



MAY 2016
No. 364

Ecobon

The Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

MAY PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 5:30 pm at Waddell Mariculture Center

2016 HHIAS Annual Picnic

Wednesday May 4th at 5:30 pm

Food, Fun and Facts ... About Mariculture

Members & Guests Are Cordially Invited to the HHIAS Annual Picnic
Waddell Mariculture Center 211 Sawmill Creek Rd, Bluffton

Al Stokes, Manager of Waddell, will be our expert guide for the Waddell Mariculture Center. We will learn lots about Waddell and get to enjoy the beautiful scenery by the Colleton River along with the good company of our fellow HHIAS members. Water, plates, napkins, plasticware and FRIED CHICKEN will be provided by the HHIAS. If you do not eat chicken, please bring something different for yourself

Member whose names end in (A-H) should bring a dessert or fruit
and (I-Z) a vegetable dish or a salad

Feel free to bring a beverage of your choice (Adult beverages are allowed)

Bring lawn chairs and insect repellent is strongly recommended

R.S.V.P. or Questions -- email: hhibirder@gmail.com by April 30th

The cost of the picnic is \$10 per person (payable at the picnic)

The cost includes a donation to Waddell



May Field Trip

Date: May 7, 2016

Place: James W Webb Wildlife Center

Meeting Spot: Neo's Restaurant in the parking lot at Moss Creek village.

Time: 7:30am

Limit: 20

Please contact Cindy Groff to sign up at 843-682-3840 or smilingcin@yahoo.com



HHI Audubon

Board of Directors:

President

Robert Rommel 734-274-1796

Vice President

Jack Greenshields 715-0340

Treasurer

Pauline Jones 715-9405

Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary

Marianne Currie 681-8525

Members-at-Large

Susan Murphy 686-3733

Christmas Bird Count Liaison

Joan Wilson 837-2874

Ecobon Editor

Immediate Past President

Rick Riebesell 681-6424

Emeritus

Barry Lowes

Standing Committee Chairs:

Audubon Newhall Preserve

Jack Greenshields 715-0340

Bob Clemens 689-2903

Bird Walks/Field Trips

Cindy & Kenn Groff 682-3840

Christmas Bird Count Liaison

Susan Murphy 686-3733

Conservation

Jack Greenshields 715-0340

Education

Grant Greider 404-313-8208

Membership

Carol Clemens 689-2903

Fran Baer 686-6348

Programs

Kathy Greider 404-313-8208

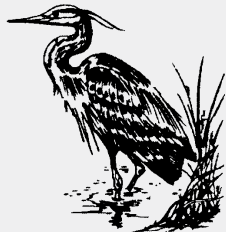
Dorie Cubie 843-991-1054

Publicity

Natalie Hefter 304-9789

Website: www.hiltonheadaudubon.org

The *Ecobon* is a monthly publication (September through May) of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society. Subscription is a benefit of membership. Direct inquiries to P.O. Box 6185, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938 or call one of the above officers or chairpersons.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Robert Rommel*

Standing on the shoulders of so many..

As another season winds to a close many of you are getting ready to head up north for the summer months, to travel elsewhere, or to remain in the Lowcountry for its vibrant summer. As I look back upon the last year, the Hilton Head Audubon Society has done so much that we might not realize. We are only able to accomplish all this due to the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers. Some of you may know these exceptional individuals already, but I'd like to introduce them, describe a little of what they do, and offer my thanks for all that they do. As President, I have the least number of responsibilities and obligations. The hard work and enthusiasm of the committee chairs and officers makes my job so easy.

First of all, Jack Greenshields was serving triple duty this last year as Vice President, Conservation Chair, and Audubon Newhall Preserve liaison. As Vice President, he was responsible for filling in for me on the numerous board meetings for which I was out of town. Together with Susan Murphy's help, Jack duties with the Conservation Committee included meeting with town officials, attending town planning meetings, coordinating with other local conservation groups and responding to pleas for help on conservation issues from members and other members of the general public. Together with Bob Clemens, Jack handled all the affairs for the Audubon Newhall Preserve including managing the property and its fiscal budget, maintaining and upgrading the property, and managing numerous walks to guide the general public through this local treasure.

Pauline Jones served as our Treasurer which entails managing our funds and accounts, delivering monthly budget reports, and handling just about everything imaginable related to finances. Marianne Currie is our long-standing Secretary who diligently takes notes at every board meeting, compiles them into minutes and distributes the minutes. Joan Wilson edits the *Ecobon* that you are reading right now, handles all the submissions, and assembles supplementary material if we have space to fill out the layout. Susan Murphy in addition to her Conservation Committee duties also oversees the enormous undertaking that is our Christmas Bird Count.

Rick Riebesell is our immediate past President and in addition to offering me his wisdom, he has also spearheaded the process to create the Hilton Head Island and South Carolina Birding Trails. Grant Greider has headed up Audubon's Education Committee that put together an impressive series of classes to introduce members and the general public to the wonders of birds. Carol Clemens and Fran Baer are at the door of every monthly meeting helping old members to renew, signing up new members to join, and managing the list for any e-mail announcements. Cindy and Ken Groff put together a diverse and exciting series of monthly guided bird walks at locations both on the island and within a short commute. Natalie Hefter as Publicity Chair has handled all the posting and changes to our wonderful website. Lastly, Kathy Greider and Dorie Cubie have worked diligently to assemble a dazzling array of fantastic presenters who have entertained and educated us at each monthly meeting. Kathy and Grant have also created the enjoyable Meet-a-Bird segment of the meetings.

We all at Hilton Head Audubon owe so much to the tireless dedication of these few. It is astonishing the amount of things our chapter does throughout a single year. I'd like to personally thank all of these people for making this last year a wonderful success!

Enjoy your summer!

Robert

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Reported sightings in our area continued to be excellent this month (>150). Our Spring migration has been a very good one! We are near the end of our Spring transient migrants moving through our area. Most of Summer birds have arrived and most of our Winter birds have departed northward to breed.

Eighteen warbler species including Rare ones: Wilson's, Golden-winged, Worm-eating and Hooded and also: Prothonotary, Yellow, Prairie, Orange-crowned, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, Northern Parula and Ovenbird plus others. Eight other migrants were reported including: rare Western Kingbird, Common Tern and Cave Swallow and also: Baltimore Oriole, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, Yellow-throated Vireo and Stilt Sandpiper.

Rare species reported during the past month in addition to the above were: Fulvous Whistling Duck in Bluffton, Golden Eagle on Pinckney Island NWR, White-crowned Sparrow in Savannah, GA, Bachman's Sparrow at Webb WMA, King and Virginia Rails at Savannah NWR, Glaucous Gull in Chatham County, GA, Solitary and Stilt Sandpipers, Scarlet Tanager on Tybee Island and Roseate Spoonbill on Skidaway Island.



Swallowtail Kite
audubon.org

Many reported Uncommon species included: Irruptive Pine Siskin, Whip-poor-will, Least and American Bitterns, migrant Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, endangered Piping Plover, Blue-headed Vireo, Eurasian-collared Dove, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Pipit, Hairy and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Rusty Blackbird, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nelson's,

Saltmarsh, Seaside and Field Sparrows, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, American Kestrel, Mottled Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Glossy Ibis, Sedge and House Wrens, Wild Turkey, White-breasted Nuthatch, Merlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Bank Swallow and Caspian Tern.

Other First-Of-The-Season and 'Good Finds' reported included: Painted Bunting, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black & White Warbler, Chuck-wills-widow, arriving Purple Martin, Orchard Oriole, Great-crested Flycatcher, Re-eyed Vireo, Spotted Sandpiper, Summer Tanager, Bald Eagle (a good number and nesting), White-winged Dove, arriving Eastern Kingbird, Sora, Loggerhead Shrike, Red Knot, American Goldfinch, American Wigeon, Common Loon, Surf and Black Scoters, Red-throated Loon, Wilson's Plover, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Horned Grebe, Rough-winged Swallow, Great Horned Owl, Northern Gannet, Marbled Godwit, American Oystercatcher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Meadowlark, Gray Catbird, Black & White Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wilson's Snipe, Red Knot, Northern Gannet and many Cedar Waxwings and American Robins.

Many thanks to all reporting their sightings:

Robert Rommel, Kathy/Grant Greider, Mary Alice Tartler, Diana Churchill, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Cindy/Ken Groff, Joanne McMemamin, Natalie Hefter, Dottie Bass, Jane/Abie Hester, Jim Grove, Mark Hymer, Doreen Cubie, Shelia/Roger Johnson, Karen Marts, Deb Beam, Kay Grinnell, Lauren Merrill, Steve Calver, Diana Churchill, Buddy Campbell, Russ Wigh, Annette Hausman, Mary Ann Lueckel and a number of visitors.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Uncommon, Out-Of-Season (OOS), First-Of-The-Year (FOTY) or First-Of-The-Season (FOTS) or a species that you consider to be a 'good find' e-mail: BirdingFriends@yahoo.com or call 843-432-2661. Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date and location and other pertinent sighting information.



Indigo Bunting
audubon.org

It's a great time of year to bird with our Summer birds arriving and the last of our transient Spring migrants moving through our area! Please continue to report your rare, uncommon and "good bird finds". Have a great Summer and keep birding!

Membership Report for May 2016

In the last month of our meeting season, we have a short list of new members. Please welcome the following who have joined since the last Ecobon was published (and apologies to one we missed earlier!):

Peter Johnson

Shari Lewis

Joanie Vater

See you at the picnic in May.....enjoy your summer!



Have questions about your membership? Need to update your email?

Contact:

Carol Clemens clemens318@roadrunner.com

Fran Baer seatwo@roadrunner.com



Check out our new HH birding app!

<https://www.hiltonheadislandbirdingtrail.org/>

and the State Birding app:

<https://www.southcarolinabirdingtrail.org/>

You can go to the App store and download them for free or use them on the above web sites.

Summary of Impact to Turtle Nesting from Beach Renourishment

As you all are likely aware, the majority of the beachfront of Hilton Head Island will undergo an extensive beach renourishment this year. Recently, due to unforeseen issues, the renourishment project was delayed and rescheduled. This revised schedule has necessitated a major change in the implementation plan that will create additional challenges to the Turtle Protection Project headed by Amber Kuehn, Program Director.

Since the majority of the renourishment will now take place during the entire nesting and hatching season, Amber and her teams of volunteers will now be required to relocate all turtle nests laid into two small "protected zones". (Zone 1: Folly to just North of the Westin, Zone 2: Sea Pines north of Tower Beach through South Forest Beach). As you might imagine this will put an enormous amount of pressure on the turtles and also Amber and her teams who will need to patrol day and night continuously from June 15 through Oct 30!

Each turtle nest laid outside one of the two protected zones will need to be relocated back within the boundaries of the zones. This means a considerable increase in density with nests concentrated in two relatively small areas. Beyond the obvious risks due to physical movement of the nests, the biggest concern to the Turtle Protection Project is compliance with the Town ordinance on "lights out" (porch, floods, external landscape, flashlights etc) for beach and near beach properties between the hours of 10pm 6am. Non compliance results in an instantaneous misorientation of the hatchlings diverting them from their dash to the sea and, with the high concentration of nests in two small areas, the corresponding survival risks are magnified.

You can help in this effort to keep "lights out" by:

- 1.) following the Town Ordinance if you live on or near the beach,
- 2.) communicating the importance of compliance to fellow homeowners, renters and guests,
- 3.) spread word through any organizations or clubs that would provide you a minute or two to raise awareness of this very critical issue as we go through the beach renourishment project period.

SAVE the DATE!

The Lower Savannah River Alliance is hosting our 3rd annual Swallow-tailed Kite Outing in Allendale, South Carolina on Saturday, July 23, 2016.

LSRA'S 3RD ANNUAL SWALLOW-TAILED KITE OUTING



Proud Affiliate of Savannah Riverkeeper



Photo credit: Merrill Irvin, photographer and 2014-15

July 23, 2016 Allendale, South Carolina

Join birders from all over the Southeast for this fantastic event near the beautiful Savannah River! Registration will be available soon at WWW.LOWERSAVANNAHRIVERALLIANCE.ORG

Lower Savannah River Alliance
12049 Burton's Ferry Highway, Allendale, SC 29810
lowersavannahriveralliance@gmail.com

LIKE us on Facebook!



NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

by Jack Greenshields

Our Thursday 10am guided walk program has been well attended by low country visitors and residents. We will continue with this effort through May and then resume in September.

The water level in the pond and pocosin remain at an elevated level due to the recent rains. The pocosin can again be considered an ephemeral pool which is a temporary pool of water that provides habitat for distinctive plants and animals.

Property maintenance has moved into gear with two organized Saturday work days. Recent retiree Matt Mattoon has been volunteering his time and equipment to clear overgrown trees around the pond. Please thank Matt with his dog Argus if you visit the Preserve. We did need to contract out a removal of large pine tree that fell into a magnolia and was blocking the path around the pond.

The large bull alligator made a brief visit to the pond before moving on. It is estimated that he is about 12 feet in length and 500 pounds.

There is a need for additional volunteers at the Audubon Newhall Preserve. If interested, please contact Jack Greenshields at jackg308@gmail.com or 651-491-1851

Notes from the Conservation Committee by Jack Greenshields

Fran Baer will lead her team to conduct the five Spring bird surveys at the Folly/Barkers/Collier area.

The retention pond behind Kroger and Broad Creek apartment complex developments continue to be monitored. There also is a concern about the extensive tree removal at the Pineland Station redevelopment.


Susan Murphy, Fran Baer, and Jack Greenshields attended the Hilton Head Island Baseline Sustainability Assessment presented by the consulting firm hired by the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the Greater Island Council and Experience Green. The findings show that despite its claim to be a leader in environmental leadership, Hilton Head Island underperforms in almost every measurable metric such as waste reduction, recycling, energy usage, water consumption, and transportation.



.....

Newhall Bird Walks

The Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is conducting guided walks at the Audubon Newhall Preserve on Palmetto Bay Road on Hilton Head Island at 10 am on Thursdays. Audubon Newhall Preserve Guided Walks will be held on May 5, 12, 19, and 26 (weather permitting). Experienced naturalists will discuss the history, plants, and wildlife found on the 50 acre nature preserve. The walks are free to the public but donations are appreciated. Reservations are not required. Additional information can be obtained by calling 651-491-1851.



**Find us on
facebook**



Wild Birds Unlimited

- Binoculars & Spotting Scopes
- Field Guides
- Nature Books
- Nature Gifts
- Custom Seed Blends
- Bird Feeders & Houses
- Bird Baths & Fountains
- Water Gardening Supplies

We Bring People And Nature Together®
Visit us at www.wbu.com

Festival Centre at Indigo Park
45 Pembroke Dr., Suite 130
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
843-681-4461

Hi, Sea Turtle Nest Adopters,

Welcome to the Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Nest Adoption Program. Whether this is your first year of adopting or your 7th, we are so excited that you will be sharing the season with us – even if some of you are cheering us on from a distance!

We are very busy getting ready for the season to begin:

Always fun to guess: when will the first mother sea turtle arrive? Mother loggerhead sea turtles generally nest on the beaches of Hilton Head Island beginning around May 15th. But in case they come a little early, our beach patrol will begin on May 1st. Last year, the first nest was laid on May 5th; the year before, it was May 20th. Whenever they arrive, we will be ready!

The staff is being trained: We have our dedicated sea turtle patrol staff who are expertly trained by our Project Manager, Amber Kuehn. These amazing people patrol every mile of the beach, every morning beginning at 5 am (!), rain or shine, looking for turtle tracks or stranded turtles. You will recognize them out there – they are wearing our special nest adopter T-shirts and will be in the GREEN MACHINE!

Beach Renourishment: A BIG complication is that several sections of the Hilton Head Island beach will be renourished this summer, and due to contractor and weather delays, that project will begin at the end of May, continuing through October.....exactly during turtle nesting season!!! (Renourishment is a process of pumping sand from the bottom of the ocean, and spreading it onto the beach to replace the massive amounts of sand lost during the past 10 years.) I will give many more details about the renourishment project and the sea turtles, but just be assured that the team is protecting our precious endangered species throughout the process.



So, now we wait for the mother turtles to arrive – these two bald eagles were keeping an eye out for them on our empty beach last week.

Stay tuned: we'll send you an email as soon as the first nest appears and many thanks for your interest!



Andrea B. Siebold
Sea Turtle Nest Adoption Coordinator
Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Protection Project
andreabsiebold@gmail.com
843-415-2211

NEW SCOPE

If you've visited Ibis Pond recently, you may have noticed a new spotting scope that has been installed overlooking the pond adjacent to the Butterfly Garden. Our Audubon chapter joined with the Friends of Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges to help fund the purchase and installation. This amenity is a tribute to Clem Dietze who passed away in September 2014. Clem was a tireless and dedicated uniformed volunteer with USFWS at Pinckney Island for many years. He was also a past President of our chapter and served on our Board for many years in various capacities. Please be sure to take advantage of the enhanced views of Ibis Pond and its many birds on your visits to Pinckney Island.



Photo & Article courtesy of Fran Baer



Audubon

The Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

ECOBON
P. O. Box 6185
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938

Title: Ecobon
Issue Date: May 2016
Frequency: Monthly Sept.-May
Organization: Hilton Head Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 6185
Hilton Head, South Carolina 29938
Issue #: 364

MAY - SEPTEMBER 2016 Calendar

MAY

May 5, 12, 19, 26 ~ Newhall Guided Walks at 10:00 am

Weds. May 4 Board Meeting at Waddell4:00 pm
Weds. May 4 Annual Picnic at Waddell5:30 pm
Sat. May 7 Field Trip7:30 am

Have a Safe Summer! - Happy Birding!

Thurs. Sept.1 Board Meeting at CCHH.....10:00 am
Thurs. Sept. 8 Monthly Meeting at Honey Horn 3:00 pm

Monthly meetings of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society are regularly scheduled at 3:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at the Coastal Discovery Museum, 70 Honey Horn Drive. Members and guests welcome!



BEQUESTS

If you wish to honor a family member or friend with a memorial gift, or remember the Audubon Newhall Preserve or the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society in your will, your gift may be in the form of securities, cash, life insurance, real estate, or other property.

Contact your own estate planner or our Audubon Chapter at P.O. Box 6185, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938.

Sharing your estate with Audubon not only reduces the taxes on your estate but will help protect birds, wildlife, and their habitat in the years to come.