

ECOBON



Newsletter of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society
Audubon Refuge Keepers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Nicol

One of the programs that your Audubon chapter supports in the winter is the Great Backyard Bird Count. This involves members of our chapter making presentations on birds to primarily Middle School students although some elementary schools are involved. The presentations are approximately 30 minutes long and consist of showing pictures of 20 to 30 birds commonly seen in our area in the winter and telling the students how they can participate in the count and why it is important. The volunteers work in teams of two and are provided an outline and a CD with the bird pictures. The schools have the equipment required. The only thing that limits how many schools (students) we reach is the numbers of volunteer presenters we have. The more we have the more students we can educate. Our program fits in to the Science Curriculum in the schools and tries to show how the birds fit in the environment and how our conduct can impact their survival. If you can help, please contact Mary Jane Major at 342-5804. Any one who has participated has thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The annual Christmas Bird count is on December 14, 2010 and is an opportunity for us as citizen scientists to make a significant contribution to defining the health of our bird population. Please donate some of your time to help our birds.

See you at the meeting and bring a friend.

DECEMBER PROGRAM *by Barry Lowes*
Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 7:00 p.m. at the Seabrook Center

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Bird Identification Show - Wednesday, December 8 at the Seabrook Center, 300 Woodhaven Road, off Pope Avenue.

7:00pm Refreshments

7:30pm Show starts

Barry Lowes will present a showing of more than 100+ species we are likely to find on Bird Count Day. For beginners or experienced birders it has always served as a valuable identification refresher. Don't miss this opportunity. Come and bring a friend or neighbor. Introduce someone to the world of birding.

You can help with the refreshments by bringing some cookies or cakes. No obligation - only a suggestion of how to add to the social hour, 7:00 - 7:30 pm.



FIELD TRIPS *by Kay Hodnett*

On Monday, January 24, we will visit Donnelly Wildlife Management Area. Donnelly and adjacent Bear Island WMA contain richly rewarding habitat ranging from fresh-water impoundments (once rice fields) to tidal marshes, maritime woodland, and open fields. Last year we saw tundra swans and white pelicans at Bear Island and whooping cranes at Donnelly. Bear Island itself will be closed to the public during January, but we can see a lot from the main road bordering Bear Island.

Our guide will be Marvin Bouknight, the naturalist at Oldfield and author of a recently published book on birding and nature viewing in the Low Country. Marvin's charge will be \$5 per person (with a minimum of ten people), which will not go much beyond covering his costs.

Those wishing to carpool will meet at Moss Creek Village, departing from there at 7:30 AM and meeting up at the Donnelly office parking lot and kiosk. (See directions below). We should finish birding about 12:30 and be back to Hilton Head no later than 2 PM. Bundle up, take a snack, water, and binoculars (scopes will also be useful). Stop at a restroom enroute to Donnelly.

To sign up for the trip call Kay Hodnett (after December 28) at 342-7485 or cell 338-1445 or email sallyportk@gmail.com.

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	837-3537
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 & Public Relations</i>	
OPEN	
<i>Shorebirds/Conservation</i>	
Howard Costa	842-9447
<i>Sun City Representative</i>	
Diane Rand	987-1111
<i>Wetlands/Conservation</i>	
Sally Krebs	H: 757-2973 O: 341-4690

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.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010

If you have not been contacted by your captain of last year or if this is your first time participating, call: Charlotte White at 540-3858 or Barry Lowes at 837-3537. We will see that you get placed on a team in the area of your choice.

This is not just a glorious day out of doors searching for and discovering the birds on Hilton Head Island and the surrounding areas. Our count is one of more than 200 counts occurring from Alaska to Hawaii and Central America.



When the results of all these counts are totalled they give a "snapshot" of where the birds are, whether they are declining and why. These counts have been happening for 111 years. This citizen science of which we are all a part is a valuable part of a global study.

Come and be a part of and a contributor to this project. Help the birds for one day. A way of thanking them for the pleasures they give us and the ecological role they play in our lives. GOOD BIRDING!

Barry Lowes and Charlotte White

BIRD REFRESHER SHOW, Wednesday, December 8

7:00 pm at the Seabrook

The Audubon Society will hold its annual Bird Show. A presentation of colorful bird images of the birds you are most likely to see will be given by Barry Lowes. This popular program enables all of us an opportunity to sharpen our identification skills. This not-to-be-missed event is preceded by a social get-together with refreshments.



Boreal Avian Modelling Project

by Samantha Song, Erin Bayne, Steve Cumming, Fiona Schmiegelow, Trish Fontaine, and Catherine Rostron (from BirdWatch Canada)

The Boreal Avian Modelling Project integrates the wealth of existing avian studies in the North American boreal forest through an extensive partnership among academia, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. This collaborative project is improving our understanding of boreal landbirds, and is assisting management and conservation efforts.

The boreal region, with its vast network of forests and wetlands, is a vital nursery for breeding birds in North America. Each year the boreal forest supports the production of an estimated three to five billion landbirds of more than 200 species. And according to the recently-published Partners in Flight "Saving Our Shared Birds" document, it provides the primary habitat for 40 species shared among Canada, the United States, and Mexico, including the Canada Warbler, listed as a threatened species under Canada's Species At Risk Act.

The boreal forest is undergoing rapid economic development across its extent, as increasing demands and new technologies open up access to the region's wealth of natural resources. This poses significant challenges for management efforts to conserve migratory birds. We lack systematic long-term monitoring data for these species, and we have limited understanding of their status, trends, distribution, and habitat associations. This restricts our ability to predict the responses of migratory birds to individual stressors (such as industrial development and climate change) or to the cumulative effects of human activities in combination with changing environmental conditions.

NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

by Joan Shulman

The participants in the Work Day on November 13 accomplished a lot--as evidenced by the many piles of debris around the pond. A lot of wax myrtles and sweet gums got cut back. It was a great morning to work outside--cool and sunny. Thank you to all of you who turned out to help: Bob Clemens, Jack Colcolough, Marianne and Jim Currie, Niki and Dave Jordan, Joan and Richard Shulman, and Mary Alice Walker.

During the morning we saw two snowy egrets on the deck overlooking the pond, a yellow-bellied sapsucker and a pileated woodpecker near Beany Newhall's monument, a great horned owl in the Pine Flatwoods area, and a Cooper's hawk near the parking lot. An early arrival saw a couple of deer. Obedient plants were in full bloom at the pond. (Wish they had been out during our October walks.) Didn't see the two little alligators or any yellow-bellied slider turtles. Guess they were keeping warm at the bottom of the pond.

In late November, a fringe tree will be planted near Beany's monument. Let's hope it does better than the struggling one by the parking lot.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

EXTREME BIRD COUNTING

by Barry Lowes

Outnumbered: Pine Prairie, Louisiana

During the 1987-1988 CBC, One group recorded 103 million birds - including more than 5.3 million red-winged blackbirds - a whopping 50 million more than the average tally for the total CBC.

Southern Comfort: Cape Crozier, Antarctica

In 2008, during this southernmost count - and Antarctica's only one to date - three participants saw 270,885 Adelie penguins, plus four other species.

Practically Dark: Prudhoe Bay, Alaska

Making do with a mere two and three-quarters hours of daylight, counters spotted only one species: the common raven.

110 Years and Counting: Central Park, New York

Participants who traverse the 843-acre park to count titmice and thrushes, juncos and sapsuckers, are taking part in one of the longest continuous CBC efforts.

Record Attendance: 110th CBC

Some 2,160 groups participated, and tallied more than 55 million individual birds

THIS IS THE 111 YEAR OF CBC.

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

We have completed a successful fall migration, finding twenty-three warbler species and thirteen other migrant species. It was not quite as good as the great 2008 and 2009 migrations when we had 30 and 27 warbler species respectively. Our winter shorebirds and songbirds continue to arrive.

Warblers reported this month were: rare Nashville and Canada in Sea Pines, uncommon Orange-crowned, FOTS Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Black & White, Palm, American Restart and Common Yellowthroat. The only other migrants reported were rare Sandhill Cranes in flight over Beaufort and an uncommon Swainson's Thrush.

FOTS winter arrivals reported included: rare Red-breasted Nuthatch in Hilton Head Plantation and rare Virginia Rail both in Sea Pines' Forrest Preserve, uncommon Golden-crowned Kinglet, uncommon Piping Plover, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wilson's Snipe, American Goldfinch, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, White-throated Sparrow, Double-crested Cormorant and Common Loon. Other good birds reported were: a late male Painted Bunting, American Kestrel, Sandwich Tern, Great Horned Owl, Sora and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

More Bald Eagles continue to be sighted but not yet nesting. Several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are still hanging around. Keep your feeders up and maybe you might be lucky enough to host a rare Hummer species this winter!

Thanks to those reporting their sightings: Barry Lowes, Miriam Waterhouse, Fran Baer, Carol Clemens, Susan Thomas, Dianne Faucette, Richard Shulman, Dottie Bass, Wendy Hansen, Annette Hausman, Royce Hough, Jim Grove 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 or call 715-0540. Please state your name, date and location of your sighting and any appropriate comments.



WINTERING HUMMINGBIRDS

Doreen Cubie is an avian researcher and writer with a focus on wintering Hummingbirds in the Southeastern United States. She is a master bird bander and identifier of hummer species. She lives in Awendaw, SC.

She has already started banding again this fall and will be along the South Carolina coast in November and December. She will be giving a talk at the Sun City Bird Club January 5 and hopes to band in the Hilton Head/Beaufort area at that time and then on to Georgia and Florida.

Doreen states "Please let me know if you have any Hummingbirds at your feeders. I'd love to band them." Her phone is 843-991-1054. Her e-mail is: doreencubie@tds.net and her website is: www.doreencubie.com. Please contact her if you are hosting a Hummer this winter.

She also in involved in another Hummingbird program in Canada where she banded over 150 Ruby-throated Hummers last summer to determine how far north and west these birds breed in that country.



Statesboro Trip on November 16th

by Kay Hodnett

On Tuesday, 16 November, thirteen Hilton Head Auduboners enjoyed an excellent visit to the Raptor Center and Center for Wildlife Education affiliated with Georgian Southern University in Statesboro. While the rain poured down, we were indoors listening to an interesting talk by Steve Hein, founder and director of the Center, and watching a flight demonstration featuring both common and exotic birds of prey.

When the weather cleared, Steve took us on a tour of the sanctuary, which features raptors and other birds in a variety of carefully designed and maintained habitats. A highpoint was the small wetland area, where we had a close-up view of a variety of visiting ducks, both dabblers and divers--including redheads, canvasbacks, scaups, teal, and pintails. Especially exciting was seeing a wood duck with an apricot color variation, a spectacular creature not depicted in any of my bird guides. It was also great fun to watch the extraordinary display put on by the male hooded mergansers, as they stretched their necks and dramatically tossed their heads back. All told, a good outing.

OUR MISSION

is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

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 _____

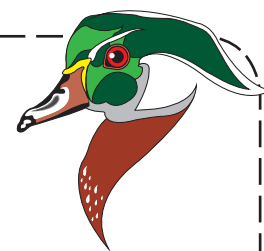
Address _____

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



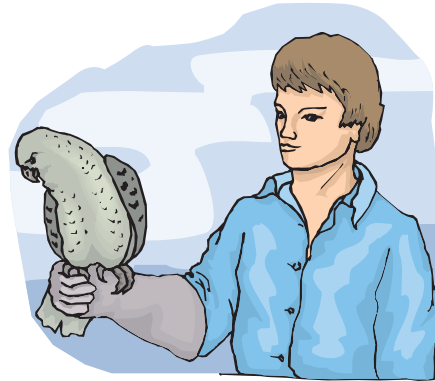
U50
C9ZU500Z

NORTH FACE GRANT

Hilton Head Island Audubon, in conjunction with the Coastal Discovery Museum, is one of 8 Audubon centers and 14 Audubon chapters to receive grants from North Face for outdoor education programs. The Chapter and the Museum will receive \$2500 to present four Family Fun Days based on this year's Audubon Adventures program, *Migration: Birds, Turtles, Butterflies, Whales*. The money will be used for supplies, advertising and a web page at www.planetexplore.org.

Hilton Head Island Audubon has sponsored the Audubon Adventures program in the local schools for many years. We provide lesson plans and materials from Audubon for teachers and students, and volunteers to present pre-Backyard Bird Count programs for those teachers who request them. These activities are supported by our bird seed sales, so be sure to watch for information on, and participate in the sales this winter.

Many thanks to HHIA's Thea Luba for initiating and working on the grant request, Amy Tressler of the Coastal Discovery Museum for her help with the grant, and Mary Jane Major for all of her efforts organizing the school program.



Place your ad here!

Call Bill Nicol
for more information
671-4721



**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

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

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.

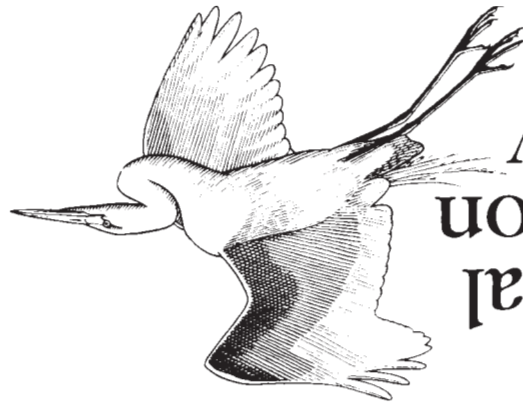
Hilton Head/Bluffton Audubon Society Chapter

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

Issue #: 3134

Hilton Head, South Carolina 29938

P.O. Box 6185

Organization: Hilton Head Island Audubon Society

Frequency: Monthly Sept.-May

Issue Date: December 2010

Title: Ecobon

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938

P.O. Box 6185

ECOBON

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

December 2010 ~ January 2011 Calendar

DECEMBER

Thurs. Dec. 2 **Board Meeting** 1:30 pm
at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum

Weds. Dec. 8 **Monthly Meeting & Social** 7:00 pm
at the Seabrook

Tues. Dec. 14 **Christmas Bird Count** All Day

JANUARY

Thurs. Jan. 6 **Board Meeting** 1:30 pm
at the Jarvis Room, Old Coastal Discovery Museum

Thurs. Jan. 13 **Monthly Meeting** 3:00 pm
at Honey Horn in the Sea Island Room

Mon. Jan. 24 **Field Trip** to Donnelly Wildlife area 7:30 am
Donnelly

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, at the Sea Island Room at Honey Horn. 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 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.