

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

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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.*



## Open House at McAlhany Sanctuary Nov. 4th

Enjoy great birding and wildlife on the banks of the Edisto River at the McAlhany open house, Sunday, Nov. 4. Directions: From Hwy 61, turn right on Hwy 15 to the town of Grover. Take Wire Rd. and follow over I-95. Pass over a small creek and look for the sign

on the left. For more info: Call Tom Snowden 875-3445.

## Birdseed Pick-up Nov. 10th

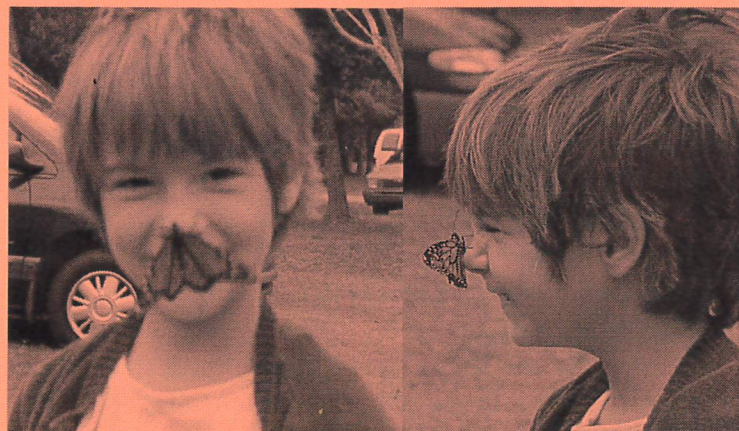
### Mark Your Calendars

**December 11**— Rudy Mancke will be speaker at a special December meeting.

**December 16**— Green Party will be on a Sunday afternoon this year at Bowen's Island. There'll be oysters on the menu plus covered dishes. More details later.

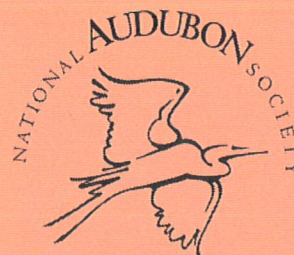
**December Bird Counts**—Dates to be announced later.

**January 8**—John Celey of the Sandhills Research Center will speak on kite research.



— photos by Joe Cockrell

Butterfly outing leader Billy McCord used Susanna Donato's nose as a launching pad for releasing monarch butterflies he had just tagged. Some monarchs seemed to like Susanna's nose better than freedom.



# THE LESSER SQUAWK

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## Botanical Potpourri at Nov. 13 Meet

Dr. Richard Porcher plans a botanical potpourri for our meeting **Tuesday, Nov. 13** at the Charleston Museum.

The program will include an introduction to his soon-to-be released new book, Wildflowers of South Carolina. He'll also

present an overview of his newest project that will trace the history of the sea island cotton culture.

Porcher is a biology professor at The Citadel and one of CNHS's favorite speakers.

The reception begins at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7 pm.

### HELP WITH RECEPTIONS

We need some volunteers to help with the reception. You would need to come to the Museum at 6 pm, help set up the table, greet the people and help clean-up afterwards. Anyone willing to help with November or December receptions, call Bob Chinn at 552-7884.

## Gift Memberships Fundraiser

The insert in this newsletter offers chapter members the opportunity to give gift memberships to family and friends and help our chapter. For every membership, specially priced at only \$15 — no matter where the recipient lives — our chapter will receive the entire \$15. Please fill in your name and address. The two chapter codes, U51 and 7XCH, have been added to the lower right hand corner of the forms. Please put these codes on your check as well. Send the forms with the check for the total amount of the gift memberships to: National Audubon Society, Membership Dept., 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

## Huntington Beach State Park Nov. 17

Saturday Nov. 17 CNHS members and guests are invited to join ornithologist Dennis Forsythe and field zoologist/board member Julian Harrison on a field trip to Huntington Beach State Park.

This is becoming a traditional field trip to the state park regarded by many as the best birding area on the South Carolina coast. On September 20, 2000, for example, 88 species of birds were observed there during the North American Migratory Bird Count. The area includes

tidal creeks and mudflats, freshwater lagoons, fresh and saltwater marshes, dune fields, patches of maritime forest, beach front and a rock jetty at Murrell's Inlet on the north end.

Be prepared to walk (at a leisurely pace) about 1.5 miles to the jetty where rare or uncommon species such as longspurs, reddish egrets, harlequin ducks and others are sometimes seen.

Since Huntington Beach is about an 1.5 hour drive, please meet Den-

nis and Julian at the Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant (in the corner of the lot opposite the IHOP restaurant) promptly at 6:30 a.m. This is an all day trip so bring lunches and/or snacks, water, binoculars and field guides.

The weather could be windy and chilly so dress accordingly; caps and sunscreen are advisable. Restrooms and other amenities are available. Entrance fees to the park: Adults, \$4 Children (6-12), \$2, Senior Citizens, free (bring ID).





— photos by Bob Chinn

## Grove Plantation in Ace Basin

The Oct. 20th outing to the Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuge was blessed with glorious weather and a colony of red-headed woodpeckers plus many more species. Pictured here counterclockwise from above right: Don Jones and Ann Tiller enjoy the viewing platform built with grant to CNHS; group enjoys lunch on grounds of Grove Plantation House (refuge headquarters); participants walk the beautiful trails through woods and wetlands. The outing was coordinated with National Wildlife Refuge Week. Jane Griess, refuge manager, and Jennifer Koches hosted the group.



## BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Chinn, president/web master 552-7884  
Christopher Walter, vice-pres., secy. 569-1062  
Thomas Snowden, treasurer, 875-445  
Julian Harrison, historian, outings 795-1694  
Ann Tiller, membership, 884-4532  
Cornelia Carrier, newsletter, 577-6437  
Joe Cockrell, birdseed sale, 762-3868  
Morgan McClure, programs, 763-0222  
Jennifer Lamar, conservation, 343-5862  
Jeff Dennis, McAlhany, 577-8890  
Norm Brunswig, State Office, (843)688-5833  
Polly Holden, 853-1100

## Plea for Return of Borrowed Items

Some time ago, someone borrowed my Audubon slide presentation and text and has not returned it. Also, last year another person borrowed my 7x42 Leica binoculars. Both were to be returned within a few days.

My computer has since zapped the names of the borrowers. Please look around your house and if you have them, please return them to me. I will not scold you but will rejoice in their return.



Thank you,  
Polly Holden  
853-1100 Work  
795-1124 Home

# Urban Sprawl and the UDO by Bob Chinn

To be honest, I had not given much thought to the UDO for these many months it has been kicked around in the media. I thought "it doesn't affect me", "it is all political", "it only applies to the rural areas" etc. BUT, after a recent trip to California, I experienced first hand the effect of urban sprawl. In a rural area of northern CA, (out in the wine country) it took 35 minutes to travel 5 miles! No wrecks, no stalled vehicles, just the fact that the amount of traffic was too much for the road system to handle. Like trying to put 10 pounds of dirt into a 5 pound bag, all you get is a big mess.

I still do not know if the UDO is

the answer, but something has to be done to contain uncontrolled development. In a report on land conversion, for the years 1992 to 1997, in SC, land conversion / population growth was a ratio of 6:1. From Land Conversion Study by James B. London and Nicole Hill, "Put another way, land was converted at six times the rate of population growth." ... "The recent development that South Carolina has experienced has brought unprecedented opportunity, but the high rates of land conversion are irrevocably changing the character of this state. The rates of prime agricultural land, woodlands, and wildlife habitat conversion now rank

among the highest in the country. At the same time, the infrastructure cost of servicing this low density development pattern will be staggering."

I am not sure what the answer is, but I know that I will be more active in pursuing a viable solution to the problem. I urge you all to get involved in City/County council meetings to voice your opinions on this volatile issue.

There are several good sites on the internet that address the issues of urban sprawl. If you are interested in these, contact me for the addresses. Phone me at 552-7884, or e-mail me at rchinn@awod.com

## Backyard Birder by Van Atkins



We have had some great fall weather so far. I for one hope it stays this way till March and then warms up! I told Wynema that if it gets cold this year I'm going south. The past month or so has been busy with trips to the Francis Marion Forest, where we had several warblers and several Red-cockaded woodpeckers. There were not many ducks at Bear Island yet, but a lot of different shorebirds, and we saw 14 white pelicans fly over. David Huff was there last week and he watched seven white pelicans on the pond.

Please let me know when and where you see them. Mr. Everett Alster of Portabella Lane on James Island has several Wood storks at his place. Bob Sevens saw a Swainson's thrush at his place.

Ed Conradi had a swarm of migrating warblers come by his

home in Mt. Pleasant — they included pine, Blackburnian, black and white, worm-eating and chestnut-sided. He also had painted buntings, Baltimore oriole's, Swainson's thrush and a merlin. That is my kind of place!

Ben Smith has had Louisiana water thrush, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks and a great time watching five catbirds bathing in the bird bath at the same time.

I watched a sharp-shinned hawk chase a squirrel around a large dumpster until the squirrel found a hole under it for cover while the hawk flew to a nearby limb to wait. After a while the squirrel came out looked around very apprehensively then took off like a streak for the nearest tree, the hawk did not take chase maybe because I was there, so I left. We have also had a resident red-shouldered hawk at our

place for the past couple of weeks.

The fall migration is over. Now we wait for our winter birds to come in. Too bad they don't keep their colors for easy identification.

The next Carolina Bird Club meeting will be held on the outer banks at Nags Head. Go on the Internet at Carolina Birds or contact me for information. See you at our next meeting at the museum I hope. Call me with your backyard birds. Van Atkins 766-7000 or vatkins@awod.com



VISIT OUR  
WEBPAGE  
www.homestead.com/  
cnhsaudubon  
contact Webmaster Bob  
Chinn  
843-552-7884  
rchinn@awodcom