



APRIL 2018
No. 381

Ecobon

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

APRIL PROGRAM by: *Alan Biggs, Program Director*

Thursday, April 19, 2018 3:00 - 4:15 pm at the Coastal Discovery Museum, Sea Island Room, 70 Honey Horn Drive, Hilton Head Island.

"Creatures of the Night"

by Nancy "Maudi" Owen



The program "Creatures of the Night" focuses on our Earth's vital need for biodiversity. We will address the physical adaptations of nocturnal owls, and bats. The bats, and some of the smaller owls are one of the Earth's answers to insecticides. We will discuss human impact on our environment and how that accounts for habitat loss and affects biodiversity. We present the importance of predators for maintaining the balance of nature. We hope to encourage our audiences to work together to conserve and preserve our wildlife, our Earth, and create a better future for all creatures. Having been a teacher for many years, Nancy is well versed in making programs fun as well as educational.

Creatures of the Night is a non-profit (501c3), educational program, devoted to creating appreciation in Humans for our Natural World. We are supported by Terry (Doc) Owen, DVM, Nancy (Maudi) Owen, Federally Licensed Wildlife Educator and those individuals, nature centers, schools, and businesses who donate time, money and needed materials. We would like to thank Alisha Sheaffer for her photo artistry, Hunting Island Nature Center, Budget Print of Beaufort, Coastal Discovery Museum, Port Royal Sound Foundation and all of those who support our efforts. Our memberships include Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitation Assoc. and National Wildlife Rehabilitation Assoc. Donations are appreciated and tax deductible.

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



Upcoming Audubon Programs: Our program team has scheduled some interesting programs covering a range of topics. Below is the remaining program schedule as it currently stands.

May 10th - Annual Picnic at Waddell Mariculture Center

HHI Audubon

Board of Directors:

President

Robert Rommelrommel@robertrommel.com

Vice President (Interim)

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

Treasurer

Pauline Jones paulinejoneshhi@gmail.com

Recording & Corresponding Secretary

Wendy Dickes wendydickes@gmail.com

Members-at-Large:

Christmas Bird Count Liason

Susan Murphy HHICBC@gmail.com

Ecobon Editor

Joan Wilson jobowill@hargray.com

Emeritus

Barry Lowes barlowe59@hotmail.com

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon Newhall Preserve

Bob Clemensrclemens318@roadrunner.com

Tom Hennesseytmhennessey@outlook.com

Rita Kernan

Matt Mattoon

Bird Walks/Field Trips

Bob Speare bobspeare@gmail.com

Martha Worthymworthy2000@gmail.com

Conservation

To be appointed

Education

Grant Greider greider38@gmail.com

Vicky McMillan ... Vicky.mcmillan@gmail.com

Membership

Carol Clemens..... cclemens318@gmail.com

Fran Baer..... seatwo@roadrunner.com

Programs

Kathy Greider..... greider38@gmail.com

Alan Biggs alan.biggs2@gmail.com

Communications/Historian/Web site

Miho Kinnas..... miho.kinnas@gmail.com

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Robert Rommel*

A Gigantic Thank You!

First of all let me thank everyone who responded to my desperate plea for help with our Hilton Head Audubon Chapter. The response was amazing and far beyond what I could have hoped for. We have a cohort of new people who stepped forward and the chapter looks forward to a bright future next year. For anyone who wishes to help out, there are many opportunities to do so and I encourage you to contact the committee chair that best reflects your interests.

When I became involved in the HHI Audubon board, a great number of people offered aid, wisdom, and advice that was invaluable over the last three years. Barry Lowes, Bill Nicol, Natalie Hefter, and Rick Riebesell all offered the advice and guidance of former Presidents and were there anytime I had any questions. Jack Greenshields was everywhere I turned offering his help with the Audubon Newhall Preserve, conservation, and general administration of the chapter. A day does not go by when our chapter does not miss Jack's joyful presence.

The board of directors and committee chairs provide the glue that keeps HHI Audubon running and shining as a beacon for the local community. Bill Nicol graciously stepped in to fill the void in the Vice Presidency and has helped run many of our board meetings and keep the general meetings on track. Pauline Jones has handled the finances of our chapter for several years now, keeping on top of the myriad of expenditures required to run our chapter. Marianne Currie has meticulously recorded the minutes for countless board meetings and we are happy that Wendy Dickes has begun helping out in this role. Joan Wilson has been delivering the beautiful Ecobons every month even with a president who's repetitively tardy with submissions. While our Christmas Bird Count may rank only in the top 10 in size, it surely is most organized and well-run thanks to the tireless work of Susan Murphy.

Hilton Head has its own Audubon preserve, the Audubon Newhall Preserve which both requires an incredible amount of maintenance and keeps a full schedule of guided walks. Newhall efforts have been led by Bob Clemens, Tom Hennessey, Matt Mattoon, and Rita Kernan. We have a large number of members who each year must renew their membership and our roster is routinely tabulated by Carol Clemens and Fran Baer who greet both members and visitors alike with a smile each meeting. Our field trip schedule is ever-expanding and reaching new locations thanks to the diligent efforts of Bob Speare and Martha Worthy. Our regular Birding 101 class has become a regular fixture thanks to Grant Greider and Vicky McMillan. Our monthly meetings have had some of the most interesting and diverse speakers due to the exceptional program scheduling of Kathy Greider and Alan Biggs. Miho Kinnas has handled much of our communications and put together a completely revamped website for our chapter.

In addition to the board officers, many of our members have helped out with bird surveys, CBC organization, shorebird monitoring and stewardship, and education and outreach initiatives. Take a moment to thank your board members and the others who helped to put together the Audubon programs, newsletter, events, and conservation initiatives that we all appreciate. We all have been extremely fortunate to have these people in our chapter.

I look forward to next year and how our chapter will grow!

Thank you all, Robert

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Spring is here and with it comes great birding! Our Summer species are starting to arrive and many of our Winter species are still here but will be leaving soon ... and start looking for those transient Spring migrants like warblers and others that are just passing through our area.

Accidental species reported during the last month: Limpkin (nomally a Florida bird only) at Savannah NWR and Ruff (shorebird) at the Savannah Spoils Site

Rare species found were: Snowy Owl in Bluffton, Virginia Rail on Pinckney Island, Bachman's Sparrow at Webb WMA, Black-chinned Hummingbird at Skidaway Island, Black-legged Kittiwake in Savannah, King Rail at Onslow Island and Purple Sandpiper at Tybee Island.

Out -Of-Season species: Northern Waterthrush, Painted Bunting and many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds



Ruff



Snowy Owl

Uncommon species were may and include: Hairy and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, American Woodcock, Peregrine Falcon, endangered Piping Plover, American Bittern, Caspian Tern, Whimbrel, Red-throated Loon, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wilson's Plover, Pine Siskin, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, American Kestrel, Baltimore Oriole, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers, American Avocet, Ruddy Duck, Northern Pintail (duck), Black-bellied Whistling Duck, American Black Duck, Redhead (duck), Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eurasian Collared and Common Ground Doves, Sedge and House Wrens, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, American Pipit, Vesper Sparrow, Wild Turkey and Rusty Blackbird

Other recent 'First-Of-The-Season' birds and 'Good Finds' reported include: Northern Parula, Chuck-wills-widow, Purple Martin, Sandwich Tern, American Goldfinch, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Red Knot, Spotted Sandpiper, Sora, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and nesting Bald Eagles and Ospreys

Many thanks to all reporting your bird sightings: Jane/Abe Hester, Pauline Jones, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Alan Biggs, Roger/ Shelia Johnson, Dottie Bass, Kathy/Grant Greider, Cindy/Ken Groff, Julia/Sean Dennis, Carol Tunnicliffe, Susan Murphy, Lee Polhill, John Crawford, Annette Hausman, Peter Cram, Gini Holihan, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Dorothy Mosier, Mary Alice Tartler, Dick Phillips, Bob Speare, Lynn Hodson, Rita Kernan, Tina Rosen, 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: BirdingFinds@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.

Spring is a great time of year to go into the 'great outdoors' in our mild weather and bird!



Cape May Warbler

.....
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.



Membership Report for April 2018

Hi fellow birders!

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

Sharon Hvizdak Patricia Kappmeyer

We appreciate the support of our local members! We currently have roughly 220 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 &
Fran Baer: seatwo@roadrunner.com

Garbage Dumps: A New Ecosystem?

When we study ecosystems for birds and other wildlife, we usually start by discussing the plants and animals in the context of a geographic backdrop. We don't think of piles of trash. Should we?

A couple of biologists recently argued that garbage dumps deserve closer attention. Pablo Plaza and Sergio Lambertucci of Argentina's National University of Comahue maintain that garbage dumps, found just about wherever humans exist, are a significant landscape-scale feature. Such an "ecosystem" features an imaginative combination and abundance of species, with steady, year-round, reliable provisioning in landscapes where resources otherwise fluctuate with the seasons.

Plaza and Lambertucci made clear that food availability from these dumps enhances population abundance, "especially in birds but also in mammals and reptiles." But the garbage dumps can also be sources of toxins, too, turning into "ecological traps" that attract individual animals but cause long-term harm to populations. This could spread disease and invasive species. The larger effects of garbage dumps on predator-prey relationships, migration patterns, and regional ecological dynamics are largely unknown.

(From Bird Watcher's Digest, by Paul J. Baicich)

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 _____

Audubon Newhall Preserve by Bob Clemens

On Saturday March 3rd, some 15 Members of the local Rotary and half a dozen Audubon members planted approximately 100 native trees in the Audubon Newhall Preserve to replace trees lost after Hurricane Matthew. Rotary donated several yards of topsoil, mulch, 150 trees, and lots of elbow grease to complete the reforestation project. Preserve Vice Chair Rita Kernan spear-headed the effort, consulting with local arborists and charting the placement of the trees. Rita, her husband Joe, Vice Chair Matt Matoon, and Mike Jukofsky of MAJ Enterprises also invested hours of preparation leading up to the planting day. Fifty more trees will be planted in waiting holes by the time you read this, and the Preserve is incredibly grateful to the Rotary for its generosity.






March Fieldtrip



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

Fieldtrip Notes

Hi Everyone,

Great trip to Bear Island and Donnelley today, even though it was very cold and windy.

A great big thank you to Buddy Campbell for leading a wonderful birding trip to Bear Island and Donnelly Wildlife Management Areas! We had a bright but breezy day, with very good numbers of birds in most of the impoundments at Bear Island. There were plenty of good looks at gadwall, northern shoveler, blue-winged teal and American wigeon among the waterfowl in Mary's House Pond. We also saw six species of waders, including 35 black-crowned night-heron seen at Donnelly! And we estimated 250 American avocets too! All in all it was a terrific morning with 61 species seen! One other interesting sighting - some of us started the day with an American Beaver spotted along the road down to Bear Island - not a common sight here in the Lowcountry!

Bird List for Hilton Head Audubon
Field Trip to Bear Island and Donnelly WMA
March 3, 2018

Species	Bear Island WMA	Donnelly WMA
Blue-winged Teal	10	20
Northern Shoveler	30	25
Gadwall	100	25
American Wigeon	12	
Mallard	1	
Mottled Duck	4	2
Green-winged Teal	5	9
Ring-necked Duck *		1
Double-crested Cormorant	3	2
Anhinga		2
American White Pelican		8
Great Blue Heron	1	2
Great Egret	4	3
Snowy Egret	4	
Little Blue Heron	6	
Tri-colored Heron		
Black-crowned Night-Heron		35
White Ibis	1	
Glossy Ibis	6	
Black Vulture	2	
Turkey Vulture		9
Osprey	1	
Northern Harrier	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk *	1	
Cooper's Hawk		1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	
Bald Eagle	4	
Common Gallinule	2	2

Species	Bear Island WMA	Donnelly WMA
American Coot		2
American Avocet	250	
Least Sandpiper	18	
Dowitcher spp.	10	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	17	
Greater Yellowlegs	5	
Wilson's Snipe	2	
Laughing Gull	1	
Caspian Tern	2	
Forster's Tern	13	
Wood Stork *		6
Wild Turkey *		1
Mourning Dove	4	
Belted Kingfisher	5	3
American Kestrel		1
Blue Jay	1	
American Crow	4	
Tree Swallow	100	100
Carolina Chickadee		1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		2
Eastern Bluebird	6	6
Northern Mockingbird	1	
Pine Warbler	2	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15	
Yellow-throated Warbler		1
Chipping Sparrow		25
Savannah Sparrow *	1	
Swamp Sparrow		1
Northern Cardinal		1
Eastern Meadowlark		35
Red-winged Blackbird	100	
Common Grackle	15	
Boat-tailed Grackle	15	

Audubon



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P.O. Box 6185

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APRIL ~ MAY 2018 Calendar

APRIL

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

MAY

- Thurs. May 3 Board Meeting10:00 am
- Thurs. May 10 Annual Picnic5:00 pm
at Waddell Mariculture Center



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.