

THE Lesser SQUAWK

The Charleston Audubon Society
P.O. Box 504
Charleston, SC 29402

Audubon

The Charleston Natural History Society – a SC chapter (chartered in 1970) of the National Audubon Society, serving Berkeley, Charleston & Dorchester counties – is a nonprofit environmental organization that actively promotes awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, sponsored research and social activities.

New Species – continued from page 1

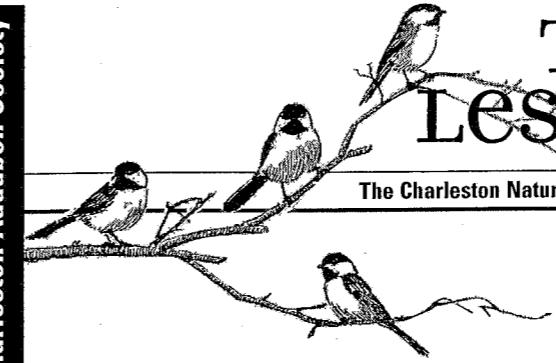
Eurycea chamberlainii didn't just appear out of thin air, of course. It's been known as one of two color morphs of the Dwarf Salamander since the 1940s. The belly of the "light form" (now *E. chamberlainii*) is bright yellow and lacks dark markings, while that of the "dark form" (*E. quadrivittata*) is uniformly pigmented with small, darker brown flecks.

Julian Harrison became interested in studying the differences between the two forms in 1973 at the College of Charleston. In addition to the obvious differentiation in belly color, he found the light form was smaller than the dark form, had longer limbs, possessed unique skeletal characters, and bore more yolk-laden eggs. He also found the dark form was restricted to the Carolina Coastal Plains, while the light form was found in the Piedmont and upper Coastal Plain of SC and in the Piedmont and various NC Coastal Plain locales.

At Miami University in Ohio, Sheldon Guttman was able to assess genetic differences between populations of the two salamander morphs by conducting electrophoretic analysis of enzyme variants produced by 17 different genes. He found that these populations were extremely different, and genetically isolated. The weight of the evidence convinced Harrison and Guttman to grant the light form the status of a new species (the original description of *E. quadrivittata* was based on the dark form).

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Charleston Audubon Society



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The Charleston Natural History Society, est. 1905

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Newly Described SC Species Honors Past Chapter President

A new animal species has just been recognized in South Carolina: *Eurycea chamberlainii*, or Chamberlain's Dwarf Salamander, was described this year by Julian R. Harrison, III and Sheldon I. Guttman in the journal *Southeastern Naturalist* (Vol. 2(2):159-178). This small, secretive creature – only about 2-3 inches long – lives in seepage areas near ponds and streams. Like most salamanders (one of the amphibians, a group that includes frogs and toads), it has no lungs and thus must keep its body moist in order to "breathe" through its skin.

The authors decided to name the new species in honor of Edward Burnham Chamberlain, who served as Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Charleston Museum from 1924-1952. He made important contributions to the study of amphibians and reptiles in SC, not the least of which was

inspiring youngsters – including then "Nature Trailer" Julian Harrison – to pursue careers in natural history. Indeed, Chamberlain acted as a mentor to Harrison as he developed from a youthful enthusiast to a serious naturalist. Burnham Chamberlain was also very active in the Charleston Natural History Society. A former President of the Society, Chamberlain was the compiler for the Charleston area Christmas and spring bird counts for many years.



Eurycea chamberlainii

continued on page 4

President's Message: Wouldn't You Like to Volunteer?

Volunteers make our organization work. Active volunteer members are responsible for our fieldtrips and lecture programs, our fundraisers and grant programs, this newsletter and our website. Some jobs are bigger than others, and no one can do it all, but we can each help in our own way.

If you'd like to help, please contact me – or any of our current board members – to discuss your interests and how you might become more involved. There are many different ways to contribute:

- We're always looking for folks to help with "hospitality" – providing refreshments before our membership programs (the second Tuesday of the month.)

- And we're looking for people to help us keep in touch with our own members – making phone calls to those who have recently joined and explaining the opportunities as well as reaching out to past members for their continued support.

- And every special event and program needs organizers, planners and helpers to make it a success.

Please take the time, consider how you'd like to help, and then contact us by phone, email – or in person at our next event.

Tom Snowden PH: 843.875.3445
EMAIL: toms@myexcel.com

UPCOMING EVENTS – details in this issue

Area Christmas Bird Counts: (details pg. 2)

Dec. 27 Santee NWR

Dec. 28 ACE Basin

Dec. 30 Litchfield-Pawleys Island

Jan. 4 Charleston

Jan. 13 Creating a Backyard Habitat:
Slide Show & Talk (details pg. 2)

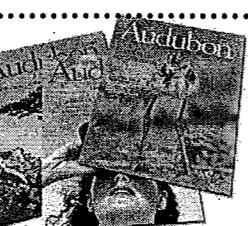
Jan. 18 ACE/TBA Birding Fieldtrip:
(details TBA, see pg. 2)

Feb. 5 Conservation Lobby Day (details pg. 3)

Seeking Reader Submissions:

Do you have a favorite local birding spot? Do you use a field guide that has all the others beat? Have you taken any great birding photos lately? Did you get the most bang for your buck with those binoculars you're using? If so, then send your reviews, comments, or photos to the *Squawk* and we'll share them in a future issue.

Email your submissions to squawk@bleezarde.com or mail them to CNHS Audubon, POB 504, Charleston, SC 29402.



New Members, Renewals, Gift Memberships

For only \$20* you get one-year subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine and *The Lesser Squawk*, and all the benefits of local and National Audubon Society membership. Renew for just \$35/year. *\$15 for Sr. Citizens and Students

CHECK ONE: NEW MEMBER GIFT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

THIS IS A GIFT FROM:

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MAIL THIS COUPON AND YOUR CHECK TO:
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P.O. BOX 504
CHARLESTON, SC 29402

Checks payable to the National Audubon Society. Include chapter code on check: U-51 7XCH

Volunteers and Contributors Made Rummage Sale a Success

This year's rummage sale made close to \$1,100 for the society's work in education and conservation. We have lots of folks to thank:

First, we want to thank the handful of members who contributed goods for our sale. Without your help there would not have been a sale, and we urge all our members to consider contributing to our next sale so it will be an even greater success.

Thanks also to Jimmy Jones and the board of the Charleston County Masonic Association who, for the second year, offered us the covered pavilion behind the Masonic Center. We also want to thank Willis Godwin, the center's custodian, who helped in many ways during our set-up.

Indispensable to our success were four portable storage units donated by Ted Finucan with EZ Mobile Storage. (Call 552-3339 if you are looking for handy storage).

This year we sold coffee and donuts and have Ann Pope with Krispy Kreme Donuts to thank for donating six dozen donuts.

Thanks to Doreen Cubie and Joe Cockrell for making sure people knew about the sale. And also to those who lent us tables: Teri Lynn Herbert, Ann Shahid with Beidler Forest, Don Jones and Michaela McIntosh.

Last but not least, we want to thank members who worked on the sale: Cornelia Carrier, organized the sale, and our president Tom Snowden not only helped set-up, but spent the night watching over the merchandise. Others who spent Friday setting-up and Saturday manning the sale included Doreen Cubie, Don Jones and Bob Chinn. Others assisted including Polly Holden, Andy Harrison, Steve Bleezarde, Teri Lynn Herbert and Jane Keller.



Mark YOUR CALENDARS: ►Upcoming Programs, Outings & Lowcountry Events

TBA Fieltrip in January

► Sunday, January 18, 2004 – 7:30 a.m.
ACE Basin/TBA Fieldtrip

TBA is for "to be announced." Plans are being made to visit a private plantation in the ACE Basin, but those plans haven't been confirmed yet as this issue of the *Squawk* goes to press. Wherever we do go, we'll meet outings chair Burton Moore at 7:30 a.m. in the Ravenel Food Lion parking lot near the intersection of 165 and 17.

To confirm, and for more information, call Burton (853-1100, Tues.–Sat., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.) and check our website where details will be posted once they are confirmed:

<http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>.

Join 104 Years of Citizen Science: Join Our Area's Christmas Bird Counts

Lowcountry birders will take to woods, waters, marshes and islands in the month ahead (December 15 thru January 5) for the National Audubon Society's 104th Christmas Bird Count. Local compilers Burton Moore, Perry Nugent and David Chamberlain invite anyone who is interested in birding to attend one or all of the five area counts. Groups will cover circles 15 miles in diameter for each count. Counters will record every species they see, and note the numbers of each species. Christmas count data are compiled each year to show which species are increasing or decreasing and how winter ranges are changing.

The counts were begun in 1900 as an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Frank Chapman proposed to identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding one of the Nation's most significant citizen-based conservation efforts, now a more than century-old institution.

The counts also are a fun event, a learning experience and a chance to view birds in beautiful habitats.

Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch and beverage, layers of clothing and good walking shoes for a day in the field.

There is a \$5.00 fee for participants age 19 and older. This fee helps offset the cost of publishing the count results of 1,800 counts during the season. This year each participant paying the \$5.00 fee will receive the CBC issue of American Birds (this applies to all counts!).

► Sunday, January 4, 2004
Charleston Area Bird Count

Meet Burton Moore by the KFC at the US 17N & SC Hwy 41 intersection (north of Mt. Pleasant) at 6:45 a.m. for assignment to a field party. The Charleston circle covers part of the National Forest, Bull's Island, Capers Island, along Hwy 41, Moores landing, Wando River area and I'on Swamp.

For info or if you have questions, contact Burton (843-853-1100) or Bob Chinn (843-552-7884 or email bobchinn@comcast.net).

Backyard Habitat Slideshow

► Tuesday, January 13, 2004 – 6:30 p.m. reception 7:00 p.m.
Chris Wood: "Creating a Backyard Habitat"

Chris Wood, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Mt. Pleasant will present over 100 slides while discussing what you can do to make your own backyard an attractive habitat for birds and other wildlife. (See the story on page 3 for some topics Chris will address.)

Join us at the Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, across from the Charleston Visitor Center, on Tuesday, January 13 with a reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m.. Our programs are held regularly on the second Tuesday of the month, are free and open to the public.

Join 104 Years of Citizen Science: Join Our Area's Christmas Bird Counts

► Saturday, December 20, 2003
McClellanville Area Bird Count

Meet Perry Nugent in downtown McClellanville by 7 a.m. The McClellanville circle includes parts of Francis Marion National Forest, Santee Coastal Reserve, Murphy and other offshore islands.

For more info or contact Perry (nugentpc@earthlink.net)

► Saturday, December 27, 2003
Santee NWR Area Bird Count

Santee NWR—Saturday, December 27, 2003
Meet Lex Glover at 6:45 a.m. at the Refuge visitor center. From Charleston, take I-26 to I-95N. Go north to exit 102, then US 301N to Refuge sign (approx 1/4 mile). The Santee count covers the wildlife refuge, Santee State Park, Vance and areas adjacent to the refuge.

Questions? Contact Lex (803-438-9855 bglvr@clemson.edu).

► Sunday, December 28, 2003
ACE Basin Area Bird Count

Meet David Chamberlain and Pete Laurie at 6:45 a.m. at the Anglers Stop at the junction of US-17S and SC Hwy. 64 in Jacksonboro, SC. The ACE Basin count covers part of the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge, Bear Island and Donnelley Wildlife Management Areas and portions of many private plantations.

Questions? Call David at 843-884-0019.

► Tuesday, December 30, 2003
Litchfield-Pawleys Island Area Bird Count

Meet Jack Peachey at 6:30 a.m. at Huntington Beach State Park at the Nature Center (east side of the count) or Tonya Spires at the Plantersville Sod Farm off of Hwy. 701 on SSR52. This count circle encompasses Huntington Beach State Park, Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, Plantations west of the Waccamaw river and Sandy Island.

For more info contact Jack Peachey (843-347-5810, email ppaw@scocoast.net) or Tonya Spires (843-397-0384).

What Can You Do In Your Own Back Yard?

Create Your Wildlife Habitat — When creating a wildlife habitat, the combination of habitat elements (food, water, cover and places to raise young) you provide should take into consideration the needs of the wildlife you wish to attract. Carefully selected plantings can provide food, cover and/or places to raise young.

Choose a Variety of Plantings — Landscaping for the ideal wildlife habitat should include plants ranging in size and density from small evergreen shrubs to tall, full-grown trees so that birds and other wildlife can choose the appropriate cover they need for feeding, hiding, courting and nesting activities. For example, dense shrubberies provide safe areas for many species of wildlife to mate, build nests and raise their families.

Start your Habitat With a Plan — Develop a plan for your backyard. Take an assessment of what you already have and then map out a landscaping plan that includes all the plants and natural features in your yard. Select plants native to your area. Learn about certifying your yard as an official Backyard Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation.

For the Best Results, Use Native Plants — Plants native to the soils and climate of our area provide the best overall food sources for wildlife. In addition, native plants generally require less fertilizer, water and effort to control pests. Native plants may support 10 to 50 times more species of native wildlife than exotic species.

Visit Our Website


Webmaster Bob Chinn keeps us up-to-date with details of programs, outings & more.
<http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>

*CNHS Audubon Field Trips

The CNHS/Audubon sponsors at least one field trip/outing per month, September thru May. Field trips are free, unless otherwise noted, and are open to the general public. Please wear suitable outdoor gear and note that a brown bag lunch is often appropriate.

Please register with the trip leader, by 6 p.m. the day before the outing. (This is to allow the leaders to plan appropriately for the size of the group.) All trip participants are required to sign an "acknowledgement of risk" statement as required by our insurance carrier.

First Annual S.C. Conservation Lobby Day Scheduled

The upcoming legislative session is crucial for ensuring the long-term protection of South Carolina's natural resources. It has been a difficult few years for our local environment and there's more to come. Upcoming challenges for the conservation community include maintaining funding of the newly created Conservation Bank and restoring protection to isolated wetlands. There are many other issues in the upcoming legislative session that will affect the conservation community as a whole and the Audubon Society will need the help of its members if our collective voice is to be heard.

Recent victories, particularly the Conservation Bank, were a direct result of grassroots campaigns and the combined support of the wide range of groups that spoke out on this issue. Following the adage that "there is strength in numbers" the conservation community is collectively hosting a **Lobby Day** on Thursday, February 5, 2004 in Columbia.

The Day will begin with a breakfast, to be shared by Audubon members and their legislators. A brief workshop on how to effectively speak to your legislator will follow and then it's on to the Statehouse to work for the things that we all care about.

Audubon is inviting its members to come participate in this important event. Audubon's earliest roots can be found in the advocacy of its members. We are one of the strongest grassroots organizations in the nation. Please come out to support this very important day.

All state chapter members will receive an invitation in the mail in January but it is never too early to plan to attend! The breakfast and all other parts of the event will be free to members so please be there to support conservation in South Carolina.

Tentative Lobby Day Schedule — Thursday, February 5

8:00–9:30 a.m.	Legislative Breakfast at Clarion Townhouse Speaker on a conservation issue Members will have a chance to speak with their local legislators on conservation issues
9:30–10:30 a.m.	"How to Lobby" workshop. Review of important issues
11:00 a.m.	Statehouse visit by organizations and members

The CNHS/Audubon Board for 2003-04

President: Tom Snowden w 953-0311, h 875-3445

Vice President: Joe Cockrell w 462-2150, h 762-3868

Secretary: Melissa Davis h 216-3833

Treasurer: Doreen Cubie h 928-3702

Ex Officio: Bob Chinn h 552-7884

Historian: Julian Harrison

Newsletter: Steve Bleezarde h 406-2061

Committees — — — — —

Hospitality: Don Jones h 572-8232

Education: Melissa Davis

Membership: Doreen Cubie

Publicity: is open at this time.

Outings: Burton Moore 853-1100, Bob Chinn, Andy Harrison

Programs: Polly Holden 853-1100, Burton Moore

Conservation: Garrett Budds h 571-4668, Andy Harrison

McAlhany: Joe Cockrell, Julian Harrison, Garrett Budds, Marion Page, Jeff Dennis.

Wannamaker: Norm Brunswig (843)688-5833, Julian Harrison, Marion Page, Dan Tufford

Interested in joining a committee? Contact one of the members listed, or talk to chapter president Tom Snowden about how you can help.