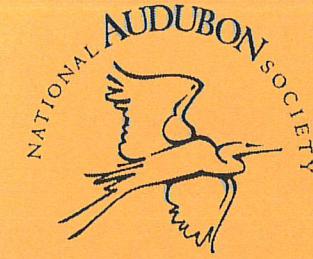


The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
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THE LESSER SQUAWK

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

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Volume XLVII No. 7

November 2000

Double Bill from Beidler Forest

Ann Shahid, Education Director at Beidler Forest, long-time CNHS member and former board member, will speak **Tuesday, Nov. 14**, about new educational programs at Beidler Forest. She will also discuss the IBA (Important Bird Area) program in South Carolina and the plans for Audubon Centers in SC.

Jackie Litzgus, biologist and PhD candidate at University of SC, will present her research on

spotted turtles. A native Canadian, she has studied the nesting habits of the spotted turtle in the northern end of its range near her home in Southern Canada. She is in South Carolina studying the turtle in the southernmost end of its range at Beidler Forest.

As usual, the meeting at the Charleston Museum begins at 6:30 pm with a wine and cheese reception followed by the program at 7 pm.

Winter Raffle: \$700 Bausch & Lomb Scope

For our winter raffle, Robin Hanckel, owner of The Audubon Shop, 99 S. Market St., has graciously offered us a Bausch & Lomb Elite 60 mm waterproof spotting scope at cost. Tickets are just **\$5 each or six tickets for \$25** for this \$700 retail value. We hope this raffle will be our best fundraiser yet! Proceeds will go to CNHS's support of The SC Center for Birds of Prey, The Turtle Fund, Earth Stewards and Beidler Forest.

Here are the technical specifications for the scope: The 60 mm objective provides maximum light gathering capability. Features include fully multi-coated optical surfaces and compact roof prism optical system. PC3 phase coating dramatically improves resolution and contrast by correcting the light phase shift interface in roof prism spotting scopes. Scopes are waterproof and fog-proof. Once an object is spotted, zoom in for close-up evaluation. Complete with a water resistant, black canvas zippered carrying case with belt loop. Standard tripod mount fits field tripods and window mounts. Tripod extends up to 60 inches and folds down to 23 inches.

The scope will be available for viewing at

McAlhany Sanctuary Open House Nov. 5th

At the McAlhany Sanctuary open house **Sunday, Nov. 5**, Jeff Dennis will lead a hike along Cattle Creek.

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.

Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 9—Third Annual Green Holiday Party with other conservation groups at Sullivan's Island fish fry shack. Potluck supper and free drawings.

Jan. 9—Joint meeting with 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.

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

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.

RAFFLE TICKETS BY MAIL

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number of Tickets _____

Amount Enclosed _____

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

Enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope

Mail to CNHS, PO Box 504, Charleston, 29402

Two Outings Set for November: Huntington Beach & Carolina Bays

Since **Huntington Beach** is a 1.5 hour drive, please meet at Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant promptly at **6:15 am Saturday, November 18**. Look for gray Isuzu Trooper parked near Hwy. 17 N entrance. Biolgist/Board member **Julian Harrison** and Citadel Biology Professor **Dennis Forsythe** will lead this all-day trip. Bring lunches, water, field guides and binoculars. Caps and sun screen are advisable.

Huntington Beach is arguably the best birding area on the South Carolina Coast. Eighty-eight species were observed there on Sept. 20 by participants in the North American Migratory Bird Count.

There are tidal creeks and mudflats, freshwater lagoons, fresh and saltwater marshes and dune fields, as well as patches of maritime forest, the beach front and a rock jetty at the north end. Be prepared to walk 1.5 miles. The weather could be chilly and windy so dress accordingly.

Entrance fees: Adults, \$4; children (6-12), \$2; SC senior citizens, free.



**Don't Forget Birdseed Pickup
Saturday, November 11
from 9 am to 1 pm**

Abide-Awhile Nursery or The Sofa Superstore
1460 Hwy. 17 North 1807 Savannah Hwy.
Forget which location you chose? Call Gerald Muckenfuss at (843) 881-3245



Come explore **Carolina Bays**, our most enigmatic and mysterious geological land form, with board member **Morgan McClure**. Meet at the West Ashley Walmart on Hwy 61 at **8:45 am Saturday, November 25** to car pool. We will visit Bamberg Bay and then Cathedral Bay. Both bays are listed with the South Carolina Nature Conservancy and South Carolina Heritage Trust as significant areas for conservation and protection.

After lunch, those who wish to continue our adventure may visit Reevesville Bay between Reevesville and Bowman. Each of the bays is distinct in character (cypress pond, savannah, and non-alluvial swamp forest respectively).

Not knowing the water levels or temperature for the day, please wear foot gear that can get wet (knee boots if you have them). Bring bug spray, lunch and water.

If you would like to hook up in Bamberg, meet us at the Hardee's at 9:45 am. For more details, contact Morgan McClure after 8 pm at 763-0222.

Something for Everyone at Bluff: Trees, flowers, birds, snakes, frogs, lizards, caterpillars, butterflies & eggs



PICTURED FROM TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: **Don Jones** and **Richard Clarke-Pounder**; **Charlie Johnson**; **baby rough green snake**; **Chuck and Jean Everett** (she was the plant guide); **Julian Harrison** (he was the birds and critters guide) with other members of group. Twenty-one people enjoyed the afternoon. **Edward Lowndes**, Bluff Plantation manager, regaled participants with freshly laid eggs from his hen house. Photographs taken by Bob Chinn.

CNHS Members Offered Discount

Kathie Livingston, naturalist/owner of **Nature Adventure Outfitters, Inc.**, has graciously offered CNHS members a **20 percent** discount off all prices of kayak and canoe rentals and professionally guided kayak/canoe and hiking tours in the Francis Marion Forest and on ten lowcountry rivers and creeks. Call Kathie at 1-800-673-0679 to get more information and to make reservations. Mention the discount when making reservations and bring your membership card. The discount is good through December 2001.



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WEBPAGE
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contact Webmaster Bob Chinn
843-552-7884
rchinn@cchat.com

Backyard Birder by Van Atkins

Well the fall migration is just about over, I got in on the tail end of it since we spent all of September in Washington state. We saw a lot of nice birds out there.

Here in the Charleston area, Jennifer Koches reported seeing a roseate spoonbill feeding in the creek behind her house on James Island. This is not your everyday yard bird around here and she had it for three weeks! The spoonbill was also spotted on the Charleston Golf Course with 34 wood storks about the same time.

Laura Cremmins reported that in the first part of September they were bothered by a golden eagle spooking all their feeder birds. They had quite a lot birds including a swallow-tailed kite, wood thrush, Cooper's hawk, indigo and painted buntings, summer tanagers and a whip-poor-will, to name a few. They also have a covey of quail as well as an American bittern that nested in a pasture on their 18-acre property off hwy. 165.

Don't forget to keep your feeders clean and filled. Winter is when the birds need us most. We feed them the rest of the year so we can watch them. Call or e-mail me at: 766-7000, vatkins@awod.com.