



MARCH 2018
No. 380

Ecobon

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

MARCH PROGRAM *by: Alan Biggs, Program Director*

Thursday, March 8, 2018 3:00 - 4:15 pm at Palmetto Electric Cooperative's Community Room on 111 Mathews Drive, Hilton Head Island, (Community Room entrance and parking is at the back of the building)

"A Quarter Century of Avian Conservation in the South Carolina Lowcountry" *by Daniel Prohaska*

What began in 1991 with a single injured osprey is now a distinguished facility that has treated over 8,000 birds, published groundbreaking research, and engaged hundreds of thousands of individuals who now recognize the status of wild birds as relevant to our lives. Learn about the past, present, and future work of the premier avian organization of its kind in the nation: The Avian Conservation Center, of the South Carolina Lowcountry. Together we will embrace the beauty, mystery, and wonder of wild birds and their vital relevance to our own sustainable future.

Daniel lives in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and works as the Development Officer at the Avian Conservation Center, the only organization of its kind in the nation that identifies and addresses vital environmental issues by combining science, education, research, medical care, captive breeding and oiled bird treatment. He grew up in Moncks Corner and is the oldest of two sons. He graduated from Erskine College in 2014 and went on to work in the Erskine Advancement Office where he helped raise a record \$1.7 million for Erskine's annual fund campaign. While at Erskine, Daniel also helped create and oversee a Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation program through a partnership with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation & Berry College. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Philanthropy and Development from LaGrange College and the designation "Certified Fund Raising Executive" from CFRE International.

Daniel is an active member of professional organizations including the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Together SC (formerly "The South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations"), the Raptor Research Foundation, the South Carolina Falconry Association, Lions Clubs International, and the National Association of Rocketry. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board for Lions Vision Services, the South Carolina charity established by Lions Clubs in 1969, is on the board of the Coastal Community Foundation's Bridge Philanthropists program, and is on the steering committee for the 2018 Palmetto Giving Day campaign facilitated by the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation in Pawleys Island. Daniel is also a member of Great Commission Baptist Church and enjoys flying high powered model rockets.

Non-Audubon members are welcome, but seating may be limited. Call 843-592-7968 or visit <http://hiltonheadaudubon.org/> for additional information.

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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.

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

May 10th - Annual Picnic at Waddell Mariculture Center

HHI Audubon

Board of Directors:

President

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Bill Nicol.....pennst63@aol.com

Treasurer

Pauline Jones.....paulinejoneshhi@gmail.com

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Standing Committee Chairpersons:

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Tom Hennesseytmhennessey@outlook.com

Rita Kernan

Matt Matoon

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Martha Worthymworthy2000@gmail.com

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To be appointed

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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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Robert Rommel*

The HHI Audubon Crisis

Hello members,

Hilton Head Island Audubon is in a crisis. We don't have enough officers to help out with routine operations in 2018-2019. Last year we unexpectedly lost our dear member Jack Greenshields who was going to be our 2017-2018 President. I remained in the position for a third year and Bill Nicol graciously stepped in to fill the Vice President position for a single year. I am not available to help as President again next year.

We are missing a President, Vice President, and a Conservation Chair. Our Conservation Chair position is perhaps the most important position in the organization and was vacant all of this year.

HHI Audubon may have looked like it ran smoothly this year, but that was only due to Herculean efforts from the officers who gave so much to you.

HHI Audubon is one of the largest chapters in the nation and yet we have problem filling a small set of board positions. The sad truth is that if no one steps forward to fill these positions, they will go vacant next year and your Audubon experience will suffer. If you're looking around and thinking that someone else can fill this position, you are wrong - no one has. If Audubon doesn't mean enough to you to step forward and take a role, then we are headed in the right direction. The National and South Carolina Audubon organizations are strong and will continue to do great things regardless of what happens here at HHI Audubon.

I'd much rather be writing about birds than making this plea. I also know I have asked for people to step forward for officer positions in the past, but not enough have. I don't know what else to do. I just have faith that some of you will recognize that HHI Audubon is important enough to give back some time. As always, feel free to contact me at any time (rommel@robertrommel.com / (734) 274-1796). If we don't get any responses, you'll likely read a similar message next month as well.



Thank you,
Robert

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Our area continues to have a very good Winter for bird sightings! Most of Winter duck species have been found and reported. We continue to find an unusual number of 'Out-Of-Season' species this Winter.

'Rare' species sighted were:

Black-chinned Hummingbird, migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, migrant Western Kingbird, LeConte's, Bachman's, Fox, White-crowned, Lincoln's and Clay-colored Sparrows, Virginia and King Rails, Roseate Spoonbill and Brown Creeper.

'Out-Of-Season' (OOS) species found: Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat (also 'rare'), Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Painted Bunting, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird and many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.



Black-chinned Hummingbird



Summer Tanager

'Uncommon' species reported included:

American Bittern, Baltimore Oriole, Dark-eyed Junco, Redhead (duck), Canvasback (duck), Mottled Duck, Pintail (duck), Ruddy Duck, American White Pelican, Brewer's and Rusty Blackbirds, Blue-headed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Plover, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, endangered Piping Plover, American Pipit, Glossy Ibis, Stilt Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared Dove, Winter and House Wrens, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Loggerhead Shrike, Nelson's, Saltmarsh and Seaside Sparrows, Great Black-backed Gull, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-throated Loon and Wild Turkey.

Notable 'Good Finds' included: Screech Owl, Black & White and Yellow-throated Warblers, American Robin, American Wigeon, Red-headed Woodpecker, Wilson's Snipe, American Goldfinch, Common Loon, Red Knot, Northern Gannet, many Bald Eagles and many other species.

Many thanks to all reporting their bird sightings: Jane/Abe Hester, Pauline Jones, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Alan Biggs, Roger/Shelia Johnson, Kathy/Grant Greider, Cindy/Ken Groff, Carol Tunncliffe, Gini Holihan, Annette Hausman, Susan Murphy, Aaron Palmieri, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Dorothy Mosier, Mary Alice Tartler, Dick Phillips, Bob Speare, Rita Kernan, Natalie Hefter, Paul Heitman, John Young, Marilyn Ohler, Karen Rush and many visitors.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Out-Of-Season (OOS), Uncommon, First-Of-The-Year (FOTY), First-Of-The-Season(FOTS) or a species that you consider to be a "Good Find" e-mail: BirdingFriends@yahoo.com or call 1-843-432-2661. 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'.

Our Spring migration has began and it's a great time to find our early arriving Summer birds as well as our departing Winter birds ... and to start looking for our transient migrants!



Yellow Breasted Chat

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Just a note ~ A birder from Skidaway Island sent us an email about his survey of wintering hummingbirds along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. The study has been underway since November but if you are interested to contribute, please write to Mr. Russ Wigh of The Landings, Skidaway Island Chatham County, Georgia at his email: russ.wigh@gmail.com . Please note this is not an Audubon activity.

March Field Trip by Bob Speare

Date: Saturday, March 3

Place: Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

Meeting Spot: SNWR Visitor Center

Time: 8:30 am Limit: 20

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



Thank you Miriam!

The Hilton Head Audubon Society wants to express its gratitude to long time member Miriam Waterhouse for her donation of nearly 50 bird figurines and statues. One beautiful wooden statue was purchased by the Baers and the remaining items were sold on Ebay by member Cynthia Wilson. We are pleased to say that because of Miriam's generous donation, we raised \$2068.53 to support the educational and environmental activities on Hilton Head and in Beaufort County. *Thank you Miriam!*

Christmas Bird Count Update

by Susan Murphy, CBC Coordinator

Our 2017 Christmas Bird Count report has been reviewed and accepted by the South Carolina Regional Editor and will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society CBC team.

There is only one change: The Black Swan seen flying over Palmetto Bluff cannot be included in our species count, since it is considered an exotic introduced species.

This changes our species total from 139 to 138 and our total number of birds remains 24,665. A revised 10-year History will be posted on the website.



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.



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

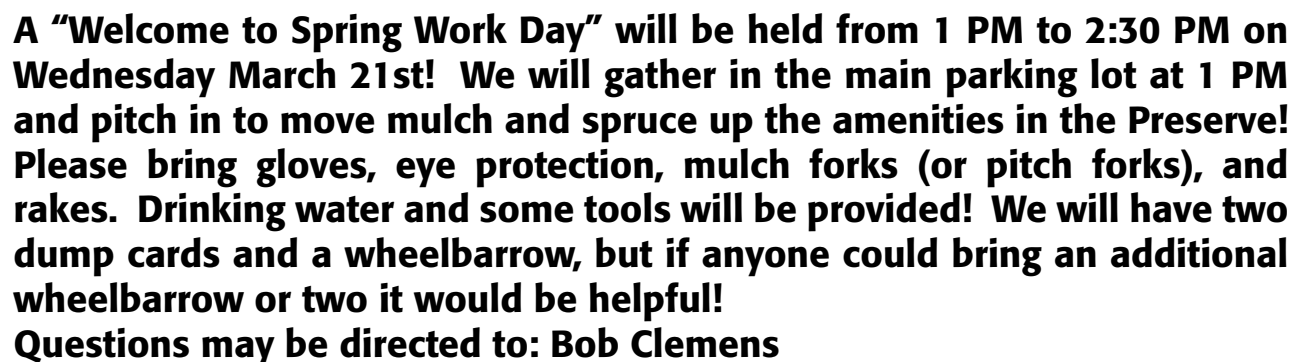
New Ownership / Same Location

Audubon Newhall Preserve by Bob Clemens

Audubon Newhall continues to draw both locals and visitors. From January through early February, those who signed the guest log represented 17 states and Canada, in addition to local residents. Vice-Chairs Rita Kernan and Matt Matoon, are working with the Rotary on what is essentially a “reforestation” project to restore native trees lost to the hurricanes.

We appreciate the help of the monthly trail monitors who check for safety hazards and clean off the decks. Those who have served since September are Kay Grinnell, Joanne McMenamain, Ken Adams, Sherm Barker and Bill Jordan! Anyone wishing to be added to the next schedule, should email the Preserve Chair, Bob Clemens at RClemens318@roaqdrunner.com.

Finally, we are still working on getting Sea Pines approval for the new gate project. Thanks to Tom Hennessy who is working with Sea Pines and the contractors to get everything approved and ready for installation in the near future.



A “Welcome to Spring Work Day” will be held from 1 PM to 2:30 PM on Wednesday March 21st! We will gather in the main parking lot at 1 PM and pitch in to move mulch and spruce up the amenities in the Preserve! Please bring gloves, eye protection, mulch forks (or pitch forks), and rakes. Drinking water and some tools will be provided! We will have two dump cards and a wheelbarrow, but if anyone could bring an additional wheelbarrow or two it would be helpful! Questions may be directed to: Bob Clemens

Please save this for future reference:

What To Do If You Find An Injured Bird (from the CBOP website)

Call the Center for Birds of Prey at 843.971.7474 and press option #1 for the Injured Bird Line. The line is answered from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every day of the week.

Carefully catch the bird. Wear gloves. Approach the bird slowly from the front and carefully pick it up, taking care to secure the legs and talons and to fold the wings against the body in their normal position. Alternately, you may approach from behind and cover the bird with a towel, blanket, or jacket and then pick it up as described.

If the bird is contained, do not offer food or water to the bird. The bird may not be strong enough to process solid food, even if it appears hungry; feeding could harm or even be fatal to the bird. Having food in its system may also preclude certain medical procedures that the bird may need.

Injured raptors require specialized treatment and care from a Federally-licensed, experienced practitioner. It is illegal to possess any migratory bird without state and federal permits. However, your temporary assistance is allowed in helping an injured bird reach proper care and doing so ensures its best chance for recovery and return to its natural environment.



Membership Report for March 2018

Hi fellow birders!

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

**Shirl Adams
Susan Amundsen**

**Lee Faber
Lori Kelly
Donald McGregor**

**Bonnie and Robert Sikes
Louise and Ron Zmuda**

We appreciate the support of our local members! We currently have over 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: cclemons318@roadrunner.com and Fran Baer: seatwo@roadrunner.com

Remember: You may receive emails from Audubon that come from either of the above addresses and the monthly Ecobon and Field Trip info from HYPERLINK "mailto:hhiadubon@gmail.com" hhiadubon@gmail.com Please be sure you are not blocking any of these three email addresses. Also, please check your junk/spam folders just in case! Thanks!

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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: hhiadubon@gmail.com
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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 _____

Fieldtrip Notes

Hi Everyone,

I hope you thawed out nicely after a cool but very productive day at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge's Laurel Hill Drive. Jane and I were so pleased that you all wanted to take the wagon, which improves group birding in a very big way! Thank you all for your great spirits and good spotting as we traversed the wildlife drive to locate 61 different species of birds, including some really terrific highlights:

- good looks at 7 different duck species
- over 270 ring-necked ducks (with zero neck rings seen!) :-)
- 2 black-crowned night-heron
- 5 different birds of prey species, plus plenty of turkey vultures soaring
- an unusually nice look at a clapper rail sitting out in the open!
- a very impressive “round” of robins at the cistern (although 20 is a very conservative number...)
- 4 - yes FOUR American Bittern!

But most importantly, it was an amazing time with a wonderful group. A huge thank-you to Jane for leading and to Joel for the use of the refuge wagon. Also a big thanks to Aaron and Lynn for keeping track of the list. I hope we see you all again on our next bird trip slated for March 3 - location TBD.

Please see the list below and attached, a photo of the group and a photo of the clapper rail.

February 3, 2018 Hilton Head Audubon trip to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

8 Blue-winged Teal	11 Great Blue Heron	2 Red-tailed Hawk	2 Blue Jay	8 Northern Mockingbird
26 Northern Shoveler	8 Great Egret	1 Clapper Rail	1 American Crow	1 Common Yellowthroat
4 Gadwall	18 Snowy Egret	“Many” Common Gallinule	149 Tree Swallow	7 Yellow-rumped Warbler
2 American Wigeon	11 Little Blue Heron	“Many” American Coot	3 Carolina Chickadee	8 White-throated Sparrow
6 Green-winged Teal	7 Tricolored Heron	2 Killdeer	1 Tufted Titmouse	2 Song Sparrow
273 Ring-necked Duck	2 Black-crowned Night-heron	6 Wilson's Snipe	1 House Wren	10 Swamp Sparrow
21 Ruddy Duck	31 White Ibis	1 Mourning Dove	1 Marsh Wren	1 Eastern Towhee
10 Pied-billed Grebe	5 Glossy Ibis	1 Belted Kingfisher	1 Carolina Wren	4 Northern Cardinal
1 Wood Stork	8 Turkey Vulture	4 Red-bellied Woodpecker	6 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6 Eastern Meadowlark
7 Double-crested Cormorant	4 Northern Harrier	1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 Hermit Thrush	12 Red-winged Blackbird
2 Anhinga	2 Cooper's Hawk	2 Northern Flicker	20 American Robin	2 Boat-tailed Grackle
4 American Bittern	1 Bald Eagle	5 American Kestrel	4 Gray Catbird	
		8 Eastern Phoebe	1 Brown Thrasher	



Clapper Rail



Audubon



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 P.O. Box 6185
 ECOBON

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MARCH ~ APRIL 2018 Calendar

MARCH

- Thurs. Mar. 1 Board Meeting10:00 am
- Sat.. Mar. 3 Field Trip8:00 am
- Thurs. Mar. 8 Monthly Meeting3:00 pm
at Palmetto Electric
- Weds. Mar. 21 Newhall Work Day 1:00 - 2:00 pm

MARCH

- Thurs. Apr. 5 Board Meeting10:00 am
- Thurs. Apr. 19 Monthly Meeting3:00 pm
at Honey Horn

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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.