



MAY 2017
No. 373

Ecobon

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

MAY PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*

THURSDAY, May 4, 2017 5:30 pm



Hilton Head Island Audubon Society

Annual Picnic: 2017

**Thursday, May 4th
5:30 PM**

Where: **Waddell Mariculture Center** ~ 211 Sawmill Creek Rd, Bluffton

When: **May 4th, 5:30 p.m.** Dinner followed by program

Program: The Waddell Mariculture Center (WMC) is a field experiment station of the [S.C. Department of Natural Resources](#) and is one of the country's largest and most sophisticated facilities for mariculture research. Al Stokes, Director of Waddell, will be our presenter. Come learn about the fascinating work done at Waddell!

Cost: **\$10 per member / \$10 per guest**

May be paid at the picnic (by check or correct currency)

This includes a donation to the Waddell Mariculture Center.

Food: HHIAS will provide Fried Chicken*, plates, cutlery, napkins & water.

Each family is asked to bring a side dish.

Last names A -H bring a dessert or fruit

Last names I - Z bring a side/veggie dish

You may bring adult beverages if desired.

Insect Repellent is suggested! Bring a lawn chair.

**If Fried Chicken is not desired as a main dish,
please bring something else for yourself.*

**** Door prizes from the new Wild Birds Unlimited Store! ****

Reserve by 5/1 by emailing your name and number attending to:
hhiadubon@gmail.com



HHI Audubon

Board of Directors:

President

Robert Rommel 734-274-1796

Vice President

Jack Greenshields 843-715-0340

Treasurer

Pauline Jones 843-290-6655

Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary

Marianne Currie 843-681-8525

Members-at-Large

Miho Kinna 843-341-9430

Susan Murphy 843-686-3733

Christmas Bird Count Liaison

Joan Wilson 843-837-2874

Ecobon Editor

Immediate Past President

Rick Riebesell 843-681-6424

Emeritus

Barry Lowes

Standing Committee Chairs:

Audubon Newhall Preserve

Jack Greenshields 843-715-0340

Bob Clemens 843-689-2903

Bird Walks/Field Trips

Bob Speare 843-715-9772

Martha Worthy

Christmas Bird Count Liaison

Susan Murphy 843-686-3733

Conservation

Jack Greenshields 843-715-0340

Education

Grant Greider 404-313-8208

Membership

Carol Clemens 843-689-2903

Fran Baer 843-686-6348

Programs

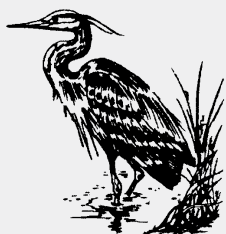
Kathy Greider 404-313-8208

Dorie Cubie 843-991-1054

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*

Endings

As we come to end of another great year, I find myself reflecting on endings of a different nature. As news media coverage shifts from topic to topic, we may forget that some of our past problems are still plaguing us today. Extinctions are not a thing of the past, in fact we have done very little to affect the rate of extinctions. Virtually every animal that goes extinct in modern times is caused by humans. Instead of slowing the rate of extinctions, they are in fact increasing. The rates are extremely alarming. We don't exactly know how many we are losing, but the best data indicates that we are probably losing between 1,000 and 10,000 species per year. Not one, not ten, but thousands every year. Before humans entered the picture, natural extinctions happened at a rate of about 1 or 2 species per year.

Some of you may have heard about the Vaquita Porpoise - a small dolphin that lives in the Gulf of California. It is likely a few years at most from extinction in the wild. It's rapid population decline has been caused by drowning the mammals in fishing nets. A captive program will be started this fall but there is a good chance it will be too late. We just lost the Yangtze River Dolphin in China a few years back as effort at captive rearing there started too late. We sometimes hear about the large, more famous species but millions of smaller, less charismatic species have gone extinct in the modern era. Many of these species may have integral roles in their ecosystems or might be sources of new drugs and medicine.

The threats are numerous and far reaching. Habitat loss is the worst threat to most species. Among birds, habitat loss is followed by cats and rats as leading causes of extinction. Different types of animals are affected by different threats. With frogs and toads, pollution is the number two killer. The first thing we need to do is to be cognizant of the dire danger wildlife is in even if media coverage has tired of reporting it. The next thing is to look for ways we can lessen our impact. We can look for fish that is harvested in safer manners such as line-caught fish or look for products that don't use unsustainable palm oil (a leading cause of slash/burn type habitat loss in tropical ecosystems that is present in so many food and beauty products). Lastly we can let others know that species are in danger both right in our backyards and across this earth.

I'd like to offer a huge thanks to all the people who put in so much time to make Hilton Head Audubon successful. The board members, committee members and general volunteers do so much to make it all happen. HHI Audubon puts on great programs every month, offers educational offerings, leads bird-watching outings, fights for local conservation, manages a preserve, hosts a Christmas bird count, and puts together a fantastic newsletter every month. That's an incredible amount of work and I am continuously astonished at those who help out. There are many people who work behind the scenes recording minutes, maintaining our finances, sending out press releases, and keeping tardy presidents in line. Please say a word of thanks when you run into any of the people who help to make this happen and please consider helping out yourself in future years if you don't already do so!

Robert

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Reported bird sightings in our area have been many and excellent during the last month. We are in the final weeks of a very good Spring migration with reports of 17 warbler species and 12 other transient migrant species so far moving through our area while our Summer birds continue to arrive. Most of our Winter ducks, songbirds and other species have move northward for the Summer.



Western Tanager

“Rare“ species reported the past month were: Very rare Western Tanager at Savannah NWR, late Red-breasted Nuthatch on HHI, Wilson’s Phalarope at Nemours Plantation, Virginia and King Rails, Solitary Sandpipers and late Snow Goose and Hooded Warbler at Savannah NWR, Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers and Bachman’s Sparrow at Webb WMA, Cinnamon Teal, Eared Grebe and Ash-throated Flycatcher at Savannah Spoils Site and Common Tern on Tybee Island.

“Uncommon“ species reported included: American Golden Plover, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Swallow-tailed Kite, Yellow and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Indigo Bunting, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Black-necked Stilt,

American Avocet, American and Least Bitterns, Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Pectoral Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Long-billed Dowitcher, endangered Piping and Wilson’s Plovers, Caspian Tern, Red-throated Loon, Saltmarsh, Seaside and Field Sparrows, Sedge Wren, Merlin, American Kestrel, Whimbrel, American White Pelican, Rusty Blackbird, late Purple Finch and others.

Other significant and “Good Find“ species reported included:

Arriving Painted Bunting, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated and Black & White Warblers, migrant American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager, late Hermit Thrush, arriving Chuck’s-wills-widow, late Northern Gannet, Red Knot, Barn and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Great-crested Flycatcher, arriving Red-eyed Vireo, many Bald Eagles and Osprey (some nesting), Marbled Godwit, Red-headed Woodpecker, many late American Goldfinch, Ruby-throated Hummers, many Cedar Waxwings and Robins and others.



Yellow Warbler

Many thanks to all reporting your bird sightings: Cindy/Ken Groff, Susan Murphy, Jane/Abe Hester, Dottie Bass, Carol

Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Pauline Johnson, Joanne McMenamain, Shelia/Roger Johnson, Dorothy Mosior, Kathy/Grant Greiger, Dianne Faucette, Doreen Cubie, Cherry Underwood, Peter Cram, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Mary Alice Tartler, Nancy Male, Dick Phillips, Kay Grinnell, Ally McNair, Bob Speare, Mary Monahan, Mike Loftus and visitors.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Out-Of-Season, Uncommon, First-Of-The-Year (FOTY) or First-Of-The-Season (FOTS) or a species that you consider to be a “Good Finds” e-mail: BirdingFriends@yahoo.com or call 843-432-2661. Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date and location of your sighting and other pertinent information. Please continue to report your “good birds“ sighted on Birding Friends!

Our Spring migration will be ending in a few weeks. It’s a great time to get in the great outdoors in this pleasant weather and find some of these transient and arriving species at your favorite birding spots!



American Golden Plover

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIRDS NEST

1. Ducks lay many more eggs than songbirds, Wood ducks can lay as many as 15 eggs in one nesting cycle.
2. Not all birds build nests. Two that don't are cowbirds, which lay their eggs in other birds' nests, and screech owls, which use cavities that other birds or critters have hollowed out.
3. Ever wonder why there are so many pigeons around? They can nest up to eight times a year.
4. Killdeer are fully feathered when they hatch. As soon as they dry, sometimes in as little as five minutes, they leave the nest.
5. Most young don't stay in the nest long, but it is a different story with larger birds like owls, hawks and eagles. Bald Eagles stay in the nest up to 98 days!
6. NestWatch is a nationwide program that enlists amateur bird-watchers to monitor nests for scientific research. Last year, volunteers monitored 984 house-wren nesting attempts.
7. Fascinated by eggs? Check out the Book of Eggs by Mark E. Hauber, which offers detailed pictures of the eggs of 600 bird species from all over the world.



(from Birds and Blooms)

LEARN MORE ABOUT EGGS, THE BEGINNING OF EVERY BIRD'S LIFE

1. Brown-headed cowbirds deposit their eggs in other birds' nests. Cowbird eggs have been found in nests of more than 220 other species.
2. Large birds sit on eggs, too, so their eggs have to be strong enough to withstand the weight. It takes about 26 pounds of pressure to break a swan egg.
3. A single ostrich egg can weigh as much as 5 pounds.
4. A wood duck can lay up to 15 eggs in one nesting attempt, but a single nest may have as many as 40 eggs from more than one female.
5. Rufous hummingbird eggs are 1/2 inch long and fit snugly in the 2-inch wide nest, which usually holds two eggs.
6. Most songbirds lay one egg per day until their clutch is complete.
7. Pale pink at first, tree swallow eggs turn white within four days.
8. American white pelicans lay two eggs per clutch. The young are able to squawk from inside their eggs if they're too hot or cold.



(from Birds and Blooms)

A message from Nolan Schillerstrom, South Carolina Audubon

SC Audubon has developed an updated pamphlet and corresponding website on a special program highlighting our shorebirds. "Let 'em Rest, Let 'em Nest" is a program to encourage South Carolina beachgoers to share their play-scape with coastal birds. The Audubon program is in partnership with the Charleston Animal Society.

You Can Help!

Make a difference by following these seven simple steps while along the coast:

- Keep away from birds.
- Respect posted nesting and feeding areas.
- Don't force birds to fly.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Keep the beach trash-free.
- Be mindful of where you land your boat.
- Teach others to protect birds on our beaches.

How close to a bird is too close? If birds react – calling loudly or taking flight – step back immediately. A good rule is to stay at least 50 yards away, or half the length of a football field.

For info on this and other SC Audubon campaigns, go to: <http://sc.audubon.org/coasts> then click on the "Let 'em Rest, Let 'em Nest"

Everyone's help is needed to protect our shorebirds!



May Field Trip

Date: Saturday, May 6

Place: Solomon Tract of the SNWR, Chatham, Georgia

Meeting Spot: Parking area at Solomon Tract - See Directions Below

Time: 8:00 am

Limit: 20

Leader: Jack Colcolough



Additional information: The Solomon Tract portion of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge sits on the Georgia side of the refuge and boasts 887 acres of woodland and other habitats. Past trips to Solomon Tract have produced up to a dozen species of warblers, including prothonotary and hooded warblers, as well as cuckoos, flycatchers, buntings, grosbeaks and more! Don't miss this final field trip of the season timed for the wonderful migration of songbirds and other bird species both arriving and passing through on their way to breeding areas to the north.

To ensure we are there during the active morning period, we'll begin the walk at 8:00 am. Expect to walk up to two miles through the Tract, with plenty of stopping along the way.

There is some space to park at Solomon tract, but we suggest carpooling to reduce the number of cars on the site. To carpool please meet at Neo's Restaurant in the parking lot at Moss Creek at 7:00 am.

Directions to Solomon Tract: From 95 South, take exit 109, and turn left at the end of the ramp. Take an immediate left onto O'Leary Road, then right onto EM Industries Boulevard. Follow this road until it dead ends at the gate and park along here, but not in front of the gate.

To sign up for this field trip, please contact Bob Speare at bobspeare@gmail.com or 843-715-9772. Note that there is a \$5 fee for nonmembers.

Conservation Update

Shelter Cove

Since October 2013, a small group of Audubon volunteers has been conducting bird surveys at the lagoon behind the Kroger at the new Shelter Cove Towne Centre. The Kroger opened in December 2013. The construction of apartment buildings along Broad Creek has begun. If you drive by, you will see the parking deck for the apartments next to the lagoon and the framing for the bottom level of what will be a four-story building (see photo). Construction has also begun on apartments just down Shelter Cove Lane, behind the Sheriff's office. There will be a total of 240 units. Needless to say, this has caused most of the birds to leave the lagoon (which is really a retention pond built when the original Mall was built). This used to be an area that attracted thousands of birds roosting overnight, arriving at sunset in large flocks.

Our Christmas Bird count numbers say it best. In December 2014 there were over a thousand birds at sunset. In 2015 there were 250, in 2016 there were 7 Pied-billed Grebes on the pond. Our observations in the past few months report up to 20 birds in the late afternoon, mostly Ibises, Egrets, and Grebes. Hurricane Matthew damaged many of the Wax Myrtles that were a favorite roosting area. We have seen a few Ibises trying to make the best of the shrubs that remain. We will continue to monitor the site. Perhaps when the construction is complete, the birds will return. According to the Island Packet (2/28/17), completion of the building near the lagoon is scheduled for March 2018, with the first apartments available as early as this November.

Susan Murphy





DON'T FORGET TO LISTEN

For the beginner, birding is mostly a visual endeavor. Size, structure, and behavior are the primary things that a birder must consider when identifying birds. Learning bird sounds shouldn't wait. When you find a bird, don't just look at it and walk away. Continue to study it. Listen to all the sounds it makes. Learning bird sounds may seem like a daunting task. Take it on progressively. Just think, if you learn three warbler songs each year, in just ten years you've got most of them!

As you learn, expand on what you know. It's like building a vocabulary. Does a Tufter Titmouse sound like it says "chiv chiva chiva"? Or is it more like "peter, peter, peter"? Use whatever tricks work for you.

(from Good Birders Don't Wear White)



Membership Report for May 2017

Hi fellow birders!

Please welcome the following new members who have joined us since our last Ecobon was published.



Nance De Valle

Barry and Kathleen Hittner

(part-time residents from Rhode Island)

Marge and Dave Igyarto

(new members from Georgia)

Mark and Terri Phifer

Robin Storey

Remember that dues are based on a rolling calendar. For example, if you joined or renewed in April 2017, you are a paid member through April 2018. Once your dues have been received and processed, you will get an email from Membership confirming your renewal. We send an email reminder with a renewal form in the quarter your dues expire. The renewal may be mailed to us or turned in at a meeting.

Remember, you can check our website and read the latest issue of the Ecobon. Just go to: <http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org/> and from the Publications tab, select Newsletter from the dropdown list.

Have a question about your membership? Have you changed your email? Please contact Carol clemens318@roadrunner.com or Fran at 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.



Founded in 1974, the Hilton Head Audubon Society uses 100% of local membership dues for programs and activities in our own area. Your local dues provide support for the following:

- Monthly programs
- Field Trips
- Citizen Science projects such as the Christmas Bird Count
- Audubon Newhall Preserve
- Education Outreach programs
- Various learning opportunities

We need your help to continue these activities. All of the above are possible through our LOCAL DUES! We do NOT receive national funds for any of our local programs. Please join the Hilton Head Island chapter of the Audubon Society and support these local programs. Remember.....100% of the chapter dues stay LOCAL!

For membership information, contact: hhiaudubon@gmail.com

.....
Please detach and mail or bring to the next meeting.

Local Membership: select either 1 year individual \$15 or 1 year family \$25

I wish to make an extra donation of _____(amount)

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Address: _____ city _____ State _____ Zip _____

For LOCAL residents, please indicate your plantation/neighborhood such as Sea Pines, Indigo Run, Bluffton, Sun City etc. _____

Preferred phone: _____

Email: _____ (please print clearly!)

Can you help us with any of these activities on an as needed basis? Please check any of interest to you. Audubon Newhall Preserve Help with Field Trips Conservation Education Christmas Bird Count Publicity/Programs other _____

Please mail to: P.O. Box 6185 – Hilton Head Island, SC - 29938 (Rev. 2/2017)



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 2017

Frequency: Monthly Sept.-May

Organization: Hilton Head Island Audubon Society

P.O. Box 6185

Hilton Head, South Carolina 29938

Issue #: 373

MAY ~ SEPTEMBER 2017 Calendar

Thurs. May 4 Annual Picnic5:30 pm
at Wadell mariculture Center

Sat. May 6 Field Trip - Solomon Track.....8:00 am

~~~~~  
*Have a Safe Summer! - Happy Birding!*  
~~~~~

Thurs. Sept. 7 Board Meeting at CCHH.....10:00 am

Thurs. Sept. 14 Monthly Meeting 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.