

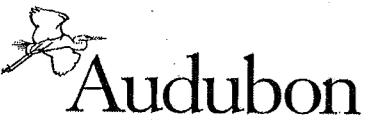
THE Lesser SQUAWK

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

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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.

Contributions to Support Beidler Forest Memorial For Writer Lynne Langley

To celebrate the life of Lynne Langley, whose award-winning reporting on the environment and health care was second nature to readers of the *Post and Courier* for 25 years, Beidler Forest is naming a tract of forest in her memory. A plaque will designate the forest to commemorate her life and inspiration to others.

Langley penned more than 1,000 "Nature Watch" columns, making it one of *The Post and Courier's* longest-running features, and wrote stories about hurricanes, medical breakthroughs and conservation milestones.

Lynne inspired many through her writings and brought nature to those who may not otherwise have sought it out. Throughout the years she supported Audubon through her columns and listed Christmas Bird Count schedules.

If you or your organization is interested in making a donation in her memory, please send it to:

Lynne Langley Memorial
Francis Beidler Forest
336 Sanctuary Road
Harleyville, SC 29448

Questions? contact Ann Shahid at 462-2150 or via email at ashahid@audubon.org.

Need to Contact Your Elected SC 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 State House and Senate Members go to: www.scstatehouse.net and follow the links to either House or Senate and then 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.

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
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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 h 795-1124
Conservation:	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.

Charleston Audubon Society



The Charleston Natural History Society, est. 1905

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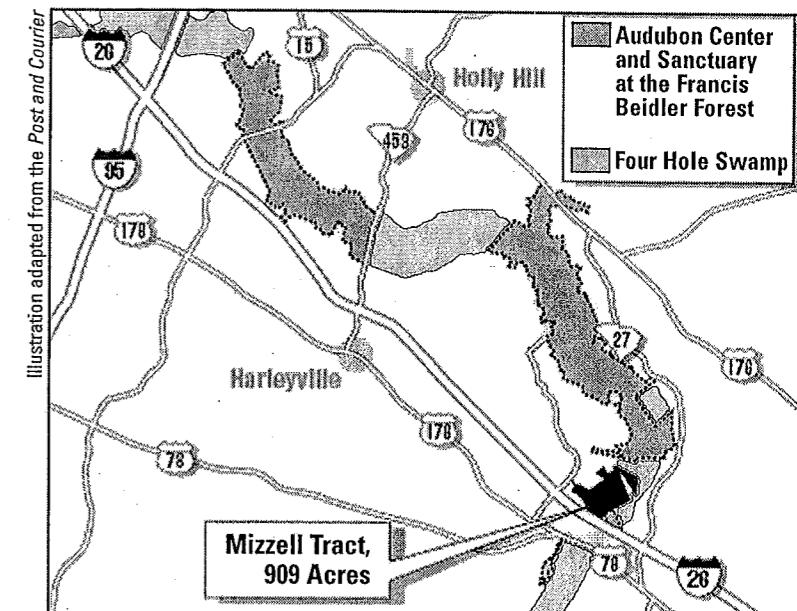
Tour Beidler's Newest Addition Mizzell Tract on May 16 Outing

Andy Harrison and Burton Moore will lead our May 16 outing when we will meet-up with South Carolina Audubon's April Stallings for a tour of the recently acquired Mizzell tract. Note that this will be our last outing until we resume activities next September.

Participants should plan to meet Burton and Andy at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Summerville (off I-26 exit 199A) at 7:30 am. Bring the usual supplies (lunch, water, bug spray) and wear boots, if possible – don't expect nice hiking trails because there aren't any (yet).

Norm Brunswig, Audubon South Carolina executive director, describes the tract as a remarkable acquisition and invaluable habitat. It expands the Beidler sanctuary to 12,723 acres. The tract, which is near the road leading into the preserve, borders Interstate 26 on the northern side of the swamp and extends 1-1/2 miles farther upstream within about a mile of the sanctuary. The 909 acre tract includes some 750 acres of bottomland cypress-tupelo swamp, a deep blackwater stream and 100 acres of pine plantation.

Afterwards, if there is interest, we can visit the boardwalk at Beidler – there is a fee, however (\$6 for non-member adults, \$5 for members, and \$3 for children ages 6-18). Please register by contacting Andy (795-6934 eve.) or Burton (853-1100, Tu.-Sat., 10am-5pm), by Saturday, the 15th.



The tract, which is near the road leading into the preserve, borders Interstate 26 on the northern side of the swamp and extends 1-1/2 miles farther upstream within about a mile of the sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS – details in this issue

- May 11.....Splendor in Nature: The Biodiversity of Dominica. Program (at left). Presented by Dr. B. Merle Shepard, Clemson Prof. of Entomology.
- May 15.....Daniel Island Spring Bird Count (details pg. 2). Please register with Ann Shahid.
- May 16.....Outing to Mizzell Tract at Francis Beidler Forest (details above). Tour this important addition to the sanctuary. Meet at 7:30 am.



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

Join the Count, the Outings And a Spoleto Performance

► Daniel Island Spring Bird Count

Ann Shahid will lead a bird count on Daniel Island on Saturday, May 15. The count will begin at 7:00 a.m. and last until 1:00 p.m., or longer, if there is interest.

Meet in the parking lot of Publix, but please call to register with Ann at 695-0175 (evenings), 843-462-2150 (day) or e-mail ashahid@audubon.org.

► Beidler Forest Night Walks and Canoe Trips

Call the forest for reservations for a night walk, June 26, and 4 hour canoe trips (1-5 p.m.) on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, water levels permitting.

► Beidler Forest Hosts 4th Piccolo Spoleto Event

Four Shillings Short will be the featured artists for two performances: 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on May 29. Ticket includes hors d'oeuvres and a night walk.

Seeking Reader Comments, Reviews and Submissions:

Have you taken any great birding photos lately? Do you use a field guide that has all the others beat? If so, then send your reviews, comments, or photos to the *Squawk* and maybe we'll share them in a future issue. Many off today's digital photos won't reproduce well in the *Squawk*, but we can use them on our website and we'll forward photos to the folks assembling the new South Carolina Audubon website who are asking for submissions.

We received several positive comments about our book notes: If you read something this Summer that you think your fellow Audubon members would like to know about - tell us. We may make book reviews a regular feature next year.

Email your comments, letters and submissions to squawk@bleezarde.com or mail them to CNHS Audubon

ATTN: SQUAWK
POB 504
Charleston, SC 29402.

Scouts and Birders Bring Joy To Area Senior Citizens

Ann Tiller, a long-time Audubon member, is working to enrich the lives of area senior citizens. Her project, "Seniors and Songbirds," focuses on connecting residents of local assisted living centers with birds, with nature, and with local youth.

Working with Ann in this endeavor is Boy Scout Jonathan Ham who's leadership and participation will help him earn the Eagle Scout rank. Jonathan has been leading fellow scouts constructing and installing bird feeders at area senior facilities.

Ann teaches the residents about the birds visiting the new feeders. Participants learn about bird behavior and identification. The activities provide a stimulating diversion for the seniors as well as educating and promoting avian conservation.

Ann says response to the project has been extraordinary: Large groups have attended her birding workshops, and their enthusiasm for the birds has been equaled by their appreciation of the Scouts.

The Seniors and Songbirds project is a perfect example of the power of a handful of committed volunteers to make a positive impact in the lives of others. You're invited to join this effort to make a difference in our community and in our environment. Items currently on the project "Wish List" include:

- binoculars
- tube feeders
- bird puzzles
- spotting scopes (with tripods)
- Audubon gift memberships
- Cash contributions (to buy seed)

To learn more or arrange a contribution, please phone the Audubon South Carolina offices at (843) 462-2150.

Canoeing Along the Edisto



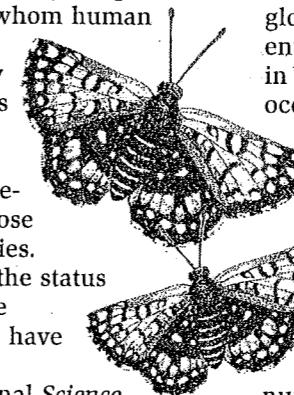
Cornelia Carrier and Joe Cockrell manage one of six boats we brought down the Edisto on April 17. We wrapped-up at the McAlhany property with a cookout.

Endangered Invertebrates: *Invisible Canaries in the Coal Mine?*

by Andy Harrison

The recent (and still unresolved) plight of the young right whale Kingfisher, entangled in fishing lines that will eventually starve him if not removed (*Post and Courier*, March 26, 2004), highlights the potentially fatal repercussions that even indirect human actions can have on other species. Kingfisher is one of an estimated 350 right whales that remain on our planet after severe hunting pressures during the 19th and early 20th centuries pushed these creatures to the brink of extinction. Now entanglements like this one are considered a major source of marine mammal deaths. In a sense, though, Kingfisher is lucky - right whales are a large vertebrate species for whom human efforts to save stricken individuals attract widespread media attention and generally sympathetic audiences. Millions of species of invertebrates (organisms such as insects, mollusks and crustaceans) also inhabit our planet, and many may be experiencing population declines similar to those documented for vertebrate and plant species. However, relatively little is known about the status of most invertebrates - the majority of the world's insect species, by some estimates, have not even been described.

The authors of a new study in the journal *Science* ("Comparative Losses of British Butterflies, Birds and Plants and the Global Extinction Crisis," Thomas *et al.*, March 19 2004) compared the rates of loss of butterflies, birds and plants in Great Britain - in all, some 228,073 square kilometers were surveyed - over the past 20-40 years. This was a mammoth undertaking that involved more than 20,000 volunteers and generated six enormous data sets. Although decreases were documented for both native plants (28% of species in decline over the past 40 years) and birds (54% in decline over the past 20 years), the most striking finding was that 71% of the British butterfly fauna were less abundant now than they had been 20 years ago. Two butterfly



species became extinct in Britain between the census periods, compared to no breeding bird species and six native plant species over 70 years.

Because insects typically respond more rapidly to environmental change than organisms with longer lives or the capacity to remain dormant (as in a seed bank), Thomas *et al.* suggest that the losses they observed among butterfly species may represent an early warning of the potential fate of many bird and plant species in Britain. In fact, the authors state that the forces driving species declines in Britain are the same as those acting worldwide: namely, global climate change and human perturbations to the environment. Their influence may even have been "muted" in Britain, where the major clearances of vegetation occurred long ago (in contrast to places like the Amazon

Basin or the forests of Southeast Asia), few alien species with devastating effects on native species have colonized the islands, the warming climate has - so far - enhanced the ability of British ecosystems to support butterflies, and targeted conservation measures have reversed declines in some individual plant and animal species. Here in the United States relatively few extinctions have been recorded among invertebrate groups, but there is a proportionately higher number of invertebrates than vertebrates that have been listed as "at risk."

This study is among the first to report declines in an insect group on a national or even regional scale. Thomas *et al.* propose that their results may point to "an unrecorded parallel" in global extinction rates for insects as compared to those known for vertebrate and plant species. If so, we may be missing an important signal of an approaching, all-too-probable event: the sixth mass extinction in Earth's history. The richness and diversity of life on our planet is greater for having both whales and butterflies, and we need to encourage and support the worldwide study of invertebrates - before too many have disappeared.

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

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P.O. BOX 504

CHARLESTON, SC 29402

[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

Squawk Signs-Off for Summer

This is the last issue of the 2003-04 Squawk. We'll be back in September.

Over the Summer think about renewing your membership (don't let it lapse!) and remember, next Fall we'll be having another fundraising Tag Sale, so please hold-on to household items we might be able to sell - our chapter needs to raise funds if we're going to remain active in conservation, education and the community as we enter our centennial year.

Thank you, and have a great Summer!

Visit Our Website

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

