

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Charleston, SC
Permit No. 349

EXPIRES 11/1/01
ANN S TILLER
345 HOBCAW DR
MT PLEASANT SC 29464-2571



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 Oct. 7th

Enjoy great birding and wildlife on the banks of the Edisto River at the McAlhany open house, Sunday, October 7.

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 information: Call Tom Snowden 875-3445.

Mark Your Calendars

November 13 - Richard Porcher gives slide presentation on South Carolina wildflowers.

November 17 - Huntington Beach birding with Dennis Forsythe (date to be announced).

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

December - Green Party on Sullivan's Island. Date will be announced later.

December Bird Counts - Dates to be announced later.

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 51001,
Boulder, CO 80323-1001

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society
Write Chapter Code U-51 on your check. 7XCH



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. 6

October 2001

Butterflies with Billy McCord: Meeting Oct. 9 and Outing Oct. 14

Billy McCord, biologist with the Marine Resources Division of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will give his beautiful slide presentation and talk on butterflies and moths at the membership meeting October 9 at the Charleston Museum.

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

Then join Billy for a repeat of last year's most successful butterfly outing at Fort Johnson on James Island. Billy will demonstrate capture, handling and tagging of Monarch Butterflies and we should have many opportunities to learn how to identify other species.

Meet Billy at 2 p.m. at the park-

ing lot opposite the Marine Resources Research Institute.

To reach Fort Johnson take Folly Road to Harbor View Road to Fort Johnson Road. A left turn there takes you to the gate to the SCDNR complex; drive through the gate straight down to the parking lot, which will be on the left..

Birding in ACE Basin NWR Oct. 20

Help celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week on Saturday, October 20, by joining field trip leaders Julian Harrison and Jennifer Koches for a morning and early afternoon of birding at ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge, CNHS' adopted Refuge. Jennifer is a Public Outreach Specialist, Ecological Services with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thanks to Jane Griess, Refuge Manager, and Jennifer we will have access by vehicle to several areas on the refuge as well as an opportunity to visit Grove Plantation House, which serves as refuge headquarters. Also, Jennifer will provide some perspectives concerning National Wildlife Refuge Week and talk about the

history of the plantation house for those who may be interested.

The refuge is home to bald eagles, wood storks (mainly summer months), concentrations of up to 30,000 ducks in winter, large numbers of wading birds, shorebirds and raptors in various seasons, and neotropical songbird migrants in the spring and fall.

Meet Julian and Jennifer at 7:30 a.m. at the Wal-

Mart parking lot on Hwy 61 across from St. Francis Hospital. If you prefer to meet the leaders at the refuge, take SC Hwy 174 from US Hwy 17 through the village of Adams Run.

At the intersection with a flashing light, turn right onto Willtown Road. The entrance road to the refuge is about 2 miles on the left and next to the refuge sign. Refuge headquarters at Grove Plantation is about 2.2 miles down the dirt road.

Bring water, lunch and/or snacks, binoculars, field guides, spotting scope if you have one and insect repellent. We will be walking and driving on the refuge.



Photo by R. Bennetts



Order Birdseed Now for CNHS' Main Fundraiser

Our annual birdseed sale is underway with pick-up Nov. 10. See enclosures for details. Again this year we will have two pick-up places: The Sofa Superstore in West Ashley and Abide-a-While Nursery in Mt. Pleasant.

Although you can find cheaper birdseed for sale in

discount stores, the seed we sell is of the highest quality. This is our major fundraiser — so buy from us! If you haven't yet done so, order now!

Pick up extra forms at our October meeting and urge your friends, neighbors and colleagues to participate in our fundraiser.

Backyard Birder by Van Atkins

Wow, fall migration is upon us in the low country. With the cold front that came on Friday the 14th came a lot of warblers. The next morning in all the wind we had the North America Fall Migratory Bird Count. I worked with Sharon Brown, she and a couple of others did Donnelly WMA, myself and three others worked Bear Island. Despite the wind blowing all day we had 64 species of birds.

I went out to my compost pile the other day and saw a oven bird scratching around in the leaves. I also saw around sixteen palm warblers.

Ben Smith reported seeing several red-eyed vireos, a northern water thrush, a red-start and one veery in his back yard.

There have been a lot of warblers sighted on Edisto Island as well as Wadmalaw Island. Two weeks ago I had a call from Cindy Smith that she had around 70 white pelicans on the

water out from her dock in the mornings that flew off towards Younges Island every afternoon. I went to Younges Island looking for them and after several attempts found them out from a private dock. They were not close enough for any good photos but I counted 150 pelicans on three different oyster banks. The next week Tom Blagden and I went out in a boat to see if we could get close enough for picture taking. Well we did. I took

326 shots on my new Digital camera and Tom shot off several rolls of film, they allowed us to come within twenty feet of them. I will have pictures at the next meeting. Don't clear out your flowers that have gone to seed, leave them for the birds to feed on. Also leave your hummingbird feeders up for the strays that come into this area. Call me with your reports Van Atkins 766-7000 or vatkins@awod.com.

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
Hal Currey, 883-9114
Polly Holden, 853-1100

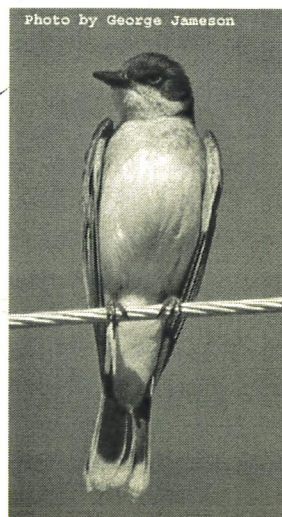


Photo by George Jameson

Joe w. 727-4707

On Bear Island, Tom Snowden, Bob Chinn, Julian Harrison and Gail Maginnis watch eagle steal fish from osprey in mid-air!



Beidler Hosts Bats, Barred Owls & BBQ

Francis Beidler Forest will host its annual "Bats, Barred Owls and Barbecue" festival on Saturday, Nov. 3. Guest swill feast on locally cooked barbecue (a vegetarian entree is available upon request) and all the trimmings, then be treated to a night walk through the swamp/forest via boardwalk. The walk, focusing on owls and bats, will be led by Audubon naturalists.

Seatings begin at 6 pm. Call 843-462-2150 for reservations and directions. \$15.00/adults, \$10.00/children. Proceeds support our educational programs. Also, nightwalk dates are: Oct. 20 at 7 pm, Oct. 27 at 7 pm and Nov. 24 at 5:30 pm.

Canceled Events

Due to the disastrous attack on the World Trade Center, the membership meeting on Sept. 11 was cancelled.

Because of increased security at the Parris Island Marine Depot, the scheduled outing there was changed to Bear Island where participants saw flocks of glossy ibis, tree swallows, word storks plus eagles building a nest.

Editorial by Cornelia Carrier

In these tragic times of horror and grief compounded by fear of the unknown future America faces, we must not lose sight of the environmental goals we promote.

Recently on television a respected commentator said that, up until the terrorist attack, we had worried about inconsequential things such as Gary Condit and endangered species. While Gary Condit deservedly drifts out of sight, the protection of endangered species should not.

We have heard congressional leaders call for ending our dependency on Middle Eastern oil with more domestic production. Some, such as Louisiana's Billy Tauzin, are calling on the Senate to allow drilling for oil in the coastal plain of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge — marring our last great wilderness for a few months' supply of oil. This week on public radio a policy wonk said that it would be "more patriotic" to drill for oil in ANWR than to continue buying Middle Eastern oil.

We must remain steadfast in urging our leaders to get serious about energy conservation with measures such as increased fuel efficiency standards for SUV's. California citizens managed to stop the brownouts by cutting back on their individual energy use. We must stop being the energy gluttons of the world.

Defense funding is of utmost importance, but funds must not be drained away from environmental programs. The critical timeline to stop environmental degradation cannot be put on hold. Once lost, natural areas and species will not return.

We all hope and pray that efforts to wipe out international terrorism succeed. When that success comes we don't want to look back and say that we sacrificed the environment in a panicked race for a quick fix. Protecting our environment matters as much today as it did before Sept. 11, 2001.



VISIT OUR
WEBPAGE
www.homestead.com/
cnhsaudubon

to view *Field and Stream* article on ANWR oil drilling