

January 2010
No. 306

ECOBON



Newsletter of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society
Audubon Refuge Keepers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Nicol

January kicks off our Annual Bird Seed Sale under the direction of Ed Nash. As Ed points out, the proceeds from this sale support the purchase of Audubon Adventures which are used by our local schools as part of their environmental education program. The Audubon Adventures Program shows how the birds fit in the environment and how our conduct can impact their survival. We are all aware of the various attacks on the environment through out the country and the world. Educating our children on the importance of the environment and the impact of the most dangerous animal, man, can have on either harming or protecting it is very important. The more resources we have, the more students we can reach and the better educated they will be. Please do what you can.

The Town of Hilton Head Island has established a Task Force to suggest a direction for the Island's future. The charge of the Task Force is four-fold: Review, refine, and recommend a set of core values intended to guide both commerce and Town government, develop a succinct Mission Statement of who we are as a Town and how we should position ourselves in the marketplace, identify no more than five (5) key areas of focus for the Town based on our core values and mission statement, and recommend strategies to implement these key focus areas. I would strongly encourage all residents to provide their views to this Task force.

Joan and I wish you and yours a healthy and prosperous New Year. See you at the meeting and bring a friend.

JANUARY PROGRAM *by Charlotte White*
Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 7:30 p.m. at the Seabrook

Army Wildlife Biologist Speaks on Fort Stewart's Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Other Species

For our first program of the New Year, we will hear Larry Carlile, a wildlife biologist who is employed by the Army at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Larry is Chief of the Planning and Monitoring Section of the Fish and Wildlife Branch at Fort Stewart, and supervises 9 wildlife biologists who manage the installation's game, non-game, fish, and threatened and endangered species. Fort Stewart has a large and popular hunting program that includes 18 recreational fishing ponds and 200 - 300 acres of wildlife food plots for deer and game birds. Fort Stewart also harbors 5 species that enjoy protection under the Endangered Species Act: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Wood Stork, Frosted Flatwoods Salamander, Eastern Indigo Snake, and Shortnose Sturgeon. Fort Stewart is also home to many state listed species, for which Larry and his staff carry out monitoring and conservation programs.

Larry received a BS in Zoology and an MS in Forest Resources and Wildlife Management from the University of Georgia. His Master's research examined habitat characteristics that influence breeding bird populations in the Nantahala Mountains. Early in his career, while working in northern Florida, he became interested in prescribed fire and its role in the conservation and management of longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystems for game, non-game, and endangered species. Working for the Army at Fort Stewart since 1994, Larry coordinates closely with Georgia DNR and USFWS on military projects that may impact wildlife.

Fort Stewart is a 279,000-acre installation with diverse habitats and over 330 active Red-cockaded Woodpecker clusters. To learn more about rich Fort Stewart ecosystems from a skilled wildlife manager, come to this meeting on Tuesday, January 12, WITH A FRIEND, at 7:30 p.m. at the Seabrook, 300 Woodhaven Drive, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

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FIELD TRIPS *by Kay Hodnett*

TRIP TO SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

On Tuesday, January 26, we will visit the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge to see all manner of wintering ducks there. Jack Colcolough will be our guide. We will meet at Moss Creek Village for carpooling at 8 AM. Take some snacks, binoculars, and wear layers of warm clothing. This trip will involve minimal walking, as we will drive through the refuge, pulling over at good viewing places. We should be back at Moss Creek by 2 PM. To sign up call Kay Hodnett at 342-7485 or email sallyportk@gmail.com.

HHI Audubon

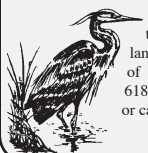
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<i>Audubon Newhall Preserve</i>	
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Kay Hodnett	342-7485
<i>Bird House Construction</i>	
Jim Currie	681-8525
<i>Bird Seed Sale</i>	
Ed Nash	681-5725
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	
Barry Lowes	671-3537
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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.

BARRY LOWES TO SPEAK AT LIBRARY

On Wednesday, January 27, from noon until 1 PM in the Community Room of the Hilton Head Library, premier birder Barry Lowes will review "Songbird Journeys: Four Seasons in the Lives of Migratory Birds" by Miyoku Chu, a Cornell University ornithologist. The presentation promises to make us more aware of the hazards birds face on their long journeys and how we can help them on their way. Barry's talk is part of a series of book reviews sponsored by Friends of the Hilton Head Library. These talks are free and open to the public. Don't miss Barry's talk!

DESPERATELY NEEDED

Our Treasurer Fran Baer is stepping down from the post after this season. This is a vital but not hard job. If you can balance your check book and keep a record of your expenses and income you can do it for Audubon as a board member. Fran will fully train between now and the end of our current year in May.

We also need a candidate to fill Charlotte White's position on the board as Program Chair. We know there are those of you with great ideas to enhance our monthly programs.

Lately the same faces show up on the board every year. WE NEED FRESH BLOOD to invigorate our organization. Instead of just enjoying what has been offered please step up to the plate and volunteer to be a candidate. No position needs to be done by just one person doing all the work. We can have dual members filling the posts.

Please do more for your Society than be a passive participant. Contact Clem Dietze Chair Nominating Committee for 2010 – 2011 Board members and officers. Call Clem at 843-837-2612 weekends or late afternoon/early evenings or daytime weekdays 9AM to 3:30PM at Island Travel 681-3033. You can also email with contact details clemd@hargray.com.

This time it is not Uncle Sam who needs you but Hilton Head Audubon. I look forward to hearing from YOU and thank you in advance for your commitment.

Clem Dietze

SAVE THE DATES: GBBC IS COMING!

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15, 2010. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!".

During last year's count, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. We hope you'll join us again and help spread the word, since the success of the count depends on people tallying birds from as many locations as possible across the continent.

NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

by Joan Shulman

Thanks to Trail Monitors Fran and Denny Baer in November and Joan and Bill Nicol in December.

The Preserve recently received a sizable donation from a visitor. We are always grateful to those who show their appreciation for the Preserve through monetary gifts.

I was away for most of November. When I visited the Preserve after Thanksgiving, I was amazed to see dozens of blooming plants at the edge of the parking lot. The mauve-colored flowers were on Obedient Plants, also known as False Dragon-head. An unexpected bright spot on a dreary day.

This time of year, I like to pay special attention to the magnificent specimens of holly trees (*Ilex* genus) in the Preserve along the pond trail. The sight of the bright red berries nestled among the glossy dark green leaves epitomizes the holiday season for me. Next to the Pocosin is the Yaupon holly, a shrub or small tree with drooping branches. Farther along, near the Magnolia, are two very tall hollies: the American and the Savannah. The latter is a mix of the American and Dahoon types. The Dahoon, a medium-sized tree, is located near the Bald Cypress at the far end of the pond. The holly berries provide food for a variety of birds, particularly in the winter. The wood of the hollies is ivory white and is used for special products such as piano keys, ship models, and inlays.

The Audubon Newhall Preserve Committee wishes everyone a wonderful new year, with lots of new nature-related experiences, especially on walks in the Newhall Preserve.

NEW BIRD SEED SALE STARTS JANUARY 2nd

We are pleased to announce the "PLAN A" annual bird seed sale fund-raiser will start the day after New Years and run to March 15, 2010. This effort has been a main-stay of our chapter funding over many years and has been nearly sufficient to cover the cost of our Audubon Adventures educational materials for the local middle school programs. With the fine co-operation of Virginia at Wild Birds Unlimited we offer lower prices with the same opportunity to buy your seasons supply of seed and free storage of that seed until you need it. You will always pick up fresh seeds.

We have noticed that about 60 members of our approximate 400 memberships participate with seed purchases, so last year we introduced "PLAN B" for those folks who may not feed the birds. This plan gave good results and so is continued this year. This option gives each Audubon member the opportunity to make a modest donation directly to the Chapter to support the educational programs. Hopefully, if every membership contributes one way or the other, the combined results will meet these expenses.

Please use the form included in the ECOBON to make your selection, if you have a computer & printer. We will also have copies on hand at the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Indigo Park and at the monthly meetings for your convenience. ~ Ed Nash

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Birding has slowed a little after our very successful fall migration but our winter songbirds, shorebirds and ducks continue to arrive.

A rare and very late migrating Kentucky Warbler showed up at Moss Creek. A rare FOTS Snow Goose was sighted at Savannah NWR along with a late Purple Gallinule. An uncommon Common Goldeneye in breeding plumage was found in Indigo Run. Several additional reports of the rare Purple Sandpiper (14) and the rare Lesser Black-backed Gull came from Tybee Island.

Shorebird sightings at Fish Haul Creek have been plentiful with as many as 1500-3000 birds there at one time reported with most of our winter shorebirds with up to 500 - 700 Black Skimmers. Please send along a e-mail to Birding Friends any time you sight > 1000 birds there with your estimates of each species. We are collecting data in an attempt to make this area an Important Bird Area (IBA).

First-of-the-season birds reported included: Dark-eyed Junco, Song and Swamp Sparrows, American Robin, American Goldfinch, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hooded Mergansers (40), Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Other good finds were: American Kestrel, Red-headed Woodpecker and late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Thanks to all reporting their sightings: Doris Stoner, Dottie Bass, Fran/Denny Baer, Miriam Waterhouse, Diana Churchill, Karen McGinty, Wendy Hansen, Peter Zachmann and several visitors.

To report a rare, uncommon, first-of-the-year or season or out-of-season bird sighting, please e-mail: Birding-Friends@yahoo.com or call 290-1508. Please state your name, date and location of your sighting and any appropriate comments.



E-MAIL Reminder

Have you sent your
E-mail address in to Nan?

If not, please send it to Nan
at nan@nanhiltonhead.com.

The Carolina Herp Atlas: A Citizen-Science Project For Reptile and Amphibian Enthusiasts

Have you ever seen an eastern kingsnake in your backyard or found a Fowler's toad on your porch and wondered if wildlife biologists needed to know about it? These observations are important and now there is a place to submit your observations that can help with the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in the Carolinas: The Carolina Herp Atlas (CHA). The CHA, developed by the Davidson College Herpetology Laboratory and Davidson College Information Technology Services, is an online database that uses observations by citizen scientists to track reptile and amphibian distributions in North and South Carolina. Funded by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the CHA also allows users a simple way to maintain a personal database of the reptiles and amphibians they observe. County-level distribution maps can be viewed by anyone who visits the website. Wildlife biologists and herpetologists can use these data to understand activity periods, habitat relationships, distribution, conservation status and other facets of amphibian and reptile ecology in North Carolina.

How does the CHA work? Before you can submit records, you must first register and set-up a "My Herps" account. Once you register, you are able to add records and keep track of your observations. Each observation should include: 1) state and county, 2) genus and species, 3) date, 4) location, 5) geographic coordinates (using our GeoLocator) 6) remarks, 7) and a digital photo for verification of the species identification. The GeoLocator allows the user to pinpoint the exact location of their herp observation.

Since March 2007, the CHA has collected over 15,000 reptile and amphibian observations in the Carolinas. Please submit your reptile and amphibian observations to the Carolina Herp Atlas at www.carolinaherpAtlas.org. Contact Steven Price at sjprice@dauidson.edu with any questions you might have.

Sandhill Crane Migration Focus of 40th Annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration

by Kevin Poague, Audubon Nebraska

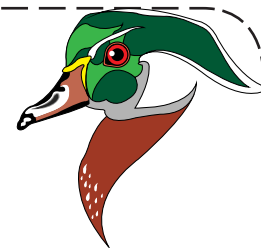
The 40th annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration will be held March 18-21, 2010, in Kearney, Nebraska. Organized by Audubon Nebraska and the Nebraska Bird Partnership, the conference gathers together nature enthusiasts from across the county to witness the migration of over half a million sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl and other birds through central Nebraska. Events include guided field trips, workshops, a family fun room, and daily visits to river blinds operated by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary for up-close views of cranes roosting on the Platte River.

Local and national speakers will present information on a variety of wildlife and conservation topics. Main speakers are Scott Weidensaul, author of more than two dozen natural history books, including "Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds", a Pulitzer Prize finalist; Mike Forsberg, nature photographer and author of "Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild"; Ron Klatske, executive director of Audubon of Kansas; and Chris Wood, eBird Project Leader, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. More than twenty local environmental organizations will have information booths and hands-on activities on Saturday.

The celebration is open to the general public. Registration materials can be found beginning in mid-December at www.nebraska.audubon.org. Or contact Audubon Nebraska to be put on the mailing list: Nebraska@audubon.org; 402/797-2301. Rowe Sanctuary has information about viewing the sandhill crane migration, 308/468-5282; www.rowsanctuary.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Current members are encouraged to use this membership form to sign up friends, relatives, and neighbors as new members. Our Chapter benefits significantly from a "return of dues" from National if our local form is used for new memberships

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER



- | | | | |
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| MEMBERSHIP FORM | <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 YR. - \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 YRS. - \$30 |
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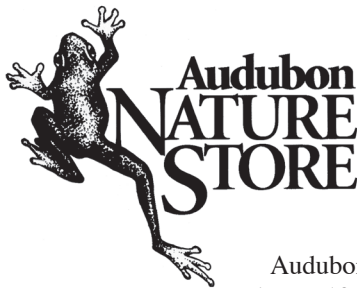
**Endangered Species Act Gets
Back on Strong Footing**

The Endangered Species Act has rescued the Kirtland's Warbler and many other species from the brink of extinction.



Responding to urging from thousands of Audubon activists, the Obama administration revoked a controversial last-minute rule change imposed by the Bush administration, which effectively gutted critical protections offered by the Endangered Species Act for threatened and endangered wildlife on the brink of extinction. Score one for the good guys and for species survival.

Another example of how the Endangered Species Act works to protect flagging species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service announced last month that Brown Pelicans had sufficiently recovered from the impact of DDT contamination compounded by continuing habitat loss to be taken off the list in areas where it is not already delisted. *Photo by Ron Austing, www.fs.fed.us.*



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Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Gets Respect!

Cerulean Warbler



This little bill packs a big wallop for migratory songbird conservation by tripling funding for projects in South

America, the Caribbean, and Canada. Responding to the call of thousands of Audubon activists, the Senate has acted on this \$20 million package for bird conservation and the House Natural Resources Committee passed a similar bill with a \$15 million funding level. We expect to get it to the President's desk in the next session of Congress. Final passage will be good news for the more than 125 neotropical species in decline from habitat loss and other threats.

Photo credit: MDF/Wikimedia Commons



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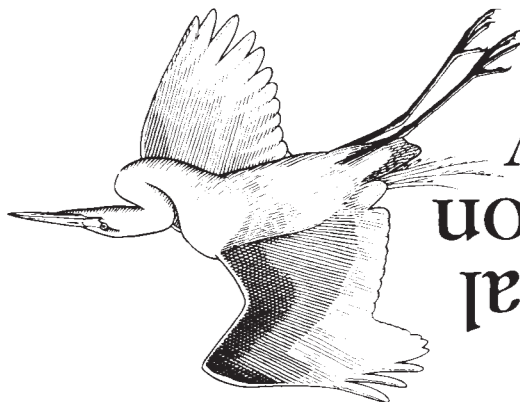
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JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY 2010 Calendar

JANUARY

- Thurs. Jan. 7 **Board Meeting** 1:00 pm
at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum
- Tues. Jan. 12 **Monthly Meeting** at the Seabrook 7:30 pm
- Tues. Jan. 26 **Field Trip** to the Savannah Wildlife Refuge..... 8:00 am
- Weds. Jan. 27 **Talk by Barry Lowes** at the HH Library 12:00 noon
Book Review

FEBRUARY

- Thurs. Feb. 4 **Board Meeting** 1:00 pm
at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum
- Tues. Feb. 9 **Monthly Meeting** at the Seabrook 7:30 pm

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Monthly meetings of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society are regularly scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, in the Auditorium at the Seabrook, 300 Woodhaven Drive. Members and guests welcome!



BEQUESTS

If you wish to honor a family member or friend with a memorial gift, or remember the Audubon Ne-whall 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.

2010 HILTON HEAD AUDUBON BIRD FOOD SALE & EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORT

***** FROM SATURDAY JANUARY 2 THRU SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2010 *****

Net Sale Proceeds Will Assist Local Audubon Chapter BIRD & NATURE Education Programs

The Hilton Head Audubon Society sponsors this annual Bird Food Sale to raise money to help support the Boys & Girls Club, give Audubon Adventure nature programs to the middle schools, and to help the Pinckney Nature Preserve. These and similar projects are indeed the mission and objectives of this totally non-profit organization. You may buy cheaper bird food, but you cannot buy any better, cleaner or more conveniently. Thanks to the Hilton Head Wild Birds Unlimited store in Indigo Park, a substantial portion of your purchase price helps support our programs.

PREMIUM OIL SUNFLOWER--This is 100 % black sunflower seed. Favorite of cardinals, goldfinch, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, mourning doves, and many others. Nearly an all-purpose food! (Needs protection from squirrels)

SUNFLOWER CHIPS--No hulls! This is a cleaner feeding option for the above birds. Good for decks & walkways.

SUPREME BLEND--Contains 75 % sunflower seed, 15 % safflower seed and 10 % sunflower chips.

DELUXE BLEND--Contains 50 % sunflower seed, 35 % millet, and 15 % safflower seed. Great feeder mix.

SAFFLOWER SEED--Liked by cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, towhees, but NOT liked by squirrels and black birds.

THISTLE (NIGER)--Preferred by many goldfinches and sparrows.

NEW FINCH MIX - Contains niger plus sunflower chips.

NO-MESS S.O. EAST MIX--Contains sunflower chips & shelled peanuts (NO millet). Ideal to use near steps & walks.

CRACKED CORN--Liked by many birds, nearly same as sunflower. (Needs protection from squirrels.)

SHELLED PEANUT HEARTS--Liked by finches, juncos, sparrows, titmice and starlings. (Also squirrels).

=====

*****NOTE THE LOWER PRICES!*****

Name: _____ Phone No. _____ Date _____

Address _____ eMail Address _____

<u>MIXTURE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
PREMIUM OIL SUNFLOWER	20 lbs.	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
.....	5 lbs.....	5.50	_____	_____
SUNFLOWER CHIPS (NO Hulls)	20 lbs	45.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	11.50	_____	_____
SUPREME BLEND	20 lbs.	24.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	6.00	_____	_____
DELUXE BLEND	20 lbs.	22.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	5.50	_____	_____
SAFFLOWER SEED	20 lbs.	28.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	7.00	_____	_____
THISTLE SEED (Niger)	20 lbs	41.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	10.00	_____	_____
NEW FINCH MIX (No Hulls)	20 lbs.	35.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	9.00	_____	_____
NO-MESS S.E. MIX (No Hulls)	20 lbs.	40.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	10.00	_____	_____
CRACKED CORN	20 lbs	12.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	3.00	_____	_____
SHELLED PEANUTS	20 lbs	31.00	_____	_____
.....	5 lbs.....	8.00	_____	_____

PLAN A: (NOTE: NO SALES TAX ON AUDUBON PURCHASES) SUB-TOTAL \$ _____

PLAN B: NO BIRD SEED, BUT I WISH TO DONATE TO THE EDUCATION FUND: \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make check out to: HHI Audubon Society and mail with this form to: Ed Nash, 27 Scarborough Hd, HHI, SC 29928,
- OR- Take this form & check to Wild Birds Unlimited in Indigo Park and place your Audubon order with them.

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