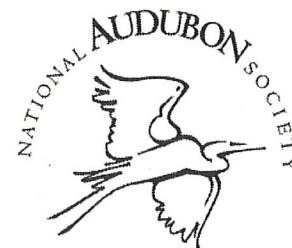


The Lesser Squawk
The Charleston Natural History Society
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Charleston, SC 29402

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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 XLVIII No. 2

March 2001

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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.



McAlhany Sanctuary Open House March 4th

At the McAlhany Sanctuary open house **Sunday, March 4**, **Christopher Walter** will lead a nature hike around the oxbow lake.

Directions: Take Hwy. 61 to Cannadys Cross-roads 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 Christopher at 569-1062.

Mark Your Calendars

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.

April 29— **Charleston Spring Bird Count** (dates of other counts in April edition of *The Squawk*).

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.

South Carolina Naturalist Subject of Talk

John Edwards Holbrook, MD, zoologist and native of Beaufort, has been called "the father of American herpetology." He was the first Southerner elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. At the age of 70, he served as a medical officer in the Confederate Army.

➤ **Dr. William D. Anderson, Jr.**, retired professor of biology at the College of Charleston, and co-author of *Natural History Investigations in South Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present*, will tell us about this fascinating natural-

ist **Tuesday, March 13** at the Charleston Museum. The wine reception begins at 6:30 pm with the program at 7 pm (in the museum board room rather than the auditorium).

Spring Birds, Flowers Mar. 24 CNHS's Wannamaker Preserve

Morgan McClure will lead a trip to CNHS's Wannamaker Nature Preserve near St. Matthews, on **Saturday March 24**.

Meet Morgan at 7 a.m. at Walmart in Summerville, near the parking lot entrance off Hwy 17A. From I-26, take the

Hwy 17A Summerville exit. Walmart will be on the left. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and insect repellent. There are no restroom facilities on the property but we will make one or more rest stops en route.

The preserve has a mixture of fields, pine and hardwood forests, high bluffs, springs, and streams. We will look for early spring migrants, especially warblers, and early spring wildflowers. If we are lucky, the mountain laurels on the high bluff will be in bloom. Bring sharp eyes and enthusiasm and help CNHS with our faunal and floral inventories of the property.

Visit Washoe Reserve Mar. 17

Saturday, March 17, we will visit Washoe (Blakes's) Reserve, a part of the Santee Coastal Reserve in northern Charleston County. Meet **Bob Chinn**, our leader, at 7:30 am in the Mt. Pleasant Lowe's parking lot nearest the Hwy 17 entrance by the IHOP Restaurant. Watch for the IHOP sign, turn right immediately before it. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and insect repellent.

Washoe, or Blake's Reserve, is a 1,000 acre wildlife sanctuary owned by the Nature Conservancy. It has a self-guided 3-

mile interpretive nature trail with 20 numbered stations. A leisurely walk on the trail will take approximately 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Featured are a 200-year-old freshwater cypress lake and cypress-gum swamp harboring the oldest wading bird rookery in continuous use in North America. Up to 50 pairs of Ospreys have nested in the reserve along with white ibis, great egrets, and great blue herons. If the day is warm, alligators might be seen and the calls of pig frogs might be heard.





February Outings Fun

Despite some cloudy weather, the two February outings had good turnouts. Those attending the Bear Island/Donnelly Refuge outing saw 80 plus tundra swans on a pond and in flight. Quite a breathtaking sight. Also observed were several eagles and an eagle nest with fledgling. There were also alligators galore.

Those attending (pictured above and on top) were Van Atkins, Molli Hartzog, Gail Maginnis, Cecil and Lenora Kirkland, Jean Demauro, Lauren Falkenberry, Margaret Garret, Sandy Hampton, Colleen Rumble, Olivia Smith, Tom Snowden, Billy Want, Bob and Billie Chinn and Cornelia Carrier.

Enjoying shorebirds at Pitt St. and Sullivan's Island (pictured at left) were Doreen Cubie, Joe Cockrell, Debbie Faison, Jeri Lynn Herbert, Gail Maginnis, John McAnaw, Mark McAnaw, Jack and Edie Morrison, Louise Orr, Colleen Rumble, Bob Chinn and Julian Harrison.

All photographs appearing in this newsletter were taken by Bob Chinn.

Last Chance to Win \$700 Scope and Tripod: Drawing March 13!

This is your last chance to buy a raffle ticket to win the \$700 spotting scope which we purchased at cost from The Audubon Shop. The drawing will be held following Dr. Anderson's talk at the March 13 meeting. You do not have to be present to win! 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. Tickets may be purchased at the meeting. If purchasing by mail, do not forget to enclose a **self-addressed, stamped envelope**. Mail entries must be received by March 9.

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

Backyard Birder by Van Atkins



At last spring is just around the corner, you can feel it and hear it in the songs of the birds. The redbud trees are in full bloom as well as a lot of the saucer magnolias. The bluebirds and Carolina wrens are checking out the nest boxes. Later on this month the first of the purple martins will be here.

It is time to get nest boxes and martin houses cleaned out and ready for your spring visitors. Make sure the bluebird boxes are at least five feet off the ground and the martin houses are not close to any trees. They can be as close as thirty feet to your house.

Now is also a good time to plant for the birds and butterflies. Some of the web sites that I gave last month have ideas for what to plant. Another one is Will Cook at <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/plants4birds.html>.

The SC Native Plant Society is also on line at <http://cufp.clemson.edu/scnativeplants/index.html>. The Clemson extension service on Meeting St. has booklets on planting for wildlife. Several of the bird stores have material on how to

make your backyard a wildlife habitat. Remember when you are taking the time to feed the birds that it is even more important to provide water for drinking and bathing. You will get more birds with a source of moving water than you will with just feed alone.

We are still feeding American goldfinches at our feeders but we have only used 20 pounds of thistle this year; in years past we have used as much as 150 pounds. A job site we are working on in Mt. Pleas-

ant has a barred owl nesting in a hollow tree that we get to see each morning. I'm hoping for babies soon. Call me with your sightings or questions at 766-7000 or e-mail vatkins@awod.com



VISIT OUR WEBPAGE

www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon

contact Webmaster Bob Chinn

843-552-7884

rchinn@cchat.com

SCCBP Needs You to Spot Nests

Thanks to help from CNHS members and others last year, The South Carolina Center for Birds of Prey placed orphaned birds in foster nests and compiled a list of raptor nests to be monitored for activity this year and in future years. Knowing the locations of active raptor nests helps SCCBP place orphan raptors into nests more quickly.

If you know of active nests of hawks, owls, kites or other birds of prey, please contact **Kathy Dolan**, 843-849-3660 or e-mail kdolan2@home.com. with the following information: species, location of nest, how high the nest is, is it on public or private property, your name and how we can contact you.

Remember that human activity near active nests sites will cause many birds of prey to abandon nests and chicks. When observing nests use binoculars at a discrete distance from the nest and for only brief periods of time.