



Ecobon

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

OCTOBER PROGRAM *by: Dave Davis, Sun City Bird Club*

Thursday, October 12, 2017 3:00 ~ 4:15 pm

"Doing Citizen Science The Hard Way: The Kirtland's Warbler Annual Census"

Dave will regale us with his epic 5 days in the Michigan Jack Pine Barrens counting America's rarest songbird. Dave writes: "This will be the story of how I froze in the 4 AM frost then sweated through the rest of the day. How I ruined four pieces of clothing and endured twenty lacerations and three bruises. I'll describe my technique for walking 15 miles over jackstrawed tree trunks while simultaneously forcing my way through interlaced pine branches--not to mention watching where I placed every step for fear that I would crush a nest. Overall, it was a good week--the rain held off, the bugs weren't bad, I felt fantastic after it was over, AND I saw 3 Kirtland's Warblers." I'll also tell the story of the Kirtland's Warbler, a little bird that came back from the brink of extinction on a big song and a sea of flames and how it matters to the South Carolina Lowcountry.



(Photo by Joel Trick)

Dave hales from Michigan. Educated as a geologist, he taught briefly at Sonoma State University in California before embarking on a 31-year career with the Geological Survey Division of the Michigan DNR. After retirement in 2012 and seeking a quiet life, Dave moved to Sun City Hilton Head and took up Birding. He has served on the Executive Board of the Sun City Bird Club for 4 years and is currently President.

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Upcoming Audubon Programs: Our program team has scheduled some interesting programs covering a range of topics. Below is the program schedule as it currently stands. Please note that the April meeting is one week later to avoid Heritage Week.

Nov. 19th - Vicky McMillan – Dragonflies

Dec 7th - Annual Christmas Bird Count evening program at First Presbyterian Church 7:00PM

Dec. 15th - **Hilton Head Island Christmas Bird Count**

Jan 11th - Diana Churchill – Sparrow Identification

Feb. 8th - Roy Thimineur – Australian Birds and other Wildlife

March 8th - Daniel J. Prohaska – Development Officer, Center for Birds of Prey

April 19th - (NOTE DATE CHANGE!) – Nancy Owen – Creatures of the Night

May 10th - Annual Picnic at Waddell Mariculture Center



HHI Audubon

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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 email one of the above officers or chairpersons or send a general email to hhiadubon@gmail.com



Project FeederWatch

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.



Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.

New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. Then each fall participants receive our 16-page, year-end report, Winter Bird Highlights. Participants also receive access to the digital version of Living Bird, the Cornell Lab's award-winning, quarterly magazine.



There is an \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). Canadians can participate by joining Bird Studies Canada for CAN\$35. The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Project FeederWatch is supported almost

entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

For more info or to sign up to participate, go to:

<https://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew/>

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

From: <https://feederwatch.org/>

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Our Fall migration is off to an excellent start despite Hurricane Irma and is expected to peak in October. Transient migrants are moving through our area, Winter birds are beginning to arrive and some of the Summer birds are still here to enjoy but will be leaving soon! Seventeen species of warbler have already been found and reported this Fall so far as well as sixteen other migrant bird species shown below.

An accidental Cory's Shearwater was blown in to the Sea Pines beach by Hurricane Irma. This injured seabird was rescued and moved to a rehab shelter. Let's hope it survives!



Cory's Shearwater



Wilson's Phalarope

Rare species sighted and reported during the last month were: Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern and White-rumped Sandpiper, Scarlet Tanager, Common Tern, Roseate Spoonbill, King Rail, Wilson's, Cape May, Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers and Cliff Swallow.

Uncommon species were many and included: Endangered Piping Plover, Yellow-throated Vireo, Ovenbird, Yellow and Prairie Warblers, migrant Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Least Bittern, Great Black-backed Gull, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eurasian-collared Dove, Loggerhead Shrike, Stilt and Pectoral Sandpipers, Caspian and Least Terns, early Merlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Bank Swallow, Mississippi Kite, Purple Gallinule, Mottled Duck, White-breasted Nuthatch, Glossy Ibis and Bank Swallow.

Other 'Good Finds' included: Black-throated Blue, Yellow-throated and Black & White Warblers, migrant American Restart, Northern Parula, migrant Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Gull-billed Tern, Cattle Egret, early Tree Swallow and always, Painted Bunting and Ruby-throated Hummingbird among others.

Many thanks to all reporting your bird sightings: Bob Speare, Cindy/Ken Groff, Susan Murphy, Jane/Abe Hester, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Shelia/Roger Johnson, Dorothy Mosior, Kathy/Grant Greiger, Doreen Cubie, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Mary Alice Tartler, Dick Phillips, Martha Worth, Debby Boots, Cherry Underwood, Alan Biggs and many visitors.



Ovenbird

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 Find" 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. Keep up the good work of reporting your 'bird finds' on Birding Friends!

Now is a best time of the year to go birding since our Fall migration is in full swing and the weather is cooling! Plan to go to your favorite birding spots soon and enjoy finding some of our transient migrants, arriving Winter birds and others!

29th Annual Beach Sweep/ River Sweep

Saturday, October 21st, 2017 ~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

As part of the annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep event organized by S.C. Sea Grant Consortium in partnership with S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

The Coastal Discovery Museum will once again organize the cleanup of Burkes Beach on Hilton Head Island. Burkes Beach is located off William Hilton parkway (278 Bus.) at Burkes Beach Rd. Plastic bags and gloves will be provided, all you need to do is show up and join the effort. Spread the word, invite friends and family and come and join the museum for this event.

There is limited parking at the beach entrance, but there is plenty of parking in front of Chaplin Park, one block away from the beach.

Volunteers are not required to sign up prior to the event.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep— is the largest one-day litter cleanup of South Carolina’s beaches and waterways. Every third Saturday in September thousands of South Carolinians volunteer to clear trash from our beaches, rivers, lakes, marshes, and swamps. Beach Sweep/River Sweep is an annual event for South Carolina since 1988 and is held in conjunction with The Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup, which involves several hundred- thousand volunteers in over 75 nations.

If you have any questions about this event contact Carlos Chacon at 689-6767 ext 226.

cchacon@coastaldiscovery.org

October Field Trip

Date: Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 am

Place: Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn, Hilton Head Island

Meeting Spot: Parking lot at the museum

Limit: 20

Leader: Carlos Chacon

Come and join Carlos Chacon, the Manager of Natural History at the Coastal Discovery Museum for an exploration of the museum’s grounds at Honey Horn. This will be another terrific opportunity for new birders to learn more about some of the bird species found here on Hilton Head Island.

We will start our bird watching outing at 7:30 am at the parking lot in front of the Discovery House at Honey Horn, and from here we will proceed on an easy walk through this 63 acre property. With a combination of open landscape, maritime forest and salt marsh, and timed for songbird migration, this walk offers the possibility of a number of wading birds as well as forest songbirds and more.

This walk is free to Hilton Head Audubon members, \$5 for non-members.

The museum is located at 70 Honey Horn Dr, Hilton Head Island.

To sign up for this field trip, please contact Bob Speare at bobspeare@gmail.com or 843-715-9772.

FIELD TRIP information is also available on the web-site <http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org/audubon-outings>

Birding 101

January 6, 13, 20 and 27

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Coastal Discovery Museum in
the New Discovery Room

Learn about the birds you see
on your island

Identifying Birds

Feeding Birds

Shorebirds

Backyard Birds

Raptors and more

If interested contact
greider38@gmail.com

Free for members
\$5 Cost for non-members per
week

Audubon Newhall Preserve

We are pleased that Irma did very minor damage in the Audubon Newhall Preserve! Some minor cleanup was needed on the trails, but nothing like the damage done by Matthew. We are still looking for some folks to lead guided walks. Even if you could lead one or two walks in the fall it would be appreciated. Contact Rita Kernan at rakhhi@aol.com for more info or to volunteer.

A big thank you to Sheila Greenshields and family who donated a bench in memory of Jack. Visit the Preserve and sit a spell to enjoy the beauty of one of Jack's favorite places.



Josephine Conte, an active member of the Audubon Society of Hilton Head and particularly the Newhall Preserve when she lived on the island in the 1990s, passed away August 17, 2017. The HHIAS appreciates the donations made in her memory by Josephine's friends and family.

NOT GETTING YOUR AUDUBON MESSAGES? PLEASE CHECK YOUR JUNK MAIL BOX!

We have requested the members to take measures to allow emails from Hilton Head Audubon to reach you. We would like to ask you again to do so because we will be sending out, when available, the sign-up information on our monthly field trip about two weeks prior to the first Saturday of the month between September and April.

We have decided to announce the trip by email because Ecobon normally comes out by the end of the month, but it leaves only a few days or less depending on the date of the first Saturday. It will give you and the organizer more time to plan for the field trip. Thank you for your understanding.

Emails from HHI Audubon is sent from hhiAudubon@gmail.com. Please follow your service provider's instruction as how not to block emails from this account.

2017 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Susan Murphy, HHICBC@gmail.com

The 2017 Count is Friday, December 15, for the Hilton Head area. We spread out across Hilton Head and Daufuskie Islands, parts of Bluffton and our waterways to identify species and count each bird we see in our 15-mile diameter circle. If you are interested in being a part of this international effort, please e-mail me and

I will have an Area Captain contact you!

Our pre-count December Audubon meeting will be **Thursday, December 7**. We'll have a social at 7:00 pm and presentation at 7:30 pm. Once again it will be at First Presbyterian Church, 540 William Hilton Parkway. I am pleased to announce that our speaker will be Chapter President Robert Rommel.

Note for our **Sun City-Okatie** members: **The count for the Sun City-Okatie circle is Saturday, December 16**. If you are interested in participating there, please contact Jim Cubie, (843) 991-1059 or jimcubie@gmail.com.



Help needed!

In addition to the areas discussed by Robert, we also need some "short term" help!

- We have had a donation from long time member Miriam Waterhouse of bird figurines/statuses. One is a very expensive, beautifully carved and painted statue of two green herons that Miriam purchased for over \$2,000. We are looking for someone or a team of folks willing to take all the items and set up a sale at meetings, on Ebay, Craig's list, raffle the green heron piece, or whatever you think would bring us the most benefits. We have a flash drive with photos of each piece, but need someone with creative "salesmanship" to take charge of the project. Can you help? Contact Carol C. at cclemens318@gmail.com
- Looking for folks to do walks at Audubon Newhall during the fall. Interested in more info? Contact: Bob Clemens at rclemens318@roadrunner.com

Membership Report for October 2017

Hi fellow birders!

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



Carol & Steve Tunncliffe

We appreciate the support of our local members! We currently have roughly 200 local members. Remember, dues are paid yearly, based on the quarter in which you last paid. You will get an email reminder the quarter in which it is time for you to renew. Have a membership question? Has your email address changed? Please be sure to contact us with questions or updates.

Your membership team:

Carol Clemens: cclemens318@roadrunner.com
and Fran Baer: seatwo@roadrunner.com

Want to join? Need to renew? Please print this form and mail or bring to the next meeting with your dues. To contact us, email: hhiaudubon@gmail.com

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

For committee only: Renewal date _____ new _____ (revised 3/17)
National _____

"Little Cooper": A special Piping Plover

Submitted by Fran Baer

I'm back with another tale about a very special Piping Plover (but aren't they ALL)! Little Cooper is a resilient little bird. He is from the Great Lakes population, a group that particularly likes to either stopover or overwinters in our part of South Carolina. He was part of a clutch of four eggs that were laid at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. On June 19, 2012 – a very windy day – two plover monitors were checking on the nests and making sure that



all of the adults were accounted for. They turned around for a last look just as a particularly large wave washed out one of the nests. After hours of searching for the four missing eggs, they found all of the eggs – which was amazing considering how well camouflaged they are on the lakeshore. They transported the rescued eggs to Eastport, MI where zookeepers met them to take the eggs the rest of the way to the University of Michigan Biological Station. Once there, they were raised by the avian specialist zookeepers who volunteer there. It was discovered that one egg was cracked and didn't survive. Another chick died at hatching.

Two eggs hatched successfully, and the chicks were initially housed indoors in a large box with sand on the floor and a feather duster hung over it to simulate a brooding parent. Recordings of sounds of the shoreline were played to mask human noises and seem more like the beach. Once able to stay warm without assistance, they spent days outside in a flight cage along the shore of Douglas Lake where they learned to find food and to fly.

They then were taken back to Sleeping Bear Dunes where they were released along near wild-reared chicks of similar age. (These two birds were dubbed "Little Cooper" and "Little Papes" in honor of their rescuers. Little Papes did not survive, but Little Cooper showed up in Volusia County, FL. He has been returning each summer to breed in Canada at Wasaga Beach, Ontario and continues to spend winters in Volusia County. BUT...he was found foraging at Mitchelville Beach during an International Shorebird Survey on April 24, 2017 (a stopover on a return flight from FL?). He was "captured" in an image (or 50!) and was reported on the USGS Banded Birds website. Alice Van Zoeren, my contact at Great Lakes PIPL Band Reporting, told me his story and referred me to their fascinating website: www.greatlakespipingplover.org. I have spent hours looking at the various tabs and hope you will take some time to learn more about these little birds and the Great Lakes monitoring program!



Festival Centre at Indigo Park
45 Pembroke Dr., Suite 130
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
843-802-2010
HiltonHeadWBU@yahoo.com

- Bird Seed, Blends & Suet
- Bird Feeders & Houses
- Mounting Hardware
- Birdbaths & Accessories
- Binoculars & Field Guides
- Nature Books & Gifts

New Ownership / Same Location



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.

Audubon



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 ECOBON

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OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER 2017 Calendar

OCTOBER

- Thurs. Oct. 5 Board Meeting at CCHH.....10:00 am
- Sat. Oct.7 Field Trip7:30 am
Coastal Discovery Museum
- Thurs. Oct. 12 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm
- Sat. Oct. 21 Beach Sweep 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

NOVEMBER

- Thurs. Nov. 2 Board Meeting at CCHH.....10:00 am
- Thurs. Nov. 9 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm

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 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.