

THE Lesser SQUAWK

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



Audubon
CENTENNIAL

100
YEARS OF
CONSERVATION

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.

For Your Consideration: Birds and Birders in Books

“Whether you are a scientist or a romantic you will find this story irresistible.”

— Peter Mott, president
NYC Audubon Society

Red-Tails In Love is more than a story of migrant red-tail hawks raising a family in the middle of Manhattan. It's an inspiring piece of writing about birding that would entice anyone to break out the binoculars and head outdoors to meet the avian neighbors. Author Marie

Winn, who also writes a nature column for the

Wall Street Journal, tells the tale of her birding colleagues, a group of regular bird watchers in New

York's Central Park, and their obsession over the course of a few years with a pair of red-tailed hawks' attempts to breed in the midst of New York City.

The drama repeats itself every year as the hawks try

to cope with assorted threats in order to raise broods of young red-tails in their 5th Avenue nest — ensconced in some of Manhattan's most prestigious real estate, no less.

Interspersed with the adventures of the hawks and hawk-watchers are other stories of



bird-watching in the Park, including unusual sightings, some near-disasters with the city's Parks Department, and introductions to some very knowledgeable, and occasionally colorful, birders. In the last section of the book, entitled *A Wildlife Almanac*, are guides to *Birds Through the Year in Central Park*, *Butterflies of Central Park*, *Migrating Hawks Over Central Park*, *A Taste or Two Along the Way* (edible plants), and a map of the park. The guides are written by some of the Park's birding "Regulars" who are experts in those subjects, and contain information on where and when to find the species mentioned.

Note: A hardback copy of the book will be given away as a door prize at our October 13th meeting.

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

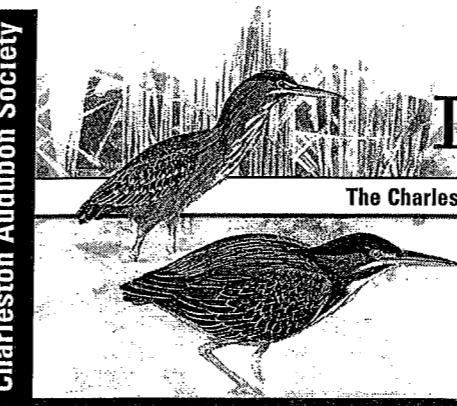
MAIL THIS COUPON AND YOUR CHECK TO:

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLESTON, SC
PERMIT NO. 349

Charleston Audubon Society



THE Lesser SQUAWK

The Charleston Natural History Society, Celebrating 100 Years, 1905-2005

October 2004 • Vol. LI • No. 2

Birdseed Sale Orders Due Sat. Oct. 16

Our annual birdseed sale is a good chance for you to help the chapter raise money while getting excellent seed to stock your feeders this Fall and Winter. The proceeds from this sale help fund our program activities all year, so please participate! You may find cheaper seed at discount stores, but you get what you pay for: This year our sale offers high-quality seed through Wild Birds Unlimited!

Use the enclosed form to place your order(s)—and make sure to get it in the mail and postmarked by October 16. Try to sell some seed to your friends, coworkers or neighbors. You can duplicate the order form and let others pick-up their own seed, or you can place a large order and then distribute the seed yourself.

Pick-up is easier than ever this year. Instead of a one-day pick-up, this year you can visit either of the area Wild Birds Unlimited stores in our area (Mount Pleasant and West Ashley), during the ten-day pick-up time, Friday, November 5 thru Sunday the 14th.

Contact Mike Hutchinson (884-7746, 425-4047, mhutchinson15@comcast.net), with any questions you have about this year's sale.

Audubon Fall Lecture Series Continues Now Meeting at Charleston County Library

Our lecture series is now being held in the second floor auditorium of the main branch of the Charleston County Library, 68 Calhoun Street in Charleston. Lectures remain free, and open to all Audubon members, guests and to the general public. We gather at 6:30 p.m. for a reception and speakers will begin their programs at 7:00 p.m.

AVM, What Threat to S.C. Bald Eagles?

Wednesday, October 13

Tom Murphy, a SC Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist and leader of the state's Bald Eagle project, will present a program on the current threat of a deadly disease, avian vacuolar myelinopathy (AVM) to South Carolina's eagles. Tom will also give an overview of our bald eagle population, which has been steadily increasing after reaching a low of 13 nesting pairs in the 1970s. There are now more nesting eagles in the state than at any other time since the 1800s.

Avian vacuolar myelinopathy, which breaks down the central nervous system and causes brain lesions, was first diagnosed in Arkansas in the winter of 1994-95 and in South Carolina four years later. The disease has been confirmed every year since at four South Carolina reservoirs: Lake Thurmond, Lake Murray, Par Pond and L Lake on the Savannah River.

The Southern Appalachians: Conservation Challenges in a Temperate Biodiverse Hotspot

Wednesday, November 10

Joe Bernardo, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology at the College of Charleston, will present a program on the need for conservation and ongoing study of the tremendous biodiversity of the Southern Appalachians.

There is a great deal to be learned about Southern Appalachian flora, fauna and habitat; In the last decade, comprehensive sampling and research has revealed more than a dozen new species of salamanders in this region, and more are still being discovered. Our state of knowledge of other taxa, such as invertebrates — which are far more abundant, and far less-studied — is obviously very poor.

For more information, don't miss this lecture and visit the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Institute online at: <http://www.sabionline.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS — details in this issue

Oct. 13	Lecture: Bald Eagles	p. 1
Oct. 16	Birdseed Orders Due	p. 1
Oct. 23	Grove Plantation Trip	p. 2
Nov. 2	Election Day: VOTE	
Nov. 10	Lecture: Conservation in the Southern Appalachians	p. 2
Nov. 20	Huntington Beach Fieldtrip	p. 4



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Upcoming Programs, Outings & Lowcountry Events

■ Saturday, Oct. 9 – Point of Pines Fieldtrip*

Join Bob Chinn and Andy Harrison for a return engagement at Point of Pines Plantation on Edisto Island on Saturday, October 9. Owner and host Burnett R. Maybank III will Meet us at 8 a.m. to give us a guided tour of the property, which includes ponds, fields, hedgerows, river beach, extensive marsh, vistas of the North Edisto and tabby ruins of a fort built in 1692.

Meet Bob and Andy at 7:15 am, Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Food Lion parking lot in Ravenel at the junction of US 17S and SC HWY 165. Bring binoculars, field guides, lunch/snacks, water and insect repellent. There is some walking, so wear appropriate shoes. There are sanitary facilities available at the house.

Register with Andy @ 843-795-6934 or Bob, 843-552-7884 or email bobchinn@comcast.net

■ Saturday, Oct. 23 – Point of Pines Fieldtrip

Join Bob Chinn for a trip to Grove Plantation in the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge. The plantation house is one of the few that did not feel the Union torches near the end of the Civil War. We should see some late migrants, early winter visitors and permanent residents.

Several years ago, CNHS "adopted" the ACE Basin NWR as part of the ARK (Audubon Refuge Keepers) program. In the recent past, we received grants to build two viewing platforms and provide some signs. We keep looking for additional grants or donations to further improve the refuge.

Meet Bob at 7:30 am Saturday, October 23, 2004 at the Food Lion parking lot in Ravenel (intersection of SC Hwy. 165 and US 17S). Bring binoculars/scopes, field guides, water, food/snacks (the plantation is a good distance from any store), and insect repellent. Good walking shoes are recommended. The weather could be cool early and then pretty warm later

*Charleston Audubon Field Trips

We sponsor at least one field trip/outing per month, September – May. Field trips are free, unless otherwise noted, and 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, (allowing leaders to plan appropriately for the size of the group). All participants sign an "acknowledgement of risk" statement as required by our insurance carrier.

in the day, so dress in layers.

Please register with Bob, 843-552-7884 or email bobchinn@comcast.net.

■ Sunday, Nov. 7 – McAlhany Open House

The McAlhany preserve is located in upper Dorchester County on the Edisto River. On the first Sunday of each month we usually hold an Open House for members and the public. We're making plans now for a December picnic and workday, so make plans to come on out.

Directions to McAlhany: Take Hwy 61, Hwy 78 or I-26 to Hwy 15. Go to the small town of Grover which is about 10 miles south of St. George. Turn west on Wire Rd., cross over I-95 and continue for several miles and look for our signs on the left. More on McAlhany on our website, or contact Joe Cockrell (h)762-3868.

■ Saturday, Nov. 20 – Huntington Beach State Park

Plans are being made for a day trip to Huntington Beach State Park. More information to come, on our website and in the Nov. Squawk.

The park's freshwater lagoon, saltmarsh, maritime forest and beach are outstanding examples of the state's coastal environment. These also provide prime habitat for birds – the park is recognized as one of the best birding sites along the East Coast.

The park is located on Hwy 17, 3 mi. S. of Murrells Inlet, and 20 mi. N. of Georgetown.

Visit Our Website



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

Want to Become More Involved? Join the Conservation Committee

If you are interested in conservation issues and have some free time (a scarce commodity these days, I know!), please consider joining the Conservation Committee.

I became chairperson in August for a committee of one and could use your help. This year I hope to increase our chapter presence in the community by attending hearings on environmental issues and actively promoting letter, e-mail and telephone campaigns.

You can contact me by phone at 795-6934 or e-mail me at parula23@aol.com.

Thanks!

Andy Harrison

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

2004-05 Officers & Board

President
Tom Snowden
843-875-3445
toms@myexcel.com

**Vice President,
Hospitality & Publicity**
Don Jones
843-572-8232
Birdfrogdjl@aol.com

Secretary
Marion Page

Treasurer
Cornelia Carrier

Historian
Julian Harrison

**McAlhany Nature
Preserve Committee**
Joe Cockrell

Conservation
Andy Harrison

Lecture Programs
Doreen Cubie

Outings
Burton Moore

Wannamaker
Norm Brunswig

Newsletter
Stephen Blezarde
steve@blezarde.com

Website
Bob Chinn
bobchinn@comcast.net

The 2004 Election: *Bush and Kerry on the Environment*

by Conservation Chair Andy Harrison

Put aside for a moment the headline issues of the 2004 Presidential election. You may or may not believe that President Bush has been an effective leader in the war on terror, or that we should have invaded Iraq (and are doing a good job of rebuilding that country), or that tax cuts were the best way to revitalize our nation's economy. Whatever you think about those subjects, like most Americans you probably believe that our air and water deserve protection (if nothing else, so that we can lead safe and healthy lives) and that our natural resources should be utilized wisely and not wastefully degraded or exchanged for political contributions. On the issue of the environment the two major candidates have dramatically different records: John Kerry has a strong history of sponsoring and supporting pro-environment legislation, while over the past four years George W. Bush has consistently attempted to undercut existing laws in favor of powerful corporate interests.

Despite cloaking his strategy with an environmentally friendly-sounding title (the "Clear Skies" initiative), President Bush has sought to weaken or repeal many of the public health provisions of the Clean Air Act. "Clear Skies" replaces existing pollution standards with a set of guidelines that

allow companies to defer reductions in power plant emissions and rely heavily on voluntary compliance. In contrast, since his first year in the Senate (when he introduced the National Acid Rain Reduction Act) John Kerry has taken a leading role in reducing air pollution and has vigorously fought attempts to weaken the Clean Air Act.

With respect to water resources, President Bush claims to be working with Congress as well as state and local officials to increase the number of wetland acres in the US. However, even officials in the Bush administration admit that 2003 Army Corps of Engineers guidelines remove Clean Water Act protection from 20 million acres of the nation's wetlands – some 20% of the remaining wetland acreage in the lower 48 states. John Kerry opposes limiting the scope of the Clean Water Act, and he has also spoken out against attempts by the Bush administration to weaken drinking water standards.

Senator Kerry has long supported reducing our dependence on foreign oil by encouraging the development of renewable energy sources and demanding more fuel efficient vehicles. For example, in a 2002 energy bill, he and John McCain co-sponsored an amendment that would have required an increase in fuel economy standards from 24 mpg

to 35 mpg by 2015. This would have reduced oil consumption in the U.S. by an estimated 2 million barrels a day. President Bush, on the other hand, has looked to increased production of fossil fuels in this country as the cornerstone of his energy policy. He has pushed for opening up protected (and environ-

mentally sensitive) public lands like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drilling or mining. While ANWR remains closed to oil companies (thanks in part to the vocal opposition of Senator Kerry), other lands have quietly succumbed to exploitation.

In fact, public lands in general have suffered during the tenure of George W. Bush. Our national parks are underfunded and understaffed and face a \$4.9 billion maintenance backlog – and although the problem existed prior to the arrival of President Bush, he has fallen well short of his campaign promise to eliminate the backlog in five years. By gutting the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and

implementing the so-called "Healthy Forests" initiative, the Bush administration has opened the door to the pillaging of our national forests by timber and mining companies. In 2003 Interior Secretary Gail Norton limited the amount of land that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) could designate as wilderness areas (and thus protect from resource development) to 15 million acres nationwide – 10% of total BLM lands. John Kerry has been a leader in the Senate when it comes to promoting the conservation of natural areas and defending public lands from misuse. He opposes the BLM restrictions and supports the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which provides funding for the acquisition of new parks, forests or refuges.

In the arena of international environmental issues (such as the threat of global warming and trade in endangered species), President Bush has frequently adopted a policy of denial that problems even exist. He opposes the Kyoto treaty negotiated in 1997 and has refused to commit the U.S. to reducing carbon dioxide emissions – in the face of overwhelming evidence that they contribute to global warming. During his term in office the US has abandoned its leadership role in curtailing international trade in endangered species. Meanwhile, Senator Kerry played an active role in the negotiations to create the Framework Convention on Climate Change at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, and he served in the congressional delegations to Kyoto and the 2000 Hague climate talks. Kerry has demonstrated an interest in protecting endangered wildlife by authoring legislation such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 1994 and regulations banning the use of drift nets that threaten dolphins and other marine mammals.

The above points represent only a few of the many differences between the environmental records of these two candidates. My source for this information was the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) web site, www.lcv.org. The LCV has given John Kerry the highest rating of any of the 2004 Presidential candidates (a lifetime score of 92%), while in its latest Presidential Report Card, the LCV gave President Bush the first failing grade it has ever assigned to a US President. Please consider this when casting your ballot on November 2.

