



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. 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

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

Have You Been to McAlhany?

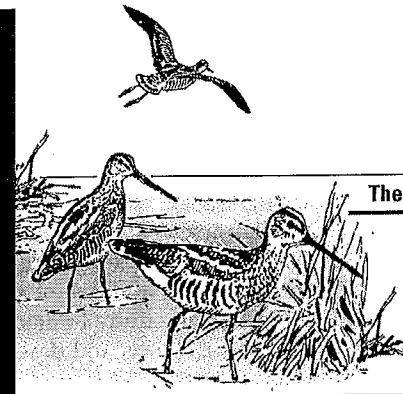
The Preserve was dedicated January 18, 1987. A gift to CNHS from Mrs. Cleo T. McAlhany, and a memorial to Mrs. McAlhany's husband Marvin McAlhany, on December 19, 2001, a conservation easement agreement was signed by CNHS and Lowcountry Open Land Trust ensuring that (barring any government condemnation) the land remains undeveloped and in a natural state.

The property, approximately 318 acres, includes 1.5 miles of frontage on the Edisto River, a nine-acre oxbow lake, fields and forests including; a mixed Mesophytic hardwood bluff, a beech, magnolia, spruce pine hammock (possibly a unique association); a riverbank community, a laural oak flat, swamp forest, upland oak-hickory, freshwater marsh, a low water limestone outcrop, and more. Also, on the upland area is Marvin's Folly—The story is that Mr. McAlhany dug a pond for fishing, but the soil is so porous, that it does not retain much water. It does stay deep enough to attract waterfowl and shore birds.

An "Open House" is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. Directions: Take Hwy. 61 to Canadys Crossroads; turn right onto Hwy. 15; continue to village of Grover; take the first left onto Wire Rd.; cross over I-95 and across a small creek; look for our sign on the left.

For more information contact Joe Cockrell—762-3868 or cockrelljoe@cs.com.

Charleston Audubon Society



What's In A Name?

We're the Charleston Natural History Society (CNHS), and we have been, since 1905. We're also the Charleston Audubon Society, and have been, since 1970. There's no need to be confused about the name. Increasingly we will be using the Audubon name because it has a high level of public recognition, but our chapter remains close to its roots.

CNHS was founded at the Charleston Museum in 1905, when the Museum was part of the College of Charleston. Originally, the society was a club for CofC students interested in natural history. Later the society emerged as a kind of educational "arm" of the Museum at a time when the Museum had become an independent entity. Eventually the Society itself became independent.

In the late 1960s a committee was formed to study the matter of becoming a chapter of the National Audubon Society, and eventually a proposal was presented to the Society. It required a 2/3 vote to pass—and took two tries before it was successful, but we became a NAS chapter in 1970.

Whatever our name, our purpose remains tied to this mission statement adopted in 1957:

"The purpose of this society shall be to promote and [sic] active and productive interest in the economic, recreational, aesthetic, and scientific aspects of natural history; to provide its members with opportunities for observation, study, and research; and to cooperate with State and Federal authorities and other interested groups in preserving our natural history resources."

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)

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, 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.)

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

Too Much Grass?

Did you know that in one year a homeowner with a typical U.S. lawn, one-third of an acre in size, can spend up to 40 hrs mowing, and produce pollution equal to that created by driving a car 14,000 miles?

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 GULLI - 1
Wilson's Phalarope - 5	Long-billed Dowitcher - 50+
American Avocet - 150+	Black-necked Stilt - 15+
Pectoral Sandpiper - 10	Silt 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

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 and look under our "Conservation & Advocacy" link. Questions? Contact April Stallings at (843) 462-2150 or 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

MAIL THIS COUPON AND YOUR CHECK TO:

CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 504
CHARLESTON, SC 29402

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

THIS MEMBERSHIP IS FOR:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

#

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

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 thoroughway. 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) and Arthur Ravenel, Jr. (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 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 and www.dorchestercounty.net.

For House and Senate Members go to: www.scstatehouse.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—
Its 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

Visit Our Website

<http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>

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



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

Feed Preferences



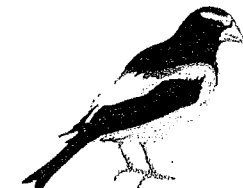
Cardinals will be attracted to your yard if you offer sunflower seeds. Research at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has shown that birds prefer the oil variety of sunflower seed two to one over other varieties. We offer black oil sunflowers as well as black stripe.



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



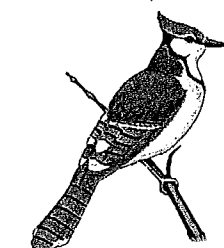
Dark-eyed Juncos are common winter visitors of coastal South Carolina. They will rummage for small grain seeds under your backyard feeder in an effort to find millet, wheat, and sunflowers. Take time to scatter some seed directly on the ground for these birds.



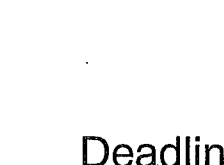
House Finches are sociable little birds who will readily come to your feeder looking for millet, milo, wheat, niger and other small grains. At the same time finches are readily attracted to sunflowers.



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



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

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!