

THE LESSER SQUAWK

www.charlestonaudubon.org

Newsletter of the
Charleston Audubon &
Natural History Society

DON'T MISS EVENTS!

EVENT (May 4th): Charleston Spring Bird Count



Photo courtesy of Michael Griffin

Our annual Spring Bird Count and Birdathon will take place on the same circle as our Christmas Bird Count, using the same territories.

We'll meet at 7 AM at the Mama Brown's BBQ and Kangaroo gas station in Mt. Pleasant ([map](#)), unless your territory leader has made other arrangements with Andy Harrison.

See flyer on pages 6 and 7 for more details. Contact Andy, SBC compiler, at parula23@aol.com to sign up. See you soon, and good birding!

LECTURE (May 14th): Deveaux Bank: Challenges Local and Global by Dana Beach

Join us in welcoming Dana Beach, on Wednesday, May 14th, from 6-8pm. Mr. Beach will speak about the history and ecology of [Deveaux Bank](#), and discusses the threats it has faced and the prospects for the future.



Photo courtesy of CCL

He will have 120 of the most stunning photographs imaginable of the island and the birds that use it. Read more in his book to be published this spring. We will begin at 6 PM as usual, with snacks and socializing before the presentation begins at 6:30; feel free to bring a snack to share.

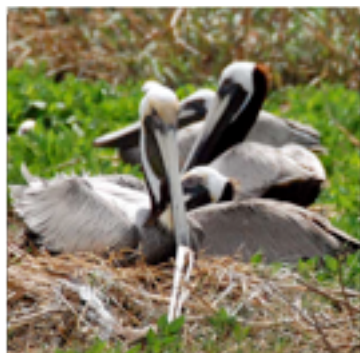


Photo courtesy of birdsofseabrookisland.org

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 4th, 7am

EVENT: Charleston Spring Bird Count

Our annual Spring Bird Count and Birdathon will take place on the same circle as our Christmas Bird Count, using the same territories. For more details, see article to left or the flyer on pages 6 and 7.

Wednesday, May 14th, 6pm

LECTURE: Deveaux Bank: Challenges Local and Global by Dana Beach

Join us in welcoming Dana Beach, on Wednesday, May 14th, from 6-8pm. Mr. Beach will speak about the history and ecology of Deveaux Bank, and discuss the threats it has faced and the prospects for the future. For more information about the talk, see the article to the left. Read more in his book to be published this spring.

Saturday-Sunday, May 24th - 25th

EVENT: BioBlitz II

The Bio-Blitz is to involve specialists in all areas of biology to document the biodiversity and to provide a comprehensive flora and fauna species list. It will begin at 9 am Saturday (May 24th) and continue through Sunday (May 25th) ending around 5pm. Participants are welcome to campout at one of our numerous tent sites. For more information, see article on page 3.

President's Notes

Theeyy'rrree baaacck! Not the poltergeists from the scary movie of the same name, but the brilliant flying color palettes we call warblers, vireos, buntings etc. Many of them land on the same territories as last year and the cycle continues, but there is also change, with new faces and new blood in the area. That mix of predictability and surprise is one of the real attractions of participating in the two bird counts that the Charleston Natural History Society conducts each year, in coordination with the National Audubon Society and Cornell's Lab of Ornithology.

Many of you helped in January when our Citizen Science Coordinator, Jenny McCarthey Tyrrell, organized yet another successful Christmas Bird Count (CBC), and now you have the chance to help again. Our Spring Bird Count Coordinator, Andy Harrison, is once again organizing a count to take place on the same count circle as the CBC. Together these two counts provide us with [a great feel for the diversity and numbers of birds that overwinter here](#), in between the Fall and Spring migrations (the CBC) and then later the different avian community that breeds in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Andy's work is especially important this year because he is once again organizing the Spring Count to serve as a Bird-A-Thon fundraiser. We are still working to recover from the financial effects of last winter's ice storms on our McAlhany Nature Preserve (MNP), while also being determined to maintain or even expand our levels of programming there and elsewhere. Please join us in conducting the Spring Count on Sunday May 4th, and/or support us by making a pledge based on the number of species we find or number of individuals counted etc. You can

also make a direct donation of a fixed amount if you prefer. Details of how to participate and support us can be found by [clicking here](#).

Even though the heat and humidity are already starting to climb, by no means are we quite ready to move into our summer slowdown period. Following the Bird-A-Thon, we will host Dana Beach, Founder and Executive Director of the Coastal Conservation League, as he talks about conservation of Deveau Bank and its importance to seabird nesting. Later in May, on the weekend of the 24th and 25th, we'll gather at MNP and try to identify not just the birds present there but *every* species present. That's the idea behind a [BioBlitz](#), identifying all living things present in a defined area during a defined time period. We had a great time doing this last year and expanded the property's [species list](#) tremendously, adding over 70 moth species and an astounding 300+ species of beetles, among other things. We need help from people with expertise in identifying any sort of creatures, from birds and lichens, to freshwater mussels and shrubs, to spiders and turtles. For details, see the description elsewhere in this issue of *The Lesser Squawk*, or [click here](#). Please come join us, and even take the chance to camp out with us at the Preserve that weekend.

Finally, just as the avian community in our area changes when the migration brings in some new species and sees others move on to new homes and roles elsewhere, our group is in a period of positive change. That change could include you, bringing new blood to the group as we face an evolution in the roles of several of our officers and committee chairs. We always need volunteer help and in fact currently have several specific positions we



need to fill. Contact me or any of the officers if you'd like to get involved. For me personally, this will be my last program year as President of CNHS as we transition to the leadership of Dr. Jessica Hardesty Norris, beginning at the start of our new program year in September. I'm thrilled that we were able to recruit a scientist, conservationist, and administrator of her caliber to the role and am certain the Society is in excellent hands. I'll continue as the organizer of our lecture series and as an active volunteer, and hope that many of you will join me in that role. Thank you all for the tremendous support you've shown me as President of CNHS over the last five years, and come join me at any or all of the events yet to come.

Paul Nolan, Ph.D.
President, Charleston Audubon &
Natural History Society
paulnolancnhs@gmail.com

Give Us a Call!

Stay on top of upcoming events, even without internet access; we're trying out a telephone call-in system.

Call 843-720-9736 (843-720-WREN) each month to hear a listing of upcoming lectures, field trips, and other events.

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EVENT (May 24th-25th): Bio-Blitz at McAlhany

On May 24th-25th, 2014 we will host a second Bio-Blitz at McAlhany Nature Preserve (MNP). The Nature Preserve has a vast diversity of organisms and habitats on the 367 acre property, including upland wetlands, non-alluvial swamp, bottomland hardwood, xeric pine forest, and mesic hardwood/pine forest. Other features include the first-order stream Cattle Creek, a long leaf pine/ wire grass savanna, a 9-acre oxbow lake, numerous vernal pools and seasonally-flooded cypress swamp, and is bordered by 1.5 miles of Edisto River frontage. The purpose of the Bio-Blitz is to involve specialists in all areas of biology to document the biodiversity and to provide a comprehensive flora and fauna species list.

The Bio-Blitz will begin at 9 am Saturday (May 24th) and continue through Sunday (May 25th) ending around 5pm. Participants are welcome to campout at one of our numerous tent sites. We have a well-equipped cabin with a fully equipped kitchen, a full bath, lounge area, two bedrooms with bunk beds, and a screened in porch. We will have a cook out Saturday for lunch serving hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and sides. We will have at least some coolers and a full-sized refrigerator available to store food but, of course, feel free to bring your own cooler if you'd like.

We would like everyone to have a lot of fun, enjoy the wilderness, and help out with our project. Hopefully, this will be a great time for everyone getting out into the habitat and provide us with valuable information about the flora and fauna of MNP.

Please RSVP to Brian Reid (bkrcoach@yahoo.com) with the number of people who will be attending, and with the type of biodiversity you feel comfortable inventorying (e.g. birds, terrestrial plants, aquatic plants, aquatic insects, butterflies, moths, reptiles, amphibians, etc)

For some more details, please see our facebook page for this event at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/238457609611448/> (you don't need to be on facebook to see the description).



Photo courtesy of Charleston



Photo courtesy of Charleston

Smart Phone Apps for Nature Lovers



How often do we get unwanted mail? Once, twice a week? Daily? Whatever the case, as much as we may regret how much time we waste sifting through all of “our” unsolicited junk, wouldn’t it be great if it would just go away?

Now, rather than just dreaming, we can all download a relatively new and simple App, PaperKarma, to actually track down these unsolicited sources of mail and unsubscribe us from them, one by one. Think of all the paper (and energy) that would be saved from being wastefully printed and unnecessarily sent to recycling. That’s a conservation strategy we can all contribute to.

• Emma Paz



Now that it is becoming summer, more and more people will be out in the water. What do I love about summer and the water? Fossil hunting. So this Naturalist Olympics photo involves just that. Take a look at the ridges and the peculiar shape. Kind of looks like a ginkgo leaf, doesn't it? Now, look at the opposite end of the ridges. Does it look like it could connect to something or is it a stand-alone bone? Hint: This was found on the Edisto River. 2nd Hint: it involves a species that lives in the water.

Do you know the answer? Send your best guess to naturalistolympics@gmail.com. A fifth and final event--and the ID of the fossil--will be announced in the Fall edition of the *Lesser Squawk*. Thanks to everyone who competed in our Naturalist Olympics, as described in the Spring issue of *The Lesser Squawk*. The answer to the fourth clue in the last edition of Naturalist Olympics, was *Bobcat (Felis rufus)*.



Photo Courtesy of Pamela Corwin

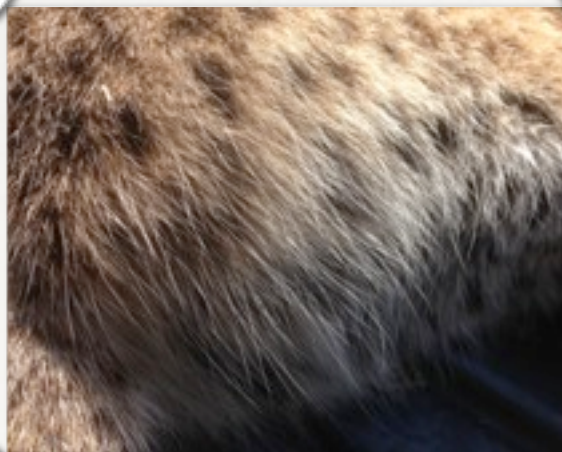


Photo Courtesy of Pamela Corwin



Energy & Recycling Tips: 7 Recycling Mistakes You May Be Making

If you live in Charleston County, check this site to answer questions that may come up as you read:
<http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/SolidWaste/D-RecyMatrls.htm>

1. Separating (or not)

Is your recycling program single stream or dual-stream? Do you know the difference? Single stream recycling allows paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal to be mixed together for pickup. Dual stream recycling is also referred to as source separated recycling. This means keeping the fiber component—paper and cardboard—separate from containers, including glass and plastic containers and cans. There are pros and cons to both methods. But separating (if you don't have to) or not separating (if you're supposed to) just makes things more difficult for those on the other end of your recycling bin.

2. Including plastic bags

It is very rare for a local recycler to accept plastic bags. Plastic bag markets require that these materials be clean, dry and empty. Once they go in a recycling bin, they definitely do not meet the first two criteria. Solving this problem is easy: a) don't use plastic bags and b) keep bags separate and return them to a local grocery store that accepts them for recycling (look for a bin near the front door).

3. Leaving lids on plastic containers

Left on, they often trap liquid, which is a contaminant. Remove the lid and recycle, if your county recycles them. Charleston County does.

4. Including non-recyclable glass

All glass (or glasslike materials) are not created equal. Translucent bottles and jars are good to go. Ceramic dishes, china plates or cups, mirrors, laboratory glassware, light bulbs, Pyrex, porcelain and window glass are NOT. These materials have a different melting point and chemical composition from container glass. Seeing just one of these items in a load of container glass can cause it to be rejected.

5. Food-soaked cartons/packages

Leave the grease-soaked pizza box and oily Chinese takeout carton (and anything similar) out of the recycling bin. Ditto for dirty paper napkins. You can, however, tear off and recycle the unsoiled top of a pizza box. When it comes to recycling, any type of contamination is a no-no. That's why it's so important to clean the things that can be cleaned (aluminum, plastic and glass containers).

6. Removing the labels from bottles and cans

In most cases this is an unnecessary step. Same thing goes for staples or other metal fasteners in paper and cardboard. This was new to me and will certainly save me some time.

7. Shredded paper

Shredded paper is too small to sort—the pieces literally fall through the cracks of the sorting machines and end up all over the floor of the facility, or worse, in with the glass. Some recycling centers will accept shredded paper if it is contained in a paper bag and labeled "shredded paper." Check with your local recycler. Charleston County accepts it bagged.

• Ann Shahid, rashahid@att.net





Charleston's Natural History
Society Since 1905

BIRDATHON

AND Spring Bird Count

May 4, 2014

www.CharlestonAudubon.org

PARTICIPATION

There are three easy ways to participate:

1. MAKE A PLEDGE

You can pledge a fixed amount (\$20, \$30 or \$50, for example) or pledge a specific amount per species identified. (We usually observe between 140 and 160 species on a Spring Count). Make your pledge via e-mail to parula23@aol.com (please put **Spring Bird Count** in the subject line) or mail-in the pledge form (see reverse).

You may pay using PayPal through the links on our website – whether you pledge-per-species, or choose to make a fixed donation, PayPal is a safe, secure way to make your donation – no PayPal account is required.

2. SIGN-UP SPONSORS

Don't hesitate to ask friends, relatives and neighbors to support the Birdathon! You can distribute copies of the small pledge form for donations, or have sponsors sign-up on the larger form and collect their pledged amounts after the Spring Count (totals will be available 7-10 days after the May 4th Count.)

Extra forms can be downloaded from the website: www.charlestonaudubon.org.

3. JOIN THE COUNT

Anyone, whether you're an experienced birder or just getting started, is encouraged to participate in the Spring Count. Groups – each led by an experienced birder – will record the numbers of species and individual birds they identify in their assigned territory over the course of the day. Afterward all of the team reports are compiled into a single report.

To join the count, please contact Andy Harrison who is coordinating this year's Count and Birdathon: Call **795-6934** or email parula23@aol.com

The Charleston Spring Bird Count and Birdathon is just around the corner! This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 4. Our chapter has conducted the Spring Count for many years, and the data we collect is extremely valuable in detecting long-term trends in bird populations. The money we raise during the Birdathon will be used to support ongoing work at our McAlhany Nature Preserve (MNP) and other local chapter activities. The ice storms of this past winter caused major damage to the fresh water well, the trail system and fire-breaks at McAlhany, and also some additional infrastructure damage. We have made significant progress in clearing the trails and making repairs, but this has involved incurring some large but necessary expenses, and much work remains to be done.

Our 15-mile diameter "count circle" (the same area used on the Charleston Christmas Bird Count) is divided into territories and groups of observers – led by experienced birders – record the numbers of species and individuals they see or hear in their territory over the course of the day. This is birding with a purpose, and it is usually a lot of fun, too!

Sign up for the Count! Birders of all skill levels are welcome to participate on the Spring Count. And becoming involved in a count is a good way to improve your birding abilities! Contact the compiler, Andy Harrison, at 795-6934 or parula23@aol.com for more information.

AND AFTERWARD . . .

Our birding party with the highest species total and the donor making the largest contribution to the Birdathon will receive special recognition for their accomplishment. Please be patient when awaiting results – tabulating the data and verifying any unusual sightings after the count day may take a week or more (after all, we want to maintain a high-quality dataset for the long-term record).

Whether you join us for the Spring Count or make a donation in support of the Birdathon (or both), you will be taking part in a very worthy cause.

— Thanks very much!

Charleston Natural History Society 2014 Birdathon and Spring Count Pledge Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

eMAIL: _____

Sending your donation now?

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The Charleston Natural History Society

CHECK
ONE

MY PLEDGE

☐

I would like to pledge \$_____ per species seen during the 2014 Birdathon. (i.e. if we find 135 species, a \$.25 pledge would equal \$33.75)

☐

I would like to contribute \$_____ to the 2014 Birdathon effort. (i.e. \$25, \$50, \$75...)

Please Mail all pledges/donations to:

Andy Harrison
CNHS Birdathon Coordinator
35 Cross Creek Drive, APT. P-7
Charleston, SC 29412

Use the form below to sign-up sponsors and take their pledges. (You can use a pad or make your own form as long as you collect all the data.) Contact the Birdathon coordinator, Andy Harrison (at 795-6934 or by eMail at parula23@aol.com) and you'll be contacted after the count is compiled so that you can calculate and collect your sponsors' pledges.

Use the form above to make a pledge or donate a fixed amount. Donations may be paid online with PayPal, or sent immediately. If you return a pledge, you will be contacted, by phone or email, after the Spring Count totals have been compiled, and asked to fulfill the pledge amount.



Charleston Natural History Society 2014 Birdathon and Spring Count Pledge Sign-Up

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	PLEDGE INFO			PAID Y/N	NEW AUDUBON MEMBER?
			\$/per species	fixed donation	TOTAL		

After collecting all pledges and donations, please mail them, along with your name and contact information, and this form, to:

Andy Harrison, CNHS Birdathon Coordinator, 35 Cross Creek Drive, APT. P-7, Charleston, SC 29412

Other Interesting Events in the Lowcountry:

- Green and Lean
- Nightwalks at Beidler Forest
- Bird of Prey Raptor Center
- Sewee Visitor & Environmental Education Center
- Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission



New Members, Renewals, Gift Memberships	
 <p>For only \$20* you get one-year subscriptions to <i>Audubon</i> magazine and <i>The Lesser Squawk</i>, and all the benefits of local and National Audubon Society membership. Renew for just \$35/year. *\$15 for Sr. Citizens and Students</p>	
CHECK ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> GIFT MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL	
THIS IS A GIFT FROM:	THIS MEMBERSHIP IS FOR:
NAME _____	NAME _____
ADDRESS _____	ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____	CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
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[RENEWALS MUST INCLUDE THE 20-DIGIT MEMBER NUMBER FROM YOUR AUDUBON ADDRESS LABEL]	
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