

# THE Lesser SQUAWK

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

## Audubon

The Charleston Audubon Society—a SC chapter of the National Audubon Society since 1970, founded as the Charleston Natural History Society in 1905, and serving Berkeley, Charleston and 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.

### Request for Birding Volunteers

A Department of Natural Resources study aims to characterize the flora and fauna of local small coastal islands, sometimes known as hammocks. Because of limited funding and staff, DNR is asking for volunteers to assist in these field studies.

A particular need is for volunteers with experience identifying local and migrating birds. If you are knowledgeable and interested, please contact Megan Rekow at 953-9019 or via email at [rekowm@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:rekowm@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us). Megan will be scheduling assorted outings in the coming months.

### 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

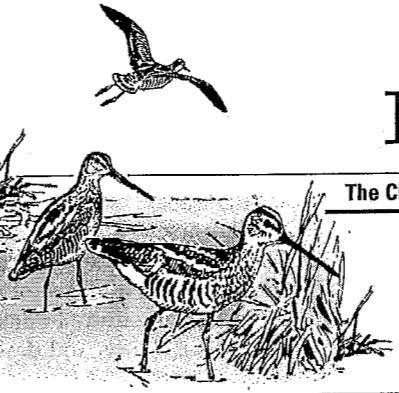
Conservation: Garrett Budds h 571-4668, Andy Harrison

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

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

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Charleston Audubon Society



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## Learn to Garden for Wildlife At October Membership Program

Billy McCord, Wildlife Biologist with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, will speak on "Gardening for Wildlife." A "how to" message to enhance Mother Nature for those of us who love our flora and fauna. His presentation will conclude with "Monarch Banding." Billy, our butterfly expert, will have his butterfly specimens on display and as always will be happy to answer questions. Don't miss this one!

Join us at the Charleston Museum, Tuesday, October 14 with a reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00 p.m.

## Folly for Butterflies and Birds

Join outings Chairman Burton Moore and DNR biologist Billy McCord for a butterfly and bird field trip to the old Coast Guard station at the north end of Folly Beach. Billy usually finds good numbers of migrating Monarchs and other butterflies on the north and south ends of Folly to tag, so we should observe many species in hand. The north end is also a great location for migrating sparrows at this time of year.



Meet Burton and Billy at the last sand lot on the right at the north end at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 19th.

Please register with Burton at 853-1100 (Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.).

## Fall Fundraising Efforts Wrap-Up in November

### Annual Birdseed Sale – Orders Due, Postmarked by Oct. 20

Our sale offers high-quality seed at a competitive price! So please, use the enclosed form to place your birdseed order—and make sure it is postmarked by October 20. Duplicate the order form and let others pick-up their own seed, or place a large order and distribute the seed yourself.

Pick-up on November 8th, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at either the Abide-a-While Nursery & Garden Center in Mt. Pleasant or at the Masonic Center off of Sam Rittenberg where you'll be able to visit our Fall rummage sale too. Additional order forms will be available at the October membership meeting. Contact Joe Cockrell, [cockrelljoe@cs.com](mailto:cockrelljoe@cs.com), or 762-3868 with any questions you have about this year's sale (and remember, don't call the nursery or the Mason's with questions.)

### UPCOMING EVENTS – dates to remember

Oct. 14 .....Gardening for Wildlife:  
Membership Meeting

Oct. 19 .....North Folly Beach: Birds & Butterflies  
Field Trip: 2 p.m.

Nov. 7 .....Rummage Sale Drop-Off:  
see page 1 story for details

Nov. 8 .....Rummage Sale/Birdseed Pick-Up:  
see page 1 story for details

Nov. 23 .....Huntington Beach State Park:  
Field Trip (details next month)

### Rummage Sale Saturday, November 8 – Drop-Off Friday the 7th

Clean out your closets, attics, garages and donate what you find to the annual (2nd year) rummage sale. We need anything you've got: furniture, tools, clothes, knick-knacks, kitchen stuff, dishes, linens, antiques, food (bake a cake, cookies or vegetables, jams, pickles), electronics—almost ANYTHING! Please hang clothes on hangers and try to price everything yourself—low prices so stuff will move.

This is a major fundraiser so we hope everyone will participate. We'll be accepting merchandise all day Friday, November 7 at the Masonic Center, 1285 Orange Grove Road in West Ashley. If you have large items that you can't get in your car, we will come pick them up on Friday. Any question or for pick-up, please call Cornelia Carrier, 577-6437.

## More Gardening Ideas

If this month's "Gardening for Wildlife" program interests you, there are many more resources available to help us keep a nature-friendly yard:

In the Features section of the March 2002 issue of *Audubon Magazine*, available online:

### Going the Extra Yard:

"Chuck the chemicals! Trash your sprinkler! Entertain some wildlife! Meet three habitat heroes who prove that conservation can be easy, and that there is hope for the backyards of America."

Visit <http://magazine.audubon.org/>

If you'd like a copy of another valuable resource, the "Audubon Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond," or if you have a natural landscaping story to share, send an e-mail request to [AudubonAtHome@audubon.org](mailto:AudubonAtHome@audubon.org)

## Fieldtrip Feedback

A good time was had by all the "die-hard" members who braved the very early departure and long drive to the Savannah Spoil site in Jasper county S.C. on Sunday September 28th. Many rare birds were seen and "lifers" were had by most of the attendees. Highlights include:

Eared Grebe - 1	American White Pelican - 1
Roseate Spoonbill - 1	FRANKLIN'S GULL - 1
Wilson's Phalarope - 5	Long-billed Dowitcher - 50+
American Avocet - 150+	Black-necked Stilt - 15+
Pectoral Sandpiper - 10	Stilt Sandpiper - 5
White-rumped Sandpiper - 1	Caspian Tern - 385
Blue-winged Teal - 2,000+	Shoveller - 500
Lesser Yellowlegs - 1,000s	Black Tern - 2
And Peeps - thousands (mostly Least with some Westerns & Semi-palmateds).	

Dennis, Ed Blitch, Nathan Dias and I went to Savannah NWR after and managed to squeeze one Purple Gallinule out of the void. Many thanks go out to Steve Calver from the COE and Dr. Forsythe for their assistance with this trip.

— Burton E. Moore III, Outings Chairman

### Visit Our Website

<http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>



Stay up-to-date on programs, outings & more.

## Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness

Join the Lunz Group of the Sierra Club and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance for Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2003 at Baruch Auditorium on the Medical University of South Carolina's campus. This is open to all and free of charge.

This is a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate some public lands as wilderness in southern Utah's canyons and deserts. The show encourages viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands. The presentation is made possible through the donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahns who wish to pass this heritage onto future generations.

There will also be a 20 minute presentation on the status of the Utah wilderness movement by Tom Wheatley, Southeast Field Organizer of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). This event is a must see for citizens wishing to become involved in this American public lands conservation effort, a model for other efforts to save public lands in the United States. Wheatley organizes grass-roots citizen support across the country through this slideshow for Utah wilderness.

### South Carolina Audubon Launches Electronic Advocacy Network

As one of the nation's oldest conservation organizations, the Audubon mission ideally unifies Advocacy, Habitat Protection and Education. However, any successful conservation movement must have the involvement and voices of people like our members. And in today's world, we should embrace electronic communications.

For several years now Audubon has used e-mail at a national level to communicate with lawmakers on important environmental issues. Audubon South Carolina is now using the Audubon Alert system—an alert from Audubon South Carolina will mean an issue that will directly impact your life needs your attention.

Often critical legislation requires fast action on the part of concerned citizens. The electronic advocacy network will inform Audubon members and other interested individuals of important conservation matters in South Carolina. And, using e-mail to notify interested parties is much more efficient and environmentally friendly than mass mailings!

Get involved and make a difference! To sign up for the action alert network go to [www.beidlerforest.com](http://www.beidlerforest.com) and look under our "Conservation & Advocacy" link. Questions? Contact April Stallings at (843) 462-2150 or [astallings@audubon.org](mailto:astallings@audubon.org).



### 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:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

THIS MEMBERSHIP IS FOR:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

#

[ RENEWALS MUST INCLUDE THE 20-DIGIT MEMBER NUMBER FROM YOUR AUDUBON ADDRESS LABEL ]

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

## Land Clearing Threatens Fall Migrants

by Andy Harrison

Few visitors to Patriot's Point probably even notice the remnants of hackberry forest near the driving range and around the golf course, much less consider them special places worth preserving. These wooded margins grew up on land that had been used for years as a dredge disposal site. In the sense that places such as the ACE Basin are pleasing to the human eye, they are hardly beautiful. However, during fall migration (in full swing at this time) these strips of forest are vitally important as stopover habitats for hungry and tired birds before they continue across Charleston harbor on their southward journey. The significance of these habitats for fall migrants has been well documented by ornithologists, local birders and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Over the past several weeks, local birders (and also some from elsewhere in SC and other states) who have visited the site have reported seeing as many as 15 species of warbler in a single day (23 species in one week), in addition to vireos, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers and other songbirds. Just a few of the species that have been observed here are: Wilson's Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Baltimore Oriole, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Although local topography is largely responsible for funneling hundreds of thousands of such migrants to Patriot's Point, the birds are attracted to stop at the site by the abundance of food that they can find in the forest. Hackberry, mulberry, yaupon, wax myrtle, privet, various vines and other plants provide berries and nectar, and flying insects such as the Hackberry Emperor are plentiful.

Recently, Nathan Dias, one of the birders who frequents the hackberry forest at Patriot's Point, alerted the birding community (via an e-mail to the carolinabirds listserver) to an impending crisis at the site. In addition to clearing a wide new roadbed across from the entrance to the Hilton Charleston Harbor Resort Hotel, bulldozers have devastated another piece of very productive habitat for a seemingly unnecessary spur road that connects the existing paved road to the new throughway. The patch of woods that was removed (behind the pumphouse) had been the location of many sightings of rare avian visitors to SC. This clearing will lower the amount of food-rich habitat available for migrants, but a potentially much more damaging effect is the fragmentation of the remaining pieces of forest. As the forest is broken into small, isolated pieces it becomes increasingly unattractive to migrating birds. Without a viable stopover habitat at Patriot's Point, some birds that otherwise would have survived the many perils of their journey might die.

I want to urge members of the Charleston Natural History Society to heed Mr. Dias' plea to let their elected officials know that they oppose further destruction of the remaining pieces of hackberry forest at Patriot's Point. In particular, he asked that concerned birders e-mail State Senators Glenn McConnell ([SJU@scsenate.org](mailto:SJU@scsenate.org)) and Arthur Ravenel, Jr. ([AR@scsenate.org](mailto:AR@scsenate.org)). Also, residents of Mt. Pleasant may wish to contact Mayor Harry M. Hallman or the Mt. Pleasant Town Council about this issue. By sparing a few acres for the birds, we can enjoy the educational, recreational and economic benefits that the 400+ acre Patriot's Point complex provides to the Lowcountry and still provide an essential haven for fall migrants.

## How to Contact Your Elected Officials

Email addresses for Charleston's County Council are online: go to [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) and follow the links to Elected Officials, County Council and then Contacts. Information for Berkeley and Dorchester Counties can be found at [www.co.berkeley.sc.us](http://www.co.berkeley.sc.us) and [www.dorchestercounty.net](http://www.dorchestercounty.net).

For House and Senate Members go to: [www.senatehouse.net](http://www.senatehouse.net) and follow the links to House or Senate and Email Addresses. The mailing address for all House Members is: P.O. Box 11867, Columbia SC 29211; for all Senate Members it is: P.O. Box 142, Columbia SC 29202.

## Bird's Eye View\*

### Morris Island— It's not just for lighthouses anymore!!!

Morris Island not only has significant historical value but also serves the vital role of habitat for migratory birds. A Greenville developer has proposed a series of multi-million dollar homes on the recently purchased island. This would add Morris to the lengthening list of wildlife habitats the Lowcountry has lost to sprawl and suburban expansion. I will keep you updated.

### A.N.W.R.— Back on the chopping block...

Just when you thought the issue was over for the year, special interests have found a way to take another unrelated public problem and turn it into a call for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!

The northeast blackout experienced in August has moved energy legislation onto the fast track in the U.S. Congress. Earlier this year, the U.S. House passed an energy bill that included provisions to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling. Thanks to the efforts of Auduboners across the country and our partners in conservation, the Senate passed an energy bill that *did not* authorize drilling. Now, the final decision on Arctic drilling will be made by a Conference Committee comprised of members of the both the House and Senate.

The leadership of the Conference Committee has expressed a strong intent to complete an energy bill quickly. And those powerful special interests that support opening the Arctic Refuge for drilling want to make sure that (a) Congress does indeed pass an energy bill and soon, and (b) that any final energy bill passed by the Conference Committee includes the House-passed provisions that allow drilling in the refuge. And if they are not successful, they'll seek some type of a compromise. That compromise may well be an agreement to "explore" possibilities of drilling by a specific date, perhaps 5 years down the line. So now we have two courses of action in order to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling:

(1) Ensure the Conference Committee does not include the House-passed or any "compromise" drilling provisions in its final energy bill, and

(2) If any drilling provisions are included, encourage the full U.S. Senate and House to oppose the overall bill!

We can contact Henry Brown, other Representatives and Senators to voice our opinions.

Contact me with questions or comments.

— Garrett Budds, Conservation Chair PH: 571-4668

*Help support Charleston Natural History Society's  
conservation and education programs and lure birds to your yard.*

## Feed Preferences



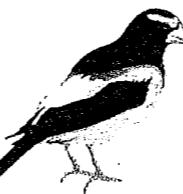
**Cardinals** will be attracted to your yard if you offer sunflower seeds. Research at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has shown that birds prefer the oil variety of sunflower seed two to one over other varieties. We offer black oil sunflowers as well as black stripe.



**Goldfinches** enjoy small seeds such as golden millet and niger (thistle) seed. In addition they enjoy sunflowers - especially fine sunflower chips.



**House Finches** are sociable little birds who will readily come to your feeder looking for millet, milo, wheat, niger and other small grains. At the same time finches are readily attracted to sunflowers.



**Grosbeaks** are a favorite of all bird watchers. Rose-breasted grosbeaks are uncommon transient/migrants in our area. Blue grosbeaks are fairly common in appropriate habitat in summer. Be sure to have an abundant supply of sunflower seeds ready for them.



**Pine Siskins** love niger (thistle) seed. They normally summer in Canada and are uncommon winter visitors in the Lowcountry. They like to hop about conifer trees. Watch for them.



**Carolina Chickadees** love to eat the plump kernels of sunflower seeds. It is always fun to watch a Chickadee come to the feeder. Normally it will take just one seed, fly off, crack it open, and enjoy the meat of the seed, then come back for another seed, over and over all day long.



**Blue Jays** are the watchmen of the bird feeder. They keep an eye out for predators and alert the other birds when there is danger. Blue Jays especially like peanuts, which are found Premium Wild Bird Feed.

**Downy Woodpeckers** are attracted to suet that you include in your bird feed station. To a woodpecker suet represents a substitute for the insects and bugs it normally eats. Don't confuse the Downy with its larger cousin the Hairy Woodpecker.

## CNHS ANNUAL BIRD FEED SALE

Deadline for Orders: Oct. 20, 2003

Pick Up Date: Nov. 8, 2003

**Charleston Natural History Society Bird Feed Sale 2003  
Order Form**

Description	Lbs.	Price	Quantity	Total
Premium Wild Bird Feed	20	15.50		
Premium Wild Bird Feed	40	29.00		
Special (No Corn) Wild Bird Feed	20	17.00		
Special (No Corn) Wild Bird Feed	40	32.00		
Black Oil Sunflower	25	17.50		
Black Oil Sunflower (case of 6 - 5 lb. bags)	30	21.25		
Black Oil Sunflower	40	28.25		
Striped Sunflower	25	24.00		
Safflower Seed	25	30.00		
Safflower Seed (case of 6 - 5 lb. bags)	30	35.75		
Cracked Corn (medium/fine)	25	13.25		
Peanut Splits (pieces)	25	41.25		
Pine Tree Peanut Butter Suet	12 oz.	1.75		
Suet Basket (single cake size)	-	3.00		

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

*please print clearly*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

If e-mail address is provided, we will send you a message  
confirming receipt of order and a reminder message prior to  
pick-up date.

I will pick up my order at (check one):

Abide-A-While Nursery & Garden Ctr.  
 Masonic Center

Mail this portion of form with check or  
money order to:

Charleston Natural History Society  
P.O. Box 504  
Charleston, SC 29402

X

**Charleston Natural History Society Bird Feed Sale**

**CUT-OFF DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Post-marked by Monday, October 20, 2003**

**PICK-UP DATE AND TIME: Saturday, November 8, 2003 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**PICK-UP LOCATIONS:**

Abide-A-While Nursery & Garden Center  
1460 Hwy 17 North  
Mt. Pleasant, SC  
Next to Ryan's Family Steak House

Masonic Center  
1285 Orange Grove Road  
Charleston, SC  
West Ashley area 1/4 mi. west of Sam Rittenburg Blvd.

Questions? Contact Joe Cockrell at 762-3868 [cockrelljoe@cs.com](mailto:cockrelljoe@cs.com)

Please do not call Abide-A-While Nursery & Garden Center or the Masonic Center with questions about your order.  
If you cannot pick up your order on the designated date, time, and location, please contact Joe prior to Nov 8.

*Thank you for your order!*