



Ecobon

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

OCTOBER PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*

Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 3:00 pm (*This meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. November will go back to the normal 2nd Tuesday.*)

Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn, 70 Honey Horn Drive, Sea Island Room

"Beaufort County's Open Land Trust –

Why Additional Land Protection Is Needed to Manage Growth and Protect Our Natural Resources"

Our speaker in October will be Cindy Baysden, Executive Director of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust. Cindy has recently returned to the Trust as Executive Director. She opened the first office for the Open Land Trust in 1992 and served as Director until 2008. During that time she worked on critical vista projects in Beaufort, started a conservation easement program for the Trust, and began conservation initiatives in Southern Beaufort County. Cindy also worked with volunteers on fund-raising events, most notably; establishing tours every other year of the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Auldbrass Plantation.

Cindy will focus on the success of Beaufort County's Rural and Critical Lands Program which was created in response to the tremendous growth experienced in the late 1990's. The Program was designed to protect working farms and timberland and ameliorate development problems including traffic congestion and water quality decline in critical areas of the County, including the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station.

There will be a very important vote in November for additional funds for the Program, this presentation will give us the information we need to cast an educated vote regarding the purchase of additional land protection and show us why we still need to manage growth and protect the natural resources of Beaufort County.

Currently, Open Land Trust is working to provide more public access for Widgeon Point, a natural park area on Lemon Island, which the Open Land Trust own in partnership with Beaufort County. It is our goal to build a picnic facility and bird watching platform and to make nature tours and other outdoor activities available on the property.

FREE. Open to the public without registration. SNOWBIRDS WELCOME!

Non-members are always encouraged to attend our meetings to learn more about Audubon. For More Information Contact: Coastal Discovery Museum at 843.689.6767

Website: <http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org>

"Just the Facts"

Keeping facts plain and simple and in perspective.

Describing the size of an eagle you could say it had a wingspan of eight feet, but it is easier to picture when you say each wing is as long as an ironing board, put two ironing boards together and you have the wingspan of an eagle.

Consider the fact that a peregrine falcon, having been timed at 200 miles per hour, is the fastest creature on Earth. A typical block is about 1/10 of a mile long. A peregrine would be just a blur as it travels the complete block in less than two seconds.



A chickadee weighs only 0.4 ounces, but picture that ten chickadees equal the weight of just the meat patty in one McDonald's quarter pounder, or about the same as a dozen paper clips.

From Bird Watchers Digest, Hank Weber

HHI Audubon

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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.



RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS *by Jack Colcolough*

The early part of Fall migration is going well. Migrating warblers and other migrants are moving through our area. Some of our Winter shorebirds and songbirds are also arriving.

Rare species reported during the last month were: White-rumped Sandpiper, Scarlet Tanager, Solitary Sandpiper and Nashville, Worm-eating and Bay-breasted Warblers, all on HHI ... all migrants plus the Roseate Spoonbill, a Summer visitor on HHI and at Savannah NWR.



Uncommon species found included: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Caspian Tern, American White Pelican, Mississippi Kite, Purple Gallinule, Blue-headed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird and Yellow and Prairie Warblers.

Other good finds reported were: Summer Tanager, Bald Eagle, Spotted Sandpiper, Sandwich Tern, Eastern Wood Pewee and many Ruby-throated Hummers as well as arriving shorebirds, Ruddy Turnstone, Dowitcher and Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers and common species.

The Fall warbler count in our area is already up to seventeen species including Black-throated Blue, Black & White, Yellow-throated, Palm, early Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat plus the rare and uncommon warbler species covered above. The best of our Fall migration is yet to come in October!



Many thanks to all reporting their sightings: Robert Rommel, Carol Clemens, Fran/Danny Baer, Susan Thomas, Pauline Jones, Cindy/Ken Groff, Dottie Bass, Karen Petersen, Mary Alice Cruise, George Cathcart, Joanne McMemamin, Jane/Adie Hester, Karen Marts, Tom LeBoeuf, Mary Ann Lueckel and several visitors.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Uncommon, Out-Of-Season, First-Of-The-Year (FOTY) or First-Of-The-Season (FOTS) or a species that you consider to be a 'good find' e-mail: BirdingFriends@yahoo.com or call 843-432-2661 (MUST dial the 843). Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date and location of your sighting and other pertinent information about your sighting.

We are in the midst of the best birding season of our year! Look for warblers and other Fall migrants as well as many of our arriving Winter shorebirds and songbirds. Also, many of our Summer birds are still here. Now is wonderful time to do some great birding!

Enjoy the Seasons – Mark Your Calendar

Welcome to the active part of the year for the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society.

The regular changes in environmental conditions we know as seasons, are the catalyst for nature's activity. In nature each season is enough like its precedent to be recognizable, yet different in its own way. So we talk about a spring that is wetter than last year or a winter that is colder than its predecessor. From the diverse and interesting experience of the seasons, humans developed the relatively mundane concept of the calendar. As observers of nature, we members of the Society pay close attention to and enjoy the diversity of the seasons, but it is, of course, the case that the events of the Society are governed by the calendar.

The Society's fiscal year is June 1 to May 31. Traditionally, there are no meetings or activity over the months of June, July, and August. There are regular meetings in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. We have the Christmas Bird Count program in December and the annual picnic in May.

For the first time in a while, all positions on the Board of the Society are full with active volunteers filling each position. Most of the positions have co-chairs, who are sharing responsibility and acquiring knowledge and experience of what needs to be done to keep the Society active.

In a typical month, the Board meeting is on the first Thursday of the month, and the regular meeting is on the second Thursday of the month. The Board meeting is open to any member and the regular meeting is open to the public. The business of the Society is handled around the Board meeting and the regular meeting is oriented toward an educational program.

One of our most active committees is the Conservation Committee headed by Bill Nicol and Robert Rommel. This committee monitors the development activity on the island acts as is appropriate to influence the governmental regulation of natural areas. The committee posts current information on the Conservation tab at <http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org>.

Cindy and Ken Groff are heading the Field Trip Committee. This year's emphasis will be on establishing local walks, generally on the first Saturday of the month. The first one will be on October 4 and be led by Robert Rommel at Fish Haul Creek. Fish Haul Creek is an interesting and deceptively complex area. No one knows it better than Robert, who has written a book about it and photographed it extensively. Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate in field trips.

The programs at the regular meetings are arranged by Kathy Greider and Doreen Cubie. These programs have been entertaining, informative, and well-attended. The next program features a presentation by Cindy Baysden, Executive Director, Beaufort County Open Land Trust.

Grant Greider is in charge of the Education Committee, which is presenting the popular Introduction to Birding series on October 11, 18, 25 and November 1 at the Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn. This course can be a great refresher course for experienced birders.

Jack Greenshields and Bob Clemens are heading the Newhall Committee, which oversees the operation of the Newhall Audubon Preserve. There will be guided walks at the Preserve each Thursday at 10 am through November 20. Weekly volunteer trail monitors check the Preserve weekly for damage or maintenance issues. The committee holds regular work days to work on the upkeep of the Preserve

Susan and Kelly Murphy are heading up the Christmas Bird Count. The count will be held on December 15. There will be a program on birds likely to be seen on the Christmas Bird Count held on December 11 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Carol Clemens and Fran Baer are the heads of the Membership Committee. Our system of membership data and dues collection is in place and working well. We have over 170 local members.

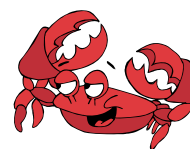
As Publicity Chair, Natalie Hefter coordinates our publicity efforts and is the manager of our website (<http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org>).

Joan Wilson does the heroic duty of producing the Ecobon Newsletter. The newsletter is available on the website under the Publication tab.

As HHIAS moves into its busy season, please take advantage of all we have to offer. It promises to be one of our most active years. Enjoy the seasons, but mark your calendar now so as not to miss out on any HHIAS activities.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

On October 18th and 19th the annual
BLUFFTON ART & SEAFOOD STREET FEST



will be held in the Historic District of Bluffton and HHIAS is sponsoring a booth to promote awareness and appreciation of nature, to preserve and protect wildlife and natural ecosystems and to encourage responsible environmental stewardship. Of course, we will be providing information about HHIAS and signing up new members.

We need at least 2 possibly 3 people at the booth at all times. We have never attended this event but understand it is very busy so we hope to keep you busy. Times are as follows:

Saturday 10/18

9:00 am - 11:00 am (includes helping with set up)
10:45 am - 1:00 pm
12:45 pm - 3:00 pm
2:45 pm - 4:30 pm (includes tear down)

Sunday 10/19

9:00 am - 11:00 am (includes helping with set up)
10:45 am - 1:00 pm
12:45 pm - 3:00 pm
2:45 pm - 4:30 pm (includes tear down)

This festival usually has upwards of 20,000 attendees and we've heard it is lots of fun. Check out their web site to learn more about this fun event and what you can do at the festival before or after your shift. www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com Come join the fun.

Please send an email to greider38@gmail.com or 404.313.8208 to sign up. When using e-mail subject line should be: Volunteer for Bluffton Seafood Fest. I will send you a confirmation of your time and information about parking for the event.

Thanks - we can't do it without YOU. Grant Greider

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Please detach and mail or bring to the next meeting.

Local Membership: select either 1 year individual \$15 or 1 year family \$25

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 Field Trips Conservation Education Christmas Bird Count Publicity/Programs other _____

Please mail to: P.O. Box 6185 – Hilton Head Island, SC - 29938

Dear Nest Adopters,

While the last 10-15 nests are incubating & hatching on Hilton Head Island, thought I would share some interesting turtle tidbits:

DNA research on Turtles??? Yes, for 6 years, we have been participating in a research project of genetic testing - DNA research is done (at the University of Georgia) on one egg from every nest on HHI. This will tell us so much about the loggerhead sea turtle mothers: The egg shell tells us exactly which female laid the nest (the egg shell picks up the mother's DNA as it is being laid), so we can figure out how many nests a particular mother has laid on Hilton Head Island, and how frequently she nests. The yolk (researched at USCB) tells us what the female ate - so we can tell how healthy she is and where she goes when she is not laying eggs. Attached is a video of our turtle patrol taking a sample for testing.



For example, we know that the mother turtle identified as Genetic ID CC439 laid 5 nests on Hilton Head Island this summer. She laid Nest # 6, # 28, # 51, # 78 and # 103. Not only that, but she laid four nests on Hilton Head in 2012, five nests in 2010, and at least one nest in 2008, when the study began. Wow! We have found that once in a while, the same mother shows up on another beach nearby but mostly, she comes back to the same area to lay her eggs. Interestingly, momma #439 laid more than 110 eggs in every one of her nests this year!



We are learning so much with every passing day! Will keep you posted as the season winds down. Here is a link that one of our adopters has found - it is full of great information about loggerhead turtles! http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/education/kids_times_turtle_loggerhead.pdf

Andrea Bhatt Siebold
Sea Turtle Nest Adoption Coordinator
Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Protection Project

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS! *by Cindy & Kenneth Groff*

Below is a listed of scheduled field trips.

Oct. 4th ~ Robert Rommel@Fish Haul Creek

Based on the tides, we'll walk at 9am. We will likely see a good mix of gulls, terns, pelicans, shorebirds, and herons and egrets. Exactly what species are present will depend on the current state of the migration.

If you could also make a note that participants should wear shoes that they are ok with getting wet or walking in shallow mud (up to 1") and protection from the sun, that would be fantastic.

Nov. 1st ~ No Leader

Dec. 6th ~ Robert Rommel@Fish Haul Creek

Jan. 3rd ~ Paul Weatherhead @ SNWR

Feb. 7th ~ Paul Weatherhead @SNWR

March 7th ~ Kathy & Grant Greider @Fish Haul Creek

April 11th ~ Carol Clemens@Pinckney Island

May 2nd ~ No Leader



We are trying to get "Local" (Fish Haul, Pinckney, Jarvis Creek, Newhall, SNWR) Field trips going and scheduled same each month. The first Saturday of each month with the exception of Easter weekend, the times of the field trips are TBD.

We would like to reach out to our members and ask if anyone has an interest in leading our November or May trips, please email me directly at smilingcin@yahoo.com.

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT THIS COURSE -- TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Birding 101 - Introductory Course for Novice Birders
Saturday - 10am - 11:30am at The Coastal Discovery Museum
October 11th, 18th, 25rd and November 1st

Birding 101 - Introductory Course for Novice Birders

HHIAS is offering a four week course that is open to the general public and novice Audubon members. It will be offered at 10am from October 11th - November 1st at The Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn. The course will meet once a week for 90 minutes and cover the basics of birding; identification of HHI birds; review of binoculars, feeding methods, birding books; best birding locations on the island. For the last session there will be a birding walk on the grounds of CDM@HH to practice identifying some local birds. Families are encouraged to attend. Sign up by calling 843.295.2113. There is a charge of \$5 per week for a family or individual. The charge will be waived for HHIAS members. Memberships will available the first day of the course.

Welcome Members!

Welcome to the following new members who have joined since our September Ecobon was published.

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| | Melike Erkan |
| Lois and Dan Clauer | Gillian and Ted Heintz |
| Grace and Ian Cheah | Beverly Jennings |
| George and Marty Cohen | Miho Kinnas |
| Tom and Nancy Cope | |
| Edward Emerich | |

We appreciate the support of our local members! We currently have roughly 170 paid 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.



Smile

The AmazonSmile Foundation, created by Amazon, will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. When you browse or shop at AmazonSmile **you must first select a charitable organization** and the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is on the list of almost one million eligible organizations. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pauline

We regret to inform you that long time Audubon supporter, Clem Dietze, passed away on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. For many years, Clem was very involved with Pinckney National Wildlife Refuge and was an active Audubon member. In addition to a local service, there will be a memorial in Savannah in October to honor Clem's service to Pinckney.

Cards may be sent to his wife, Nancy, at 277 Moss Creek Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

SOLAR GLASS HOLDS BIRD POTENTIAL

Late summer and early autumn is prime time for songbird migration and a time when birds run a gauntlet of building glass, light, and reflections. It is now estimated that 365 million to almost a billion birds are killed annually by collision with glass at buildings in North America.

Soon, a new approach to glazed buildings, including markings and colors, may present another creative way to address the problem. Sarah Hall, Toronto-based glass artist, is giving it a serious try. Her glass, replete with visible markers and colors, cuts reflection and could provide utility-scale clean energy, capable of powering the building itself.

Bird Watchers Digest - www.sarahhallstudio.com/media

Christmas Bird Count Update

by Kelly and Susan Murphy ~ Co-Chairs

We are gearing up for the Monday, December 15, 2014, Christmas Bird Count! As in past years, the December Audubon meeting will be a review of some of the birds we are likely to see on Count Day. This year we are pleased to announce that Robert Rommel, Wildlife Photographer and our Chapter Vice President, will make the presentation.

The location will again be the First Presbyterian Church on Highway 278, next to the Bargain Box.

The presentation date is now set: Wednesday, December 10. We'll begin at 7:00 pm with refreshments, then start the presentation at 7:30 pm.

Coffee will be provided, and we invite our generous members to bring cookies, cakes and other goodies!

We look forward to seeing you there! Mark your calendar!

A New HHI Celebrity! (Lesser Black-backed Gull) Submitted by Fran Baer

During a recent ongoing survey by the Conservation Committee at The Folly inlet, Susan Murphy and I spotted a very special bird. He is a Lesser Black-backed Gull bearing a dark green band with "F05" in white letters on his lower left leg, along with a smaller metal band on his right leg

Having reported a number of banded shorebirds, I went online to find out how to report this banded Gull. I found several links and references to Appledore Island (Maine). I found a contact email address for Dr. Julie Ellis. I also saw a reference to a "special" bird, "F05", which had been banded in Spring 2008 on Appledore Island. I quickly contacted Dr. Ellis and sent her two photos, indicating that I believed this bird was one she was interested in.

I received a message back the next morning: Yes, this is F05! Dr. Ellis was very happy to confirm this re-sighting. **Just what makes "F05" (also known as "Pierre" on Appledore Island) so special?** Well, this species arose in Europe and has expanded its breeding range in relatively recent years to Iceland and Greenland. This bird was found, in 2007 on Appledore, mated to a Herring Gull. The pair successfully hatched two chicks, one of which fledged successfully. **This represents the first confirmed breeding record for a Lesser Black-backed Gull along the Atlantic Coast of North America!** This bird was then banded in 2008 when he returned to nest, again with a Herring Gull. He continues to return to Appledore each nesting season. As another example of his site fidelity, he has been sighted each winter at Daytona Beach Shores, Florida beginning in January 2009. Besides two sightings at Jenness Beach, NH (August 2009 and 2011), he has never been reported from any other state. Now the researchers can add The Folly inlet at **Hilton Head Island, SC** to his Encounter History report!

So Pierre, a celebrity on Appledore Island, is now a celebrity on Hilton Head Island!

To read more about the ongoing research on the Gulls of Appledore, do a Google search for "Banded Lesser Black-backed Gull F05". From the listing, click on "The Gulls of Appledore/ Sightings of gulls banded in Maine). Click on Tab "Lesser Black-backed Gull"

You can copy and paste this address into your browser, or hold down the Ctrl key and click on this link: <http://gullsofappledore.wordpress.com/lesser-black-backed-gull-nesting-on-appledore-island/>



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

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OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER 2014 Calendar

- Thurs. Oct. 2 Board Meeting 10:00 am
at the Country Club of Hilton Head
- Thurs. Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 Newhall Walks 10:00 am
- Sat. Oct. 4 Field Trip -Fish Haul
- Sat. Oct. 11, 18 and 25
Intro to Birding at the Museum
- Thurs. Oct. 16 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm
at Honey Horn (*Third Thurs of month*)

- Sat. Nov. 1 Field Trip
- Sat. Nov. 1 Intro to Birding at the Museum
- Thurs. Nov. 6 Board Meeting 10:00 am
at the Country Club of Hilton Head
- Thurs. Nov. 6 & 13 Newhall Walks 10:00 am
- Thurs. Nov. 13 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm
at Honey Horn (*Third Thurs of month*)

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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

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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.

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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.