

October 2010  
No. 312

# ECOBON

Newsletter of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society  
Audubon Refuge Keepers



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Nicol

We held our first meeting at The Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn in September. Attendance was low, 22 people, but that may have been because many people have not yet come back from their summer travels or maybe it was the topic. It was encouraging to see new people who could not attend our nighttime at Seabrook. Honey Horn offers a flexible venue for a variety of programs both inside and outside. We look forward to our stay at Honey Horn.

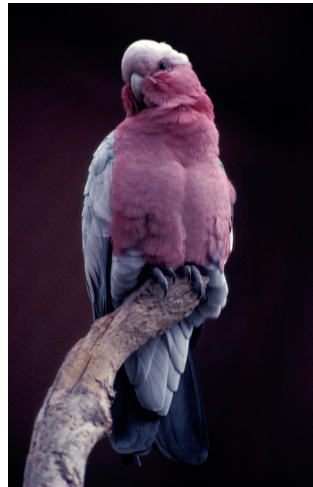
Everyone understands the impact the economic downturn has had on almost everyone throughout the country. Unfortunately, it has had a similar impact on your Audubon Chapter. If you look at page five of this Ecobon, you will notice that we are down to four advertisers from five a few years ago. The other advertiser could not support us this year because of the economy. Special fund raising projects used in the past have not been continued because of lack of support from the members. We get very little money from the National Audubon Society and there is no chance of getting any increase.

We have made some cuts in our operating expenses. Our biggest saving will occur when we can distribute most of our newsletter by e-mail rather than snail-mail. The September 2010 issue was the last one with any significant mailing. Only those people who have asked to receive a mailed copy will get one.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or one of the Board Members. Come to our daytime meeting and please bring a friend along.

## OCTOBER PROGRAM *by Fran Baer*

Thursday, October 14, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Sea Island Room  
at Honey Horn



This month we are privileged to have Jerry Griffin, a Camera Club member and excellent professional photographer, present a program he has developed entitled "My Feathered Friends". This program will be very entertaining and will demonstrate the relationship between birding and photography, composition and how to go about getting great shots. Jerry is an ex-Kodak employee, has judged many competitions, has won many competitions, and has put on photography seminars. His program has been reviewed by a couple of our Audubon members who recommended it as a worthwhile and informative program for our membership.

Remember the October Program is on October 14, 2010 at 3 pm at Honey Horn in the Sea Island Room.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in our  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT.**

Note: This year the count is on a **Tuesday**. The days available to us were December 14 to January 3. Saturday, the 11th is not within bounds and Saturday, the 18th is too close to Christmas. So, we settled on Tuesday, December 14. It has some obvious advantages. We will evaluate the needed change after the end of 2010.

# HHI Audubon

## Board of Directors:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| <i>President</i>               |          |
| 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:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <i>Adopt-A-Refuge (Pinckney)</i>        |          |
| 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                         | 837-4597 |
| <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 |
| <i>Newsletter Circulation</i>           |          |
| Marianne Currie                         | 681-8525 |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i>                |          |
| Joan Wilson                             | 837-2874 |
| <i>Programs</i>                         |          |
| Open                                    |          |
| <i>Publicity &amp; Public Relations</i> |          |
| OPEN                                    |          |
| <i>Sales Table</i>                      |          |
| OPEN                                    |          |
| <i>Shorebirds/Conservation</i>          |          |
| Howard Costa                            | 842-9447 |
| <i>Special Projects</i>                 |          |
| OPEN                                    |          |
| <i>Sun City Representative</i>          |          |
| OPEN                                    |          |
| <i>Wetlands/Conservation</i>            |          |
| 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*

We will have two outings in October. The first, on Wednesday October 6, will be a quick visit to Crystal Lake in Indigo Run Plantation here on the island. Crystal Lake has been a hotspot for sightings during fall migration for the last several years. Jack Colcolough will lead this trip, and also take us over to see the eagle's nest on the Indigo Run golf course. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the COA parking lot (take an immediate left after going through the Indigo Run guard gate on Indigo Run Drive). To sign up for the trip and get on the list for a guest pass call Jack at 715-0540 or email him at jackcolcolough@aol.com.

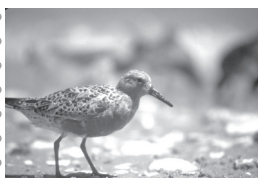


On Tuesday October 19 we will visit Cape Romaine National Wildlife Refuge, located 20 miles north of Charleston and considered by many to be the premier birding destination in South Carolina. The refuge includes salt marshes, coastal waterways, sandy beaches, fresh and brackish water impoundments, and maritime forest--mostly concentrated on and around pristine Bull Island, which is accessible only by boat.

This will be a long all-day trip. Some may choose to spend the night in Charleston, Mt. Pleasant, or McClellanville on the 18th and meet the group at Garriss Landing (formerly Moores Landing), where our tour will begin. (The long pier there has good birding, so allow some time there before or after the guided tour). Those who wish to carpool and return the same day will meet at Moss Creek Village and depart at 6:30 AM on the 19th. We should be back at Moss Creek no later than 6:30 PM.

A naturalist from Coastal Expeditions, a reputable commercial outfit which operates most trips in the Cape Romaine area, will lead our water and land tour, which will begin at 10 AM and last until 3 PM. Low tide is around noon that day and birding should be at its best then. We will travel by boat to Bull Island, where we will dock and tour various habitats on foot, walking a total of about three miles. Those who choose can bring a chair and remain at the boat landing, as there is usually good birding there as well. There are restrooms, picnic tables, and a weather shelter on Bull Island. Bring insect repellent, water, and food.

The cost of this five-hour tour is \$35 per person. The cost is payable at the pier but anyone who signs up is obligated to show up (or at least pay up if unable to show up) because failure to do so would increase the per head cost of others on the tour. The tour is limited to 12 people. To sign up please contact Kay Hodnett at 342-7485 or sallyportk@gmail.com.



Directions to Garriss Landing ~ Go to Charleston by your preferred route. From Charleston take Hwy 17 North 16 miles, turn right onto Sewee Rd., which ends at the landing. The GPS address is 498 Bull Island Rd., Awendaw, SC.

---

## NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

*by Joan Shulman*

October is the month for our Fall Walks on the Wild Side. There will be three: October 6, 13, and 20. Each starts at 10:00 A.M. The leaders will be Joan Shulman, Betty Treen, and Mary Alice Walker. The themes are: Native Plants and Unique Habitats on a Sea Island, The Birth and Growth of a Sea Island, A Woodland Ramble.

Each will focus on identifying the plants, shrubs, and trees unique to the lowcountry. The leaders will also talk about the special ecological systems in the Preserve and the history of it. We charge a fee of \$7.00 per adult.

The walks start at the parking lot, move up the main trail, and proceed around the pond and back to the parking lot. They take about an hour to an hour and a half. It is fun and satisfying to educate people about the special qualities of the lowcountry.

We could give more walks if we had more leaders. Won't you consider becoming one? Give me a call (842-9246) to talk about it.

We also need Trail Monitors for November and January. Call me to volunteer or learn more about what is involved. It's an easy job.

---

## PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

*by Jack Colcolough*

If you have feeders and enjoy watching the birds in your yard, you may want to join Project Feeder Watch (PFW) and count/report your findings weekly to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The season starts in November and lasts into early April each year. You can spend just a few minutes or hours on each of two days/week observing and counting your yard birds.

Your input will become an important part of the citizen science data that is used to determine important trends for North American bird populations over the years. This will be the 24th season for this very worthwhile project.

You will also receive the latest bird news in Winter Bird Highlights and Birdscope. The cost to join is \$15/season to cover the extensive handling of data and the publications.

If you are interested in joining PFW, you can do so online at: [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call toll free at: (800) 843-2473 and get more information about the project.

PFW is a lot of fun to do as some of our Audubon members will attest to! Come join us!

---

## RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

*by Jack Colcolough*

By the time you read this article, we should be in the most exciting time of our birding year ... the peak of our fall migration for warblers and other birds and the continued arrival of our winter shorebirds and songbirds.

We have already sighted sixteen warbler species and six other migrants this fall. Nine of the warblers and one other migrant were found at the Whooping Crane Conservancy in Hilton Head Plantation, our current island "Hot Spot". New warblers reported this month were: Rare Hooded and Blue-winged and Prothonotary, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-throated, Black & White. Pine and Palm Warblers plus Louisiana Waterthrush (uncommon), American Redstart, Northern Parula and Common Yellowthroat. Other migrants reported included: Rare Common Tern and Solitary Sandpiper and uncommon Veery, Baltimore Oriole and Black Tern plus Whimbrel.

Winter FOTS arrivals reported were: Uncommon Piping and Wilson's Plovers, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern and Peregrine Falcon plus Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling and Pie-billed Grebe.

Other good birds reported this month were: Uncommon Mississippi Kite and Eurasian Collared Dove plus American Kestrel and the FOTS return of our Bald Eagles for the winter.

The total number of birds found at the Mud Flats of Port Royal Sound (Fish Haul Creek/Mitchelville Beach Parks included) continues to be good ... 3000+ shorebirds, mostly permanent residents but winter arrivals are increasing. This birding data continues to be collected in an attempt to make this wonderful birding site an Import Birding Area (IBA) for South Carolina.

Thanks to all reporting their sightings: Howard Costa, Kay Hodnett, Carol Clemens, Karen McGinty, Fran/Denny Baer, Dick Phillips, Joan/Richard Shulman, Rita Brent, Wendy Hansen, Annette Hausman, Nan Lloyd, 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: [BirdingFriends@yahoo.com](mailto:BirdingFriends@yahoo.com) or call 290-1508. Please state your name, date and location of your sighting and any appropriate comments.

---

*Thank You!*

Hilton Head Island Audubon Society again extends a sincere THANK YOU to Wade and Associates for the work that they have done on our Chapter's behalf. For a third year, CPAs Mitchell Wade and Deborah Rosenberg have reviewed our financial records and have prepared our required tax forms along with supporting documents and statements for the IRS. We truly appreciate their efforts!

## PINCKNEY by Clem Dietze

Bluebird nesting season is over and our 25 boxes fledged 97 birds. This was a somewhat disappointing season but there are explanations confirmed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

We had an unusually cold winter followed by some heavy rain and storm days and then compounded by hottest summer on record with week after week of 90 degree plus days with many being over 100 in the heat index category.

Many nests were simply abandoned by the parents even after eggs had been laid. Cornell tells me this was par for the course throughout the South East and some of the Middle Atlantic States. The constant heat simply wore out the parents.

The rookery at Ibis pond produced a bumper crop of both egrets, 2 families of wood ducks, and all of the herons except the greens. White Ibis were present in the thousands this year. Again, Cornell says this phenomenon was common all over and they are scratching their heads for answers to the explosion. Many Ibis nested and produced young. Unfortunately for the late nesters a fearsome thunder storm a few weeks ago destroyed many nests and left a lot of hatchlings as orphans. This was sad but we have no dearth of white ibis.

Wood storks were in short supply this year. Our 2 Osprey nests both failed. On the nest by Club House Pond the male showed up and waited 2 to 3 weeks for his mate but she obviously had met her demise somewhere and nothing came of this nest. Hopefully he will find a new mate over the winter. The ospreys which nest on the Dick Point trail started very late in the season and once again the heat inhibited them from producing any young.

Spring migration was weird (again confirmed by Cornell). Many of our passerines obviously took another flyway route to avoid the cold and warblers, buntings, and others were in short

supply. We hope the weather will cool off enough to bring us a decent fall migration.

According to reports from Jack Colcolough and others shore-bird migration is in full swing at Fish Haul and other locations. Yesterday, I counted 40 willets in Pinckney along with some plovers.

We will sorely miss Mike & Karen McGinty. Karen was my bluebird partner and Mike was the main leader in getting teams to complete projects. Mowing has not been the same since he left, as Savannah is short staffed and has yet to get approval for one of our group to train on the heavy equipment. We hope this problem is solved quickly.

That is all for now. Keep Pinckney in your thoughts and pray for better times to come.

### *Hi Audubon Members and Birders,*

The HHI Audubon Society had a successful field trip to the Great Swamp Sanctuary in Walterboro, SC on Sept. 22. Thanks to Donna Laird, director of tourism for Walterboro, whom hosted the trip. Also thanks to Howard Costa whom led the bird walk through the trails of many well kept board walks and streams and to Kay Hodnett whom organized the trip. A total of twenty-one bird species were found there, including four migrating warblers. It was Audubon's first trip to this four-year old Sanctuary.

The highlights of the trip were a beautiful male Prothonotary Warbler, a large Barred Owl and an uncommon White-breasted Nuthatch. Other warblers found were: Uncommon Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart and Black & White Warbler. Other good birds included: Green Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and White-eye Vireo plus common species.

After the walk the group enjoyed a tasty lunch at Carmine's Trattoria. Some of the group remained for an enjoyable visit to the nearby South Carolina Artisans Center, a showcase for SC arts and crafts in Walterboro.

Good Birding, Jack C. ~ HHI, SC

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP FORM  1 YR. - \$20

*Please enroll me as a member of National Audubon. I'll receive a full year of membership benefits including the award-winning AUDUBON magazine.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

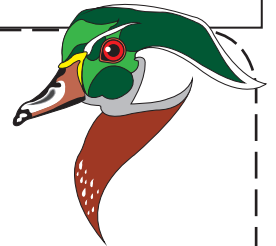
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail a check payable to **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Mail to: National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714



U50  
C9ZU500Z

**BEAUTIFUL HOMES DESERVE  
BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING.**

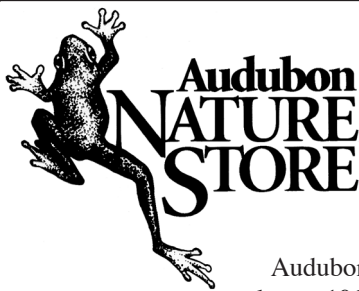
Your source for plants that will attract birds  
and butterflies to your garden!

**Hilton Head  
785-3848**

**Bluffton  
837-3848**



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



**Audubon  
NATURE  
STORE**

Feeders, Nest Boxes,  
Seed, Field Guides,  
Bird Baths, Gifts,  
Toys & Much More

Nikon, Bushnell,  
Brunton & Meade Optics

Audubon Society Members  
always 10% discount *storewide!*

J-2 Village at Wexford • Hilton Head Island • 785-4311



*Wild Birds Unlimited®*

- Binoculars & Spotting Scopes
- Field Guides
- Nature Books
- Nature Gifts
- Custom Seed Blends
- Bird Feeders & Houses
- Bird Baths & Fountains
- Water Gardening Supplies

*We Bring People And Nature Together®*  
Visit us at [www.wbu.com](http://www.wbu.com)

Festival Centre at Indigo Park  
45 Pembroke Dr., Suite 130  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926  
843-681-4461

**Comforting, affordable, quality care  
conveniently close to home**



**OUTPATIENT  
SURGERY  
CENTER  
OF HILTON HEAD**

190 Pembroke Drive • Hilton Head Island, SC 29926  
(843) 682-5050 • [www.hhsurgery.com](http://www.hhsurgery.com)

***Think Globally ~ Act Locally!***

We all joined National Audubon so we could be part of a large and powerful Global organization that works diligently in support of Birds and Wildlife Habitat. Our Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon Chapter gains access to valuable resources as part of this National Audubon Network. Your first dues, as a new member of National Audubon comes back to the Chapter. National Audubon does not fund our Local Chapter.

We have always worked Locally to educate our members and the community to provide birding opportunities and to protect our birds and the natural habitat of the LowCountry. As we take on more responsibilities and more activities we feel the need to deepen our commitment to our Hilton Head/Bluffton Chapter. In the past, our projects have been funded by the Bird Seed Sale at Wild Birds Unlimited and by making and selling Bluebird boxes.

We are planning four Family Fun Days at Honey Horn based on our commitment to Audubon Adventures. Last year we spent over \$3000 to reach over 1200 students. We can do more! Please consider becoming a **Hilton Head/Bluffton LOCAL Chapter Member** too.

*by Thea Luba*

**ANTARCTICA**



**November 26 –December 9, 2011**

**Experience the combined expertise of these renowned firms aboard the new National Geographic Explorer. Superb natural/birding guides. Pro NG photographers, robot undersea sub and much more. This is a fully deluxe voyage hosted by Jim & Marty Buckley of Island Travel. Prices start at \$10,580 plus air. Deposit by Oct. 29 and save \$1000 plus free internal air. For complete details, call Clem Dietze at 681-3033. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime!**

***Place your ad here!***

Call Bill Nicol  
for more information  
671-4721

HILTON HEAD ISLAND/ BLUFFTON  
**AUDUBON SOCIETY**

www.hiltonheadaudubon.org



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

For all membership information, contact Thea Luba at (843) 785-3214 or  
thealuba@roadrunner.com.

---

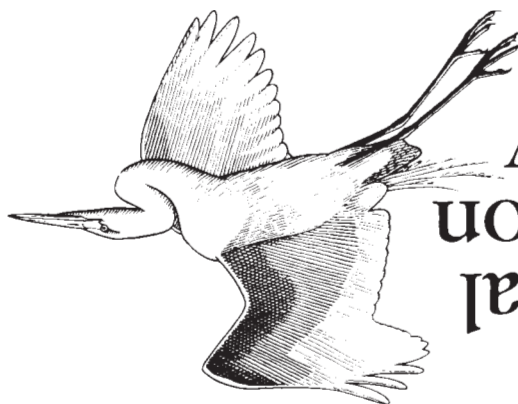
## Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon Society Chapter

Local Membership Form     1 YR. - \$15 - Individual  
    1 YR. - \$25 - Family  
    1 YR. - \$10 - Student/Senior

Please enroll me as a member of Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph./Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Check to: **Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon Society** • P.O. Box 6185 • Hilton Head Island, SC 29938



# National Audubon Society

Title: Ecobon  
 Issue Date: October 2010  
 Frequency: Monthly Sept-May  
 Organization: Hilton Head Island Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 6185  
 Hilton Head, South Carolina 29938  
 Issue #: 312

ECOBON  
 P.O. Box 6185  
 Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Hilton Head Island, SC  
 Permit #39

## October ~ November 2010 Calendar


### OCTOBER

- Weds. Oct. 6 **Field Trip** to Crystal Lake ..... 8:30 am
- Weds. Oct. 6 **Newhall Preserve Walk** ..... 10:00 am
- Thurs. Oct. 7 **Board Meeting** ..... 1:30 pm  
at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum
- Weds. Oct. 13 **Newhall Preserve Walk** ..... 10:00 am
- Thurs. Oct. 14 **Monthly Meeting** ..... 3:00 pm  
at Honey Horn in the Sea Island room
- Weds. Oct. 19 **Field Trip** to Cape Romaine ..... 6:30 am
- Weds. Oct. 20 **Newhall Preserve Walk** ..... 10:00 am

### NOVEMBER

- Thurs. Nov. 4 **Board Meeting** ..... 1:30 pm  
at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum
- Thurs. Nov. 11 **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!



## B E Q U E S T S

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.