the museum begins at 7 pm with the wine and cheese reception and exhibit viewing at 6:30 pm.



Point of Pines Plantation Site of May 20th Outing

We are fortunate to be invited to Point of Pines Plantation May 20. Owner and host Burnet R. Maybank will meet us at 8 am to show us around the plantation which features ponds, trails, tabby ruins of an old fort built in 1692 and vistas of the North Edisto River. A travel writer who traveled from Wilmington to Jacksonville, wrote in the *New York Times* in 1991 that Point of Pines was the most beautiful place she saw on her trip.

Mr. Maybank will tell us about the history of the area. Bring your lunch, and he will graciously provide soft drinks. Bathrooms are available in his house.

Point of Pines is a one-hour drive from downtown Charleston. Let's meet at 7:15 am in the Food Lion parking lot in Ravenel at the intersection of Hwy 17S and Hwy. 165. If you don't choose to carpool, turn left off Hwy. 17S at Hwy. 174 and proceed 20 miles down the Edisto Island Road. You'll see Trinity Episcopal Church on the right. Turn left at the Old Post Office Restaurant.

Continue down Point of Pines Rd. till the paved road ends and you see *Private Property* and *No Trespassing* signs. Mr. Maybank will meet us there. We should see birds, alligators, deer and wild turkey.

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 May 7th

The open house at the McAlhany Sanctuary May 7 will feature a walk around the oxbow lake with some trail maintenance. Bring hand clippers and bug spray. 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 Jeff at 577-8890.

When renewing your Audubon membership, write "U-51" on your check!!! That code will insure that a portion of your dues will come back to CNHS for Lowcountry programs and projects.

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.

Migratory Bird Day Activities

Opening day is May 13, 9 am to noon at the Aquarium (Liberty Park in front of the aquarium). CNHS will share a booth with Beidler Forest.

For Saturday field trip reservations call Patricia Thompson at 579-8560. Trips include:

Ace Basin Refuge (Grove Plantation) led by Julian Harrison and Jennifer Koches. Meet at the refuge at 7 am. Limited to 20 people.

Beidler Forest led by Ann Shalid. Meet at the forest at 8 am. Adults \$5.00, children \$2.50.

Bulls Island, meet at Moore's Landing at 7:15 am. Limit 20 people. Boat costs \$20.

On Sunday Julian will lead an outing to **I'On Swamp Rd.** Meet at the See Wee Center at 8 am. To register call the center at 928-3368.

Backyard Birder by Van Atkins

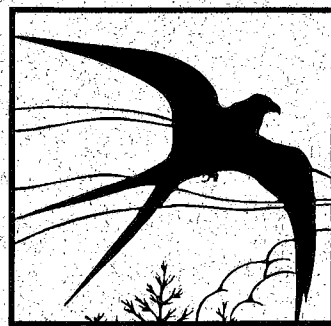
Boy it is great to live in the South. Great weather and birds too. Migration is in full swing now, if you have not been out looking for spring warblers passing through you can still find them for a while yet. A lot of the early visitors have moved on north. On April 20, I still had a few American goldfinches and white-throated sparrows that have not departed my yard.

April 19th I was working downtown on Legare St. I looked up, and a pair of swallow-tailed kites flew overhead. They were just at treetop level with their tails spread and not flapping their wings going into the wind. They were beautiful birds. This was the first time I have seen them downtown.

Ben Smith has had a few war-

blers in his yard also a great-crested flycatcher. Bob Chinn has been getting several different warblers in his neck of the woods. Last week I had two different flocks of cedar waxwings -- a good looking bird.

I have had a hummer for the past month. Speaking of hummers, make sure you change



the sugar water each week now that it has warmed up, it will turn bad real fast. It is not too late to plant flowers for the hummers and butterflies. Then you will have the best of two worlds, a nice yard and wildlife.

Call or write me with your sightings then we can share them with all the folks. **Van Atkins 766-7000; e-mail vatkins@awod.com.**

NEWS BRIEFS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS — At the May 9th meeting, there'll be election of officers and board members. The proposed slate includes: **Cornelia Carrier, Julian Harrison, Richard Clarke-Pounder, Sharon Richardson, Christopher Walter, Joe Cockrell, Norm Brunswig, Arch McCallum, Hal Curry, Morgan McClure, Jeff Dennis, Jennifer Lamar, Jill Midgett and Sharon Hatfield.** Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

SPRING BIRD COUNT— Ed Blitch reports that the April 30 count was a success. Twenty-seven people participated, and the count was in the mid 160's. A few areas have not yet reported.

MORE THAN A PORT ALERTS:

MONDAY MAY 8, 6 pm, Berkeley County Council holds a special meeting to vote on a resolution to oppose the SPA Global Gateway. Where: 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner.

WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 5:15 pm, Charleston County Council will hold a public hearing to gauge public opinion on Global Gateway project. The public is needed to voice opinions against the Global Gateway project. Where: 68 Calhoun Street, Charleston County Main Branch Library in the Auditorium.

Message From the President by Cornelia Carrier

As you may know, the Charleston Natural History Society shuts down over the summer. This will be the last newsletter until next September.

I think we have made progress this year. We have tried to incorporate the concerns and interests you expressed in response to our questionnaire last fall.

Suggestions and feedback from you are welcome at any time. We got no positive response to the lesser scaup logo so The National Audubon Society egret logo now appears on the masthead.

The birdseed sale next fall should be convenient for everyone, no matter where you live. There'll be two pickup sites—one in Mt. Pleasant, one in West Ashley. This is our major fundraiser so please plan to purchase your seed from us. Order slips should appear in the September newsletter.

We have been active in the coalition opposing the Global Gateway — the port expansion that will greatly alter the landscape and quality of life in the Charleston area.

In addition to SC-More Than A Port, the chapter's fi-

nancial support has gone to Beidler Forest, SC Center for Birds of Prey, Earth Stewards and the Edisto Island Turtle Project. Thanks to a grant we received, there are now two viewing platforms at the Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

We are still anxious to "reactivate" former members who have drifted away. Please come back and help us! We also would like to "activate" those of you who have never participated in our programs or outings. Please join us! Next year we will have wonderful programs and outings.

Programs are planned on hummingbirds, butterflies, dinosaurs and amphibians plus return visits by Lehr Brisbin, Rudy Mancke and Richard Porcher.

Julian Harrison, retired biology professor at the College of Charleston, will be outings chairman, so we can count on some outstanding trips to interesting places. If you have suggestions call Julian or e-mail him at harrisonj@cofc.edu.

National Audubon is planning changes that will greatly affect CNHS. Recruitment of new members and increased activism are just two of the new national mandates. There will be more about these changes in the newsletters next fall. For information on national and local environmental issues, log onto our website. Let the website be your Audubon connection throughout the summer.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer. Many people will be tending their lawns and gardens.

Try to use fertilizers sparingly. Runoff from lawns result in excess phosphorus and nitrogen that are harmful to our coastal marshes and estuaries and the marine life and birds that feed in them.

Pesticides to keep insects off your flowers and to kill fire-ants cause even more damage. Pesticides kill beneficial insects and also small animals like the Carolina anole that eat the poisoned insects. Note that the bags of fire-ant granules warn that they can be harmful to birds and other animals. Please heed the admonishment not to apply near water. Happy summer to all!

Want to Sponsor Refreshments?

If you own a business, consider getting a little publicity by sponsoring one of the receptions before the meetings next year. CNHS has been spending around \$75 per reception. A

sponsor would receive recognition in the newsletter in addition to displaying a sign on an easel at the meeting. Sponsoring businesses are welcome and encouraged to hold a raffle for merchandise, services or gift certificates. Sponsors can choose which CNHS program will be the beneficiary of the raffle.

We meet eight times a year so we can use eight different sponsors. If you are interested contact Cornelia at 577-6437.

BOARD MEMBERS

Cornelia Carrier 577-6437
Julian Harrison 795-1694
Jeff Dennis 577-8890
Richard Clarke-Pounder 767-9331
Sharon Richardson 556-2281
Christopher Walter 569-1062
Laura Jewell 769-9945
Joe Cockrell 762-3868
Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833
Jennifer Lamar 588-9714
Robert Donato 849-7139

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