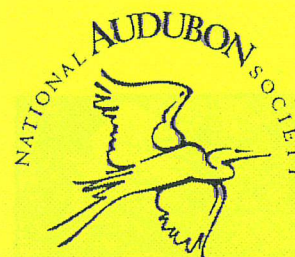


The Lesser Squawk  
The Charleston Natural History Society  
PO Box 504  
Charleston, SC 29402

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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. 6

October 2000

## Return Engagement of Lehr Brisbin Oct. 10

Those of you who heard Dr. I Lehr Brisbin speak on the Carolina dog last year know what a marvelous program he presents. We're having him back this year, and you can expect an entertaining and informative program about his work as a senior researcher at

the Savannah River Ecology Lab.

As usual, we'll meet at the Charleston Museum **Tuesday, Oct. 10.** The wine and cheese reception begins at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7 pm. We hope to begin a new raffle for an exciting item everyone will want.

## Bluff Plantation for Flowers, Birds & Critters

**Sunday afternoon, Oct. 15,** at 1 pm Jean Everett (fall flowers) and Julian Harrison (birds & other critters) will lead a field trip to the Bluff Plantation Wildlife Sanctuary on the Cooper River.

This is a 2000-acre property with diverse habitats including old rice fields, a reserve swamp, fields and hardwood and pine forests. Bring binoculars, field guides, insect repellent,

water and snacks if desired, and comfortable footwear. The pace will be leisurely as we'll be looking for wildflowers, birds, and anything else of interest.

Please call Julian at 795-1694 if you plan to attend.

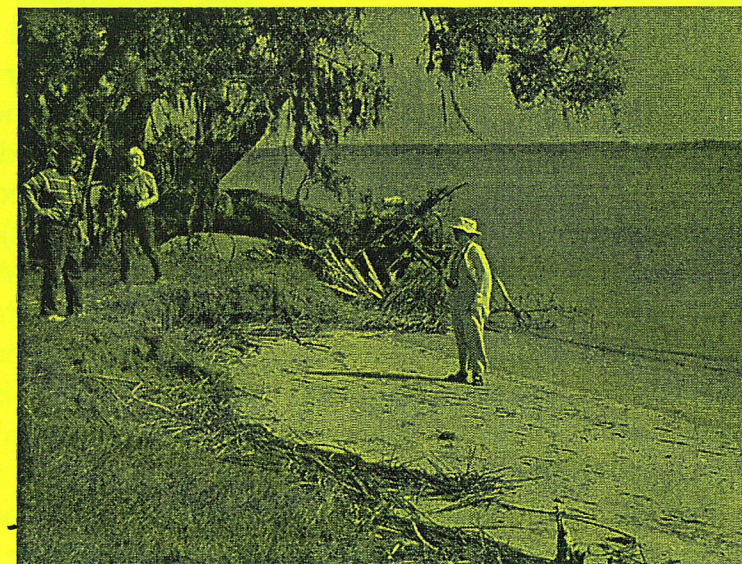
Meet Jean and Julian at 12:30 pm at the Super K-Mart parking lot on U.S. Hwy 52 between Northwoods Mall and Goose Creek.

## Point of Pines Back by Popular Demand

The spring trip was so successful that we are returning to Point of Pines Plantation on Edisto Island. Bob Chinn and Julian Harrison will lead this field trip **Saturday, Oct. 21.**

Owner and host Burnet R. Maybank will meet us at 8 am to give us a guided tour of the property, which includes ponds, fields, tabby ruins of a fort built in 1692, a beach and grand vistas of the North Edisto River.

Meet Bob and Julian at 7:15 am at the Food Lion parking lot near the intersection of Hwys. 17 South and 165 in Ravenel, SC. Car pooling is recommended. Bring lunch, binoculars, and field guides. Bathrooms are available at the house.



*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 October 1

At the McAlhany Sanctuary open house **Sunday, Oct. 1,** Jeff Dennis will lead a birding walk on a popular trail around the oxbow lake. 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

**Nov. 14** — Ann Shahid, education director at Beidler Forest, will speak about programs at this National Audubon Society property. Jackie Litzgus, PhD candidate, will talk about the research she is conducting on spotted turtles at the forest.

**Nov. 18** — Birding at Huntington Beach State Park with Julian Harrison and Dennis Forsythe.

**Nov. 25** — Visit Carolina Bays (which ones not decided by press time). Morgan McClure will be the field trip leader.

### Recruit New Members!

CNHS / National Audubon Society membership  
(First Time Members)  
Regular- \$20    Sr. Citizens/Students -\$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

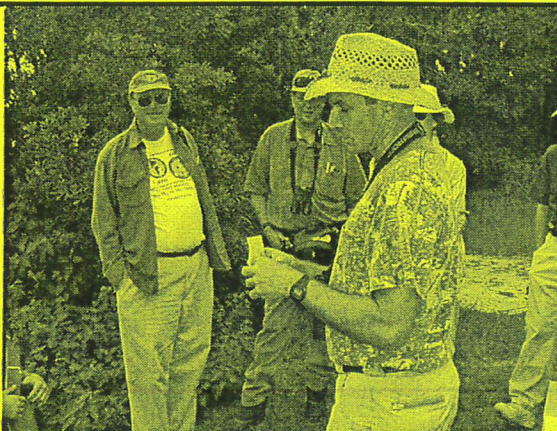
Mail to:

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.



## Butterflies: Big Hit With Members!!!



Billy McCord's talk on butterflies and the outing he led at Ft. Johnson were both big hits. Pictured here are Suzanna and Carolyn Donato giving rapt attention to Billy as he prepares to tag a Monarch butterfly. Also attending were Mitchell Richardson, Jeff Kline, Robert Donato, Julian Harrison, Dennis Forsythe, Bob and Billie Chinn, Clea Debusk, Carolyn Burrington, Colleen Rumble, Nancy Silwa, Dwight Williams and his daughter, Olivia, and Cornelia Carrier.



Photos  
by  
Bob Chinn

## Fall Migration at Cape May, NJ by Jill Midgett

Cape May Point on the southeast coast of New Jersey is well known as a famous bird migratory junction. And if you want to learn about and visualize the spectacle, Cape May is the Mecca for the East Coast of the U.S.

The Cape May Bird Observatory provides numerous educational activities and unlimited resources for birders, educators, environmentalists and tourists year round. I attended their Fall migration workshop conducted by none other than Pete Dunne, Clay Sutton and two other outstanding naturalists. Our group of 14 were efficiently taken to numerous sites over 5 full days.

The birding was like I've never experienced. The weather cooperated and two highly de-

sired "fallouts" occurred. We stood along a wooded path at the famous Higbee Beach and you could practically reach up and catch the warblers as they flew over.

We scoped multiple mudflats and beachfronts and saw spectacular terns and shorebirds resting up for their big departure. We went to a banding station and looked at the individual feathers of a male Painted Bunting (back in his fall clothes) and a tiny Wilson's Warbler. We stood reverently as they were released next to a huge microphone, which hopefully recorded their flight calls. It was almost as exciting to see the rush on the faces of the researchers who momentarily held and banded these birds.

Each afternoon we ourselves

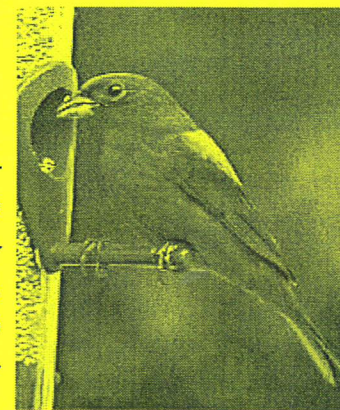
migrated back to the famous Cape May Point Hawkwatch platform. On one day, over 1,400 American Kestrel streamed by and I'm sure we saw half of them. The excitement on the platform was palpable.

When the "official" raptor counter speculated aloud what might be flying in from the horizon, 50+ pairs of synchronized binoculars went up and the verbal guessing began. Now each day I check my mailbox for the official list of what we saw.

And in the meantime, I'm scheming about how I'll attend the Spring 2001 workshop and dreaming about going to see the hawk migration in Veracruz next fall.

## October 27 Deadline For CNHS Birdseed

October 27 is the deadline for participating in our major fundraiser. Help support our many programs by buying your fall birdseed from CNHS. Get your friends and neighbors to buy from us. See insert. Note two locations for Nov. 11 pick-up.



## Bats, Barred Owls & Barbecue

A Fall Festival of Bats, Barred Owls and Barbecue is just one of the happenings at Beidler Forest this autumn.

The festival, Nov. 11 from 5 to 9 pm, features facts, folklore, food and a night walk to celebrate the swamp. Costs are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Vegetarian food is available upon request.

And that's not all. There

will be three other night walks: Oct. 7 at 7 pm, Dec. 2 at 5 pm and Dec. 9 at 5 pm.

Call 843-462-2150 to make reservations for these events.

As you may know, Beidler Forest is a National Audubon Society sanctuary in Harleyville, 45 miles north of Charleston (Take I-26 West and follow the signs for the forest. The route is well marked.)

## Recruit New Members in October

Each new member we recruit in October will mean \$10 extra for our chapter. National Audubon will give

us the \$10 bonus for every member signed up this month.

Do you have friends that you bring as guests to our meetings or outings? Ask them to join! Explain the benefits of membership to your friends, neighbors and colleagues. Use the coupon on the back of any Lesser Squawk newsletter.

It is crucial that we keep all members and recruit new ones so National Audubon will continue its dues-sharing arrangement.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Cornelia Carrier 577-6437  
Julian Harrison 795-1694  
Christopher Walter 569-1062  
Richard Clarke-Pounder 767-9331  
Norm Brunswick (843)688-5833  
Joe Cockrell 762-3868  
Hal Currey 883-9114  
Jeff Dennis 577-8890  
Molli Hartzog 556-1110  
Sharon Hatfield 406-7992  
Jennifer Lamar 588-9714  
Arch McCallum 883-9818  
Morgan McClure 763-0222  
Jill Midgett 556-7164  
Sharon Richardson 556-2281

## NEWS BRIEFS

### OUTINGS GUIDELINES —

Unless conditions are really severe, leaders meet at the designated time and place, rain or shine. Whether a trip is to be cancelled will be decided then, not before. It has also been the practice to wait only 5 or 10 minutes for latecomers before leaving.



**ONE LESS PRIMATE —** Until now, not a single primate species or subspecies has vanished in the 20th century. But a concerted search through every suitable scrap of forest in Ghana and the Ivory Coast ended without turning up a trace of Miss Waldron's red colobus, a boisterous tree dweller, which has not been seen since the 1970's. It is the first extinction since Jamaica lost its one indigenous monkey species in the 1700's. The loss of the red colobus is attributed to local hunting for food.



### VISIT CNHS WEBSITE —

Visit our beautiful website at [www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon](http://www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon). If you have questions or suggestions, call our webmaster Bob Chinn at 843-552-7664.



**BACKYARD BIRDER —** Van Atkins has been out of town, but his column will appear again in the November newsletter.



**Feed Preferences of Common Birds**  
*Help Support CNHS and lure these birds to your yard:*

Attract these birds to **your** yard while helping to support the **CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Cardinals** will be attracted to your yard if you offer **sunflower seeds**. Research at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has shown that birds prefer the oil variety of sunflower seed two to one over other varieties. We offer **black oil sunflowers** as well as **black stripe**.

**Goldfinches** enjoy small seeds such as **niger** (thistle) seed. In addition they enjoy sunflowers- especially fine sunflower chips.

**Juncos** will rummage for small grain seeds under your backyard feeder in an effort to find **millet, wheat, and sunflowers**. Take time to scatter some seed directly on the ground for these "snowbirds."

**Finches** are a sociable little bird who will readily come to your feeder looking for **millet, milo, wheat, niger** and other small grains found in our custom mixed **wild bird feed**. At the same time finches are readily attracted to **sunflowers**.

**Grosbeaks** are a favorite of all bird watchers. They don't come down from Canada every year, but when they do be sure to have an abundant supply of **sunflower** seeds ready for them.

**Chickadees** love to eat the plump kernels of **sunflower seeds**. It is always fun to watch a Chickadee come to the feeder. Normally it will take just one seed, fly off, crack it open, and enjoy the meat of the seed. Then come back for another seed, over and over all day long.

**Blue Jays** are the watchmen of the bird feeder. They keep an eye out for predators and alert the other birds when there is danger. Blue Jays especially like **peanuts**, which are found in **premium wild bird feed**.

**Downy Woodpeckers** are attracted to **suet** that you include in your bird feeding station. To a woodpecker suet represents a substitute for the insects and bugs it normally eats. Don't confuse the Downy with its large cousin the Hairy Woodpecker.

**ORDER DEADLINE :**  
October 27, 2000

**ORDER PICK UP :**  
November 11, 2000      9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**LOCATIONS:**

**Abide-a-While Nursery and Garden Center**  
**1460 Hwy 17 North ByPass**  
**Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464** *(Next to Ryan's Steakhouse)*

and

**Sofa Super Store**  
**1807 Savannah Hwy (17-South)**  
**Charleston, SC 29407**



CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

Quantity	Description	Lbs.	Price	Total
	Premium Wild Bird Seed	20	12.00	
	Premium Wild Bird Seed	40	22.00	
	Special (No Corn) Wild Bird Seed	20	12.00	
	Special (No Corn) Wild Bird Seed	40	21.00	
	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	25	14.00	
	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	50	26.00	
	Striped Sunflower Seed	25	18.00	
	Striped Sunflower Seed	50	30.00	
	Cracked Corn (Fine/Medium)	25	10.00	
	Peanut Splits (Pieces)	25	30.00	
	Safflower Seed	25	20.00	
	Niger (Thistle) Seed	8	12.00	
	Pine Tree Seed/Suet	12 oz.	2.25	
	Pine Tree Peanut Butter Suet	12 oz.	2.50	
TOTAL				

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS:**  
October 27, 2000

**PICK UP DATE:**  
November 11, 2000 / 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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and

Abide-a-While Nursery and Garden Center  
1460 Hwy 17 North ByPass  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
(Next to Ryan's Steakhouse)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check Pick up location:

☐ Abide-a-While

☐ Sofa Super Store

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail order & check to:

Charleston Natural History Society  
P. O. Box 504  
Charleston, SC 29401

If you have any questions call Gerald Muckenfuss at (843) 881-3245.