

September 2010  
No. 311

# ECOBON



Newsletter of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society  
Audubon Refuge Keepers

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Nicol

I reluctantly enter my third year as president of the local Audubon Society Chapter. I am serving a third year because the Nominating Committee was unable to find anyone willing to serve. We also were unable to recruit a Program Chair so the Board will have to function as that committee until someone steps forward to help.

This year we will initiate some significant changes in our program schedule. We will no longer meet at the Seabrook at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Instead we will meet on the **second Thursday at 3 pm at Honey Horn in the Sea Island Room**. The Board decided that an evening meeting at the south end of the island did not properly support the needs of our membership and that we needed to meet during the day at a more central location. Honey Horn is an excellent venue and meeting during the day gives us more flexibility in the kinds of program we can offer.

Besides the **Program Committee Chair**, we still need people to chair the **Publicity and Public Relations**, and **Sales Table Committees**. We are also looking for a skilled person to manage our web site. If you can help with any of these functions or have any questions about what is involved please contact me or one of the Board Members listed on page two of this newsletter.

Finally, in order to cut costs, we are completing the transition of the newsletter to the internet. This is the last issue that will be mailed to those people who have not provided an e-mail address and have not told us they can not use e-mail. Our newsletter will be posted on our website: [www.hiltonheadaudubon.org](http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org).

See you at the meetings and please bring a friend.

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM *by Bill Nicol*

Thursday, September 9, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Sea Island Room at Honey Horn

After many years of meeting at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday after the first Thursday at Seabrook, we have changed our meeting place and time. Starting with the September 2010 meeting, we will meet at Honey Horn in the Sea Island room on the second Thursday, September thru May at 3 pm. **This months meeting will be on September 9.**

We will also have a program that we have not had in many years—a General Membership Meeting. Your Board of Directors/Committee Chairs will review the status of our HHI Audubon Society. We will update you on our financial status, briefly review the projects we pursue each year, provide updates on the two major town programs (Port Royal Renourishment and Mitchellville Park changes), get some feedback from you on the kinds of program and field trips they would like to have, and discuss a couple of issues that will significantly impact our chapter.

*Please join us and help us build a better chapter!*

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## LAST PRINT MAILING

As of this month, the HHIAS board will discontinue costly mailings of the *Ecobon*. It is available on our website at [hiltonheadaudubon.org](http://hiltonheadaudubon.org). Members who have provided their email address will be notified when it is posted, and sent other important updates as necessary. If we do not have your email address, please send it to Thea Luba at [thealuba@roadrunner.com](mailto:thealuba@roadrunner.com). If you do not have access to email, please notify Marianne Currie at 681-8525 and we will make other arrangements. Thank you.



# HHI Audubon

## Board of Directors:

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Bill Nicol	671-4721
<i>Vice President</i>	
Clem Dietze	837-2612
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Fran Baer	686-6348
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	
Marianne Currie	681-8525
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	
Sherman Barker	342-6596
<i>Members-at-Large</i>	
Howard Costa	842-9447
Jim Currie	681-8525
Barry Lowes	671-3537
Nan Lloyd	363-2092
Joan Wilson	837-2874

## Committee Chairpersons:

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Clem Dietze	837-2612
<i>Audubon Newhall Preserve</i>	
Joan Shulman	842-9246
<i>Bird Walks/Field Trips</i>	
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>	
Charlotte White	837-4579
<i>Education</i>	
Mary Jane Major	342-5804
<i>Historian</i>	
Betsy Pehrson	689-2243
<i>Hospitality</i>	
Thea Luba	785-3214
<i>Legislation</i>	
Sherman Barker	342-6596
<i>Membership</i>	
Thea Luba	785-3214
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Marianne Currie	681-8525
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Sally Krebs H: 757-2973 O: 341-4690	

Website: [www.hiltonheadaudubon.org](http://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.



## FIELD TRIPS *by Kay Hodnett*

On Wednesday, September 22, we will take a trip to the Great Swamp Sanctuary in Walterboro, SC. The Sanctuary, which opened four years ago, encompasses hundreds of acres of hardwood flats, a series of streams braiding their way through the area, and a network of boardwalks crisscrossing the streams. Since the swamp contains the headwaters of the Ashepoo River (which combines with the Edisto and Combahee Rivers to form the ACE Basin), creating the sanctuary helps to protect one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the Atlantic Coast. We should see wading birds, raptors, songbirds, and other wildlife.

Walterboro is right off Interstate 95, about 70 miles from Hilton Head. The drive should take about an hour and fifteen minutes. We will meet at Moss Creek Village for carpooling, leave there at 8 AM and meet again at the Walterboro Welcome Center, where we can use restrooms (there are none in the Sanctuary) and meet Donna Laird (director of tourism and visits for Walterboro). At 9:30 sharp Donna will lead us to the Sanctuary. (There is more than one place to enter the swamp and we will not be using the main entrance, so everyone needs to rendezvous at the Welcome Center to make sure we stay together.) City Manager Jeff Lord will meet us at the swamp and give us a quick overview. Donna will lead us through the swamp, and Howard Costa will be on hand to help with bird identification.

Following our visit to the Sanctuary we will have lunch at Carmine's Trattoria, just a few blocks away, after which many of us will probably want to visit the nearby South Carolina Artisans Center, located at 318 Wichman St. This is the officially designated showcase for the work of artists and craftsmen from all over South Carolina. Even including a stop at the Artisans Center we should be back at Moss Creek before 4 PM.

Walterboro is giving us a big welcome and we hope we have a good turnout for this outing. To sign up call Kay Hodnett at 342-7485 or cell 338-1445 or email her at [sallyportk@gmail.com](mailto:sallyportk@gmail.com).

### *Directions to the Walterboro Welcome Center*

- From Moss Creek Village turn Right onto US 278 West. Go 16.7 miles.
- Turn Right onto Interstate 95 North. Go 45.3 miles.
- Take Exit 53 (US 15 / US 17 Alternate toward Walterboro), merging onto Sniders Hwy (SC 63 East).
- The Welcome Center is on the Right at 1273 Sniders Hwy.

## Coming Soon...

### Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Audubon Society

#### ~ Local Membership ~

Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon Society was founded in 1974. We have 600 individual and family memberships. 100% of Membership dues to local chapter will support our local programs.

#### Benefits of Membership to our Local Chapter

- Monthly Programs • Field Trips
- Citizen Science, eg. Christmas Bird Count/ Piping Plover Count
- Newhall Preserve • Birding 101 • Nature Photography
- Education Outreach: Audubon Adventures • Discounts to local shops
- Details to come ~ for all membership information, contact Thea Luba.

## NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

by Joan Shulman

Even during the hot, humid days of July and August, many visitors enjoyed the charms of the Preserve. A good number signed the visitor's book and commented favorably on their experience. Quite a few mentioned the small alligator in the pond. In past years, we have seen an alligator in the pond in the very early spring. By summer, it was usually gone. This year, the little one is staying around longer.

Thank you to volunteer trail monitors Bill and Joan Nicol (June) and Fran and Denny Baer (August).

We need monitors for September and November. If you can volunteer for either month or want more information, call me at 842-9246.

There will be at least three guided walks in the Preserve in October. The schedule will be in the October *Ecobon*. If anyone is interested in becoming a walk leader, please call me for further information. It is fun, and the walks promote the mission of the Preserve as well as raise funds for its operation.

I've been watching the Beauty Berry bushes by the parking lot this summer. For the first time, I noticed the delicate white blossoms that give no hint of the vivid magenta berries to come later in the fall. Right now the bushes are full of clusters of pale green berries. They should provide a colorful sight for our walk participants in October.

### E-MAIL Reminder

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

If not, please send it to [thealuba@roadrunner.com](mailto:thealuba@roadrunner.com).

## JUST A REMINDER

Birdhouses have a limited lifespan, so check yours to make sure that time, weather, and our friendly squirrels have not taken their toll on it. This is a good time to replace old houses and install new ones so your feathered friends will have a cozy place to shelter this winter, and a nice fresh abode for next spring's nesting season. A nice birdhouse also makes a very nice gift.



## RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Our long hot summer and its "dog days" have passed and we are off to a good start for our fall birding. Some of our early all migrant warblers and winter shorebirds have already recently shown up.

Early first-of-the-season (FOTS) fall warblers sighted were: Rare Worm-eating Warbler and uncommon Yellow and Prairie Warblers and Ovenbird. Early arriving winter shorebirds reported include: Marbled Godwits, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlin, Spotted and Western Sandpipers and uncommon Black and Caspian Terns.

Highlight birds of our summer include these rare FOTY birds: Black-bellied Whistling Duck in Hilton Head Plantation, Roseate Spoonbill in Beaufort, American White Pelican on the Savannah River and White-winged Dove in Savannah, Ga. Uncommon species reported this summer were: Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites and Purple Gallinule as well as Least Bittern, Black-necked Stilt and Cattle Egret.

Late last spring reports (No *Ecobon* issued during summer) include these rare birds: Bachman Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Uncommon species were: Loggerhead Shrike, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Louisiana Waterthrush and Prairie and Yellow Warblers. There were sixteen warbler species as well as five other migrant songbird species sighted last spring which is about average for our spring migration count.

Thanks to all reporting their sightings: Kay Hodnett, Richard Shulman, Annette Housman, Wendy Hanson, Dianne Faucette, Ron Charles, Peter Zachmann, Fran/Denny Baer, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Max Loxley, Buddy Campbell, Mary Trennis, Susan Thomas 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](mailto:Birding-Friends@yahoo.com) or call 290-1508. Please state your name, date and location of your sighting and any appropriate comments.

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# BAHAMAS PIPING PLOVER PROJECT

By Charlotte White

Piping Plover research and protection have long been a focus in our local Audubon Society. Local members have been active in research projects on the island to count these threatened birds and to advocate for protection of their habitats, mainly along the Port Royal shore. Now we have been invited to participate in a National Audubon Society project to help with a Piping Plover bird count in the Bahamas that occurs every five years. Please read about this project in the flyer posted on our web site, [www.hiltonheadaudubon.org](http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org), from Matt Jeffery, National Audubon International Alliances Program.

The islands of the Bahamas have long been recognized as a vital wintering area for Piping Plover. The need for **citizen science** has taken on new meaning in documenting Piping Plover winter habitat in light of the habitat many plovers will encounter this winter in the Gulf Coast. We have about 8,000 Piping Plovers left on our continent (US breeding numbers in the summer are well documented), but we can only account for approximately 4,000 in the winter. We suspect we will find many in the Bahamas.

To quote Matt Jeffery, National Audubon International Alliances Program, "The result that we are aiming for is to identify critical wintering habitats for the Piping Plover in the Bahamas, get them protected and work with local people to manage the sites. I believe that the threshold for the designation for Globally Important Bird Area is around 40 birds. I think that we should be able to find a couple more sites on Andros Island alone that will surpass that threshold number."



Your Hilton Head Audubon Society Board has voted to donate \$2,000 for this project. To raise this money by early September, we are writing to ask you to make a donation in the amount you can for this worthy project. In addition for this project, please consider donating binoculars and telescopes in good condition to the Bahamas National Trust. They are greatly needed for the 2010 fall training before the 2011 count.

We Audubon members at Hilton Head enjoy beautiful wildlife that needs protection in all seasons and in all parts of our world. Please join with us in this international project in sharing what we can with the people of the Bahamas for the good of wee birds.

Please make a donation of \$20, \$50, \$100 or whatever amount you can. To make a donation, please write a check to Hilton Head Audubon Society and indicate that it is for the Bahamas Plover Project. Mail it to Hilton Head Audubon Society, c/o Fran Baer – Treasurer, PO Box 6185, Hilton Head, SC 29938. To make a donation of binoculars or telescopes, please call Charlotte White at (843) 540-3858 or email [docwhite@hargray.com](mailto:docwhite@hargray.com).

For more information, talk to local members Bill Nicol, Fran Baer, Howard Costa, Barry Lowes and Charlotte White, or call Matt Jeffery in Washington DC.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER

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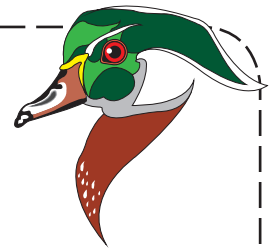
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8:30 A.M.-5 P.M.  
Saturday  
9 A.M.-4:30 P.M.  
Sunday  
12-4:30 P.M.**

***Hilton Head Audubon applies for  
The North Face Grant Opportunity***

As many of you have read in The Ecobon, 2009-2010, our chapter provided nine schools, twenty-four teachers and one thousand seventy seven students with Audubon Adventures.

For the 2010-2011 school year, the Audubon Adventures kit is **Wildlife on the Move**, a four-part exploration of migrating animals. **Wildlife on the Move** will profile the amazing journeys and life cycles of different birds, Monarch butterfly and other insects, whales and sea turtles. **Wildlife on the Move** also includes an Action for Planet Earth component that focuses on improving habitat for migratory wildlife.

Last year Hilton Head Audubon spent \$2160 on Audubon Adventures and \$52 on The Great Backyard Bird Count. Our funding was made available through participation in Wild Birds Unlimited 'Bird Seed Sales'. We also depended on the sale of custom made bluebird boxes.

This year, since we are trying to expand membership and programs, we are now offering Local Membership for our Chapter.

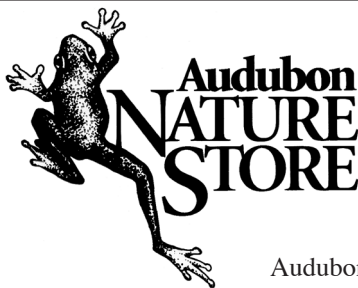
This summer, with the help of Amy Tressler of The Coastal Discovery Museum and Dr. Chris Marsh of The Low Country Institute we applied for The North Face Grant that is designed to get youth outdoors. The title of the Grant Application is Audubon Adventures: From Classroom to the Great Outdoors!

We propose to hold **Four Family Fun Days** at Honey Horn (The Coastal Discovery Museum). Each day would focus on one part of **Wildlife on the Move**. It will be a great opportunity for the seasoned birders of Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon to connect with young families in our community. It will get the kids out from behind their desks and discovering the maritime forest and the salt marsh on the beautiful grounds at Honey Horn.

*by Thea Luba*

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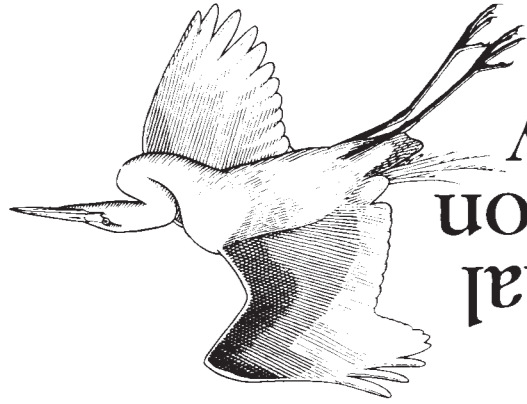
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# National Audubon Society

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## September ~ October 2010 Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

- September Board Meeting** .....None
- Thurs. Sept. 9 **Monthly Meeting** ..... 3:00 pm  
 at Honey Horn in the Sea Island room
- Weds. Sept. 22 **Field Trip** ..... 8:00 am  
 to the Great Swamp Sanctuary in Walterboro, SC.

### OCTOBER

- Thurs. Oct. 7 **Board Meeting** ..... 1:30 pm  
 at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum
- Thurs. Oct. 14 **Monthly Meeting** ..... 3:00 pm  
 at Honey Horn in the Sea Island room

.....

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 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.