

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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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.



Labor Open House at McAlhany Sept. 2nd

At the McAlhany Sanctuary open house **Sunday, Sept. 2**, plan to help with gardening, weeding, raking and clean-up around the cabin. Might be buggy. Bring gloves. 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

- October 9** - Billy McCord gives slide presentation on Lowcountry butterflies.
- October 14** - Butterfly outing with Billy McCord at Ft. Johnson.
- October 20** - Julian Harrison will lead field trip to ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge
- November 13** - Richard Porcher gives slide presentation on South Carolina wildflowers.
- November** - Huntington Beach birding with Dennis Forsythe (date to be announced).

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

SC Heritage Trust Program Will Kick Off CNHS Year at Sept. 11 Meeting at Museum

Steve Bennett, with the SC gram, which protects important natural, and historical sites, at Charleston Museum. We'll begin with a reception at **6:30 pm** Tuesday, **Sept. 11**. Plan to attend the meeting at the Dept. of Natural Resources, our first meeting of the year, followed by program at **7 pm**. will tell us about the South Carolina Heritage Trust Pro-

Fall Wildflowers /Wetland Critters Sept. 16

Join College of Charleston botanist Jean Everett for a field trip to longleaf pine flatwood and pond cypress savanna communities in the Francis Marion National Forest on **Sunday, Sept. 16**. Jean is currently involved in some botanical research in the forest. If we are lucky, some of the summer orchids may still be in bloom, but there will be other fall flowers to occupy our attention and study. CNHS field trip chairman and herpetologist Julian Harrison will accompany us to help identify any birds, reptiles, or other critters that we may see. A handy dipnet will be used to sample (hopefully), examine, and replace some of the interesting wetland critters to be found in the cypress ponds that are abundant in the Francis Marion National Forest. Meet Jean and Julian at Lowe's parking lot (the corner opposite the IHOP restaurant) just off Hwy 17 north of Mt. Pleasant at **7:30 am**. This is a half day trip. bring binoculars, field guides, insect repellent, water , snacks, and /or lunch.

Parris Island Outing Set for Sept. 29th

Bob Chinn will lead a trip to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island on **Saturday, Sept. 29**. Parris Island, near Beaufort, has a variety of habitats, including a large saltwater pond, tidal creeks, rivers, extensive marshes, mud flats, pine and mixed forests. Some of the species we may see include returning shorebirds, eagles, osprey, wood storks, glossy and white ibis, herons, egrets (with luck maybe least bittern), rails, guides, spotting scope and insect repellent (gnats can be a pest). It can still be hot, so wear appropriate clothing. There is not a lot walking involved. If it has been raining, boots are recommended. Sanitary facilities are available. Meet Bob at **7 am** at the Wal-Mart parking lot, located on Hwy 61 Expressway across from St. Francis Hospital. Last year on Oct. 2, we saw manatees off Elliot Beach at Parris Island. We may see them again this year if we're lucky. Bring water, lunch and snacks if desired (dining facilities are available), binoculars, field

Message From the President by Bob Chinn

First of all, welcome back for the 2001-2002 season!

My goals as president for the next two years are: Increase membership; increase member participation in all aspects of chapter functions (including: meetings/programs, field trips and projects); continue work to make the McAlhany and Wanamaker properties first class nature preserves, and strive to keep members aware of all issues that affect the environment locally, statewide or nationally.

Here are some good news/bad news items from over the summer.

Bad news— port expansion almost inevitable

Good news—No global gateway (maybe, SPA has been known to speak with forked tongue) and sites other than Daniel Island are being looked

at (N. Charleston for one).

Good news—28-acre Seabrook tract on Folly not to be sold to developer

Bad news— Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission bought it. With their track record, we will have to follow closely what they propose for it (maybe another water park?)



Bad news—bald eagles and other species still dying from avian macular myelinopathy-

Good news- none to speak of. Scientists and wildlife officials are still in the dark as to what causes the affliction (see story

from Aug. 6 on our web site).

Bad news—US House authorized drilling in Arctic NWR.

Good news— the bill still has to get through the Senate. Please contact Senators Thurmond and Hollings and urge them to reject this bill when the Senate returns in September.

Piersons Save Birdathon With \$202.50 Raised for CNHS



Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pierson, our Spring Birdathon earned the chapter \$202.50. The Piersons were the only members who participated in the Birdathon. They will serve as an inspiration to our members next year when we plan to have a Wildathon that counts all living creatures spotted.

The Piersons got 15 friends to participate in their effort. Some of these were from the Charleston area but others from as far away as Michigan and Oklahoma. Our heartfelt thanks to the Piersons and their friends.



VISIT OUR

WEBPAGE

www.homestead.com/cnhsaudubon

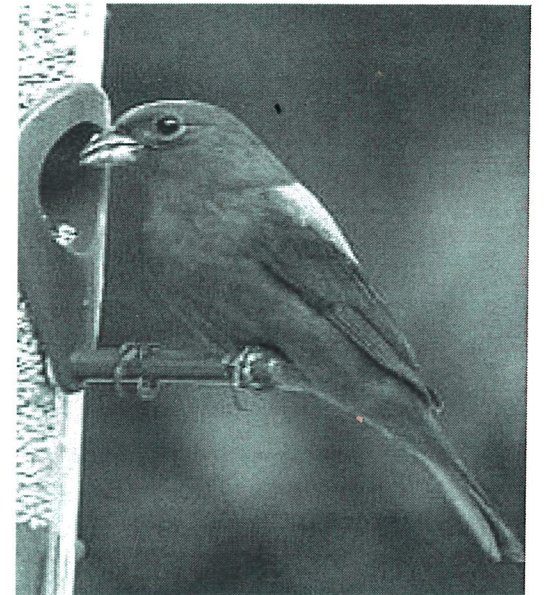
contact Webmaster Bob Chinn
843-552-7884
rchinn@cchat.com

Order Birdseed Now for CNHS' Main Fundraiser

Our annual birdseed sale begins now 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 and is our major fundraiser—so buy from us! We will have extra order forms at the September and October membership meetings. Pick them up and urge your friends, neighbors and colleagues to participate in our fundraiser.



Backyard Birder by Van Atkins

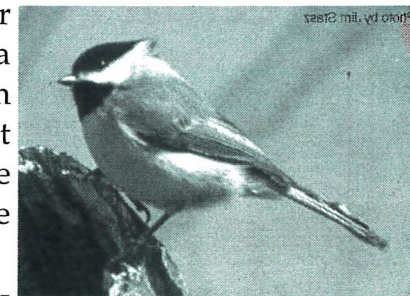
Don't give up. Summer is almost over, I believe. It has been very hot lately, but at least we have had some rain to give us a break. Pray for the people in the central and western states. They are still hot and dry.

It is important that we provide water for our birds during the hot weather. Water is even more important than feed is. If at all possible, provide moving water using a mister or hang a plastic jug with a pin hole in the bottom above a bird bath and let it drip. You will then have the pleasure of watching the birds drink and bathe.

I have not had many reports come in this summer. Ben Smith has seen cardinals, titmice, Carolina wren, chickadees and buntings all fledge young.

We have not seen any different birds at our feeders, but

then we have not been here for the past three months. We had a kitchen fire in May and were living in a motel until Aug. 16th. Great to be back home. We have several young hummers and red-headed woodpeckers at the feeders. We have also seen a pair of Mississippi kites feeding over our place and using the big cottonwood tree to rest in. Our martins raised nine young—not



as many as last

year. I had a time with the house sparrows this year.

Vic and Marge Del Bene reported that they had a nest of red-headed woodpeckers at their place in Mt. Pleasant.

The Carolina Bird Club will be having the fall meeting at Santee Wildlife Sept. 21-22. There will be field trips and guest speakers. Contact me for more information. Van Atkins 766-7000, vatkins@awod.com or fax 556-1592.

BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Chinn, president, 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 Holder, 853-1100

CNHS members enjoy birding at Hampton Plantation on field trip in May

