



Ecobon

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

MARCH PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*

Thursday, March 12, 2015 , 3:00 pm

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

“ What Makes the Port Royal Sound Unique and Why the Port Royal Sound Foundation Was Formed”

presented by Timothy Price

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



Tim Price, is the Naturalist & Program Coordinator for the Port Royal Sound Foundation. He grew up in Warren, PA which is a rural town in northwest PA. From an early age he was encouraged to spend most of his time outside in the woods and fields that were his backyard. Tim soon developed a very strong sense of connectivity and respect for his surroundings. This led him to the University of Vermont where he graduated from in late 2011 with a B.S. in Biology. He first came to the Lowcountry as an intern at Fripp Island Resort in the summer of 2011 and instantly

recognized what a beautiful and truly unique ecosystem is present. Tim returned in early 2013 as the Naturalist for Fripp Island before coming to work for Port Royal Sound Foundation in September 2014. He is very passionate about educating the public to the uniqueness of our salt marsh ecosystem and how they can help protect it for years to come. Outside of work he enjoys kayaking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and long distance running.

For More Information Contact: Coastal Discovery Museum at 843.689.6767 or view the Website: <http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org>

Hilton Head Island Audubon Society will host two Evening Meetings in March and April.

All Evening Meetings will be held at The Palmetto Co-Operative on 111 Mathews Drive

Afternoon Meetings will continue to be at The Coastal Discovery Museum

Everyone is WELCOME to attend any or all of these meetings!!

Additional information is on page 4 - Check it out!

HHI Audubon

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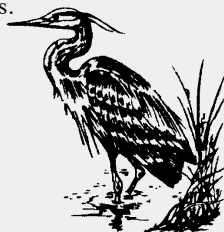
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Website: www.hiltonheadaudubon.org

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Rick Riebesell*

March Will Be Busy

In response to the survey of Hilton Head Island Audubon Society members conducted last summer, we are pleased to be adding some evening meetings. Many members indicated they would like to see evening meetings, and most of us have friends who cannot make the Thursday afternoon meetings of the Society. In March we will have our regular Thursday meeting on March 12 at 3:00 pm, and we will also have an evening meeting on March 25 at 6 pm at the Palmetto Electric Coop (111 Mathews Drive). There will also be an evening meeting on April 22 at the Palmetto Electric Coop. Please tell your friends who cannot attend afternoon meetings of our upcoming evening meetings.

If you are interested in becoming more active in the Society, now is the time that the nominating process is proceeding. Think about how your talent and interests can help the Society. Not only do we welcome your participation, we need it. Let one of the officers or board members know of your interests, and we will help you to help the Society.

Although there was no scheduled field trip for March, Cindy and Ken Groff are working on something impromptu, so keep up on the emails and check the Facebook page and website (www.hiltonheadaudubon.org).



March is a great time on Hilton Head Island. We will leave the colder temperatures behind with more opportunities to observe migrating birds coming up. There is a bluebird in and out of the nesting box in our back yard, and we can hear the drumming of the woodpeckers. There is more singing from the backyard feeder crew. Enjoy, and stay in touch with your friends in the Society.

MARCH FIELD TRIP on Saturday, March 7th

Date: Saturday, March 7th

Time: Start 8:45 - Approximate End Noon

Leader: Jack Greenshields

Location: Beaufort County Open Land Trust, Widgeon Point
Rte. 170 Just before the Broad River Bridge

Drive time: Approximately 45minutes

Carpooling: Anyone interested should meet at the parking lot
In front of Neo's restaurant in Moss Creek Village
At 7:45.

Additional Information: There are no restrooms on the property.

Waterproof boots and bug spray are recommend.

Sign up contact: Cindy Groff@ 843-682-3840 or email smilingcin@yahoo.com

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Another very active Winter month has been experienced by our area birders with the sighting and reporting of one accidental and many rare and uncommon bird species. Our Spring migration is upon us when our early migrants and Summer arrivals will start to move into and through our area and our Winter visitors begin to leave.

The highlight of our month was our sighting of an accidental Eurasian Wigeon at nearby Savannah NWR. Fortunately, many of us enjoyed the wonderful sighting of this very rare bird on our monthly Audubon field trip there.



Rare species sighted and reported during the last month were: Brown Creeper in Hilton Head Plantation, Eared Grebe in Sea Pines, Snow Goose (dark morph) at Widgeon's Point, first early Spring migrant Nashville Warbler and Rufous Hummingbird in Beaufort, Snowy Plover at

Little Tybee Island, LeConte's Sparrow and Red-necked Grebe at the Savannah Spoils Site, Yellow-breasted Chat and Western Kingbird on Hutchinson Island and Cinnamon Teal at Savannah NWR.

Out-Of-Season species found were the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the Painted Bunting.

Uncommon species reported included: Endangered Piping Plover, Pine Siskin, Baltimore Oriole, Blue-headed Vireo, Canvasback, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, American Black Duck, American Bittern, Loggerhead Shrike, American Kestrel, Stilt Sandpiper, American Avocet, American Pipit, Common Ground Dove, Red-throated Loon, Glossy Ibis, Orange-crowned Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch and House Wren.



Other "Good Finds" reported included: Bald Eagle, Wilson's Snipe, Sora, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bonaparte's Gull, American Wigeon, Black & White Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, and many flocks of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins as well as all of our common Winter ducks.

Many thanks for reporting your bird sightings: Pauline Jones, Jane/Abe Hester, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Joanne McMenamin, Cindy/Ken Groff, Shelia/Roger Jonhson, Mark Hymer, Dorothy Mosior, Jim Grove, Paul Weatherhead, Kathy/Grant Greiger, Rita/Joe Kernan, Ellen Lebeouf, Susan Taylor, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, John Crawford, Mary Alice Tartler, Karen Marts, Doreen Cubie, Mary Jane Cruise, Carolyn Kashman and all the birders and visitors who reported their sightings.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Out-Of-Season, Uncommon, 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.

It's a great time to get outside and bird your favorite spots as our weather warms and our Spring bird arrivals and migrants begin to move into and through our area!

NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

by Jack Greenshields

Spring is coming to the Audubon Newhall Preserve on Palmetto Bay Road. The rare Mottled Trillium is emerging at the edge of the parking lot and soon the Redbud and Fringe trees will be in bloom. Also if you look closely at the many clumps of Fetterbush you will see blossoms forming. The migrating Yellow-Rumped Warblers have arrived and are putting the bird bath to good use. And of course there is the pine pollen...

After taking the winter off, our team of experienced volunteers will again start conducting guided walks of the Audubon Newhall Preserve. These walks will be offered (weather permitting) Thursdays at 10am beginning March 5 and will continue through May 28. No reservations are needed and the walks are free to the public. However, donations are appreciated as they are an important source of income used to offset maintenance expenses. Leading walks this Spring are Kay Grinnell, Pauline Jones, Marie McClune, Joan Shulman, Grant Greider, Joanne McMenamin, Don Grubba, and Rita Kernan. Please join us at a guided walk this year!

Trail Monitors are volunteers who check the Preserve weekly for damage or issues requiring maintenance. I did this in January and Bob Clemens with his trusty companion Dixie has done this in February. Joanne McMenamin, Joan Shulman, and Sherm Barker have volunteered for the next several months.

Thanks to Rita and Joe Kernan, there is now a registered geocache in the Newhall Preserve. Please try to find it!

We do much of the needed maintenance in the Preserve during the cooler Spring months. There will be organized workdays as well as individually managed projects. If you would like to assist in these efforts and are not on my list of volunteers, please send me a note to jackg308@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome!

Evening Meetings

In response to a member's survey and inquiries from non-members, HHIAS will be hosting two evening meetings in addition to the regular 2nd Thursday of the month (3:00 pm) meetings.

March 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Scott Liggett, PE, Director of Public Projects and Facilities/Chief Engineer of Hilton Head Island will speak at Palmetto Electric Co-op on 111 Mathews Drive. Scott will give us important information regarding the 2015/16 Hilton Head Island Beach Restoration Project. WE ENCOURAGE members and the general public to attend and learn more about this major project on our island. Check out this website for more information. www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/departments/ppfac/projects/PRSoundRestoration/prsound.cfm

April 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Second evening meeting will be held. The meeting will again be at the Palmetto Electric Co-operative building on 111 Mathews Drive.

George Banino and Jerry Griffin will present a program sharing the great success story of Eastern Bluebirds on Hilton Head Island and in particular their story of Palmetto Hall Plantation. Jerry is an outstanding photographer detailing every aspect of the bluebirds' life and George loves statistics. Together they have a great story to tell.

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THINGS YOU AREN'T FEEDING THE BIRDS - YET

When was the last time you added a new feeder to your backyard? Or put out a special treat for the birds? Here are a few things you could try.

Peanut Butter - You can stuff the holes of a log feeder with peanut butter or even just smear it on tree bark. Woodpeckers, Blue Jays and Nuthatches relish peanut butter snacks.

Jelly - Grape jelly is becoming a go-to offering for orioles. Gray catbirds and red-bellied woodpeckers also can't resist the sweet, fruity stuff.

Mealworms - Try adding some mealworms to your buffet. Some people have success with oven-roasted worms, while others swear by the live ones.

Roasted Seeds -Plenty of birds are seedeaters, but think beyond the usual sunflower and safflower varieties. Try roasting pumpkin or squash seeds. Northern Cardinals, sparrows and other seed specialists will enjoy the variety.

Baked Eggshells - These provide calcium, which can be especially important for females during nesting season. But it is essential that you wash and bake the shells to kill off any potential pathogens. Crush them and add them to your seed, or just sprinkle them on the ground.

From "Birds and Blooms"

GEOCACHING.COM

When Jack Greenshields asked me to write an article about geocaching, I naturally went to Wikipedia to see what's being said now about this 14-year old simple hiking and seeking sport. Oh my gosh, it was the longest, most technical description I ever read. I decided to use the old Army acronym KISS, "Keep It simple, son."

It was 2001 and Joe and I had just retired to Hilton Head Island when the White House announced it had removed restrictive rules on the military's Global Positioning System (GPS). Ordinary people like us could purchase a hand-held device for \$49 and track signals from the government's 24 satellites circling the earth to find a location. You simply entered the latitude and longitude (coordinates) of a destination, and your GPser would lead you to it.

Within a few days of Pres. Clinton's announcement, a computer techie on the West Coast thought up a game for his friends using GPS. He hid a few trinkets and a log book in a container in the woods and published the coordinates. His rules were simple: take a prize, leave a prize, sign the log, and email him if you found it. Well, the game took off like wildfire and a formal website was set up, www.geocaching.com. Today there are more than 2.5 million active caches in almost every country, and most geocachers now use the free Geocaching app on their iPhones or Androids.

Our first find 12 years ago was in lovely Jarvis Creek Park, and since then this educational and fun sport has taken us to amazing places we never knew existed. When out birding or on a road trip, we simply enter the zip code to locate caches of interest to us. We have six of our own hidden around the island; and our latest one "Out on a Limb," is hidden in Audubon-Newhall Park on Palmetto Bay Road. Just enter 29928 and look for the "Sea Pines Duo" caches. Warning: they are diabolically hidden.

Rita Kernan

From Membership:

Are you confused about the difference between National Audubon dues and the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society dues? If so, you are not alone. Let's see if we can straighten this out.

If I belong to National, am I automatically a local member? **NO**, you are not. Belonging to the National Audubon Society doesn't make you a local member and vice versa. They are two separate entities.

Do I have to belong to National to be a local member? **NO**, you do not.

While many people belong to both the National and Local chapters, you may join our local Hilton Head Audubon Society without joining National.

Does the local chapter receive money from National when I renew those dues? **NO**, we do not. When someone joins National for the **first** time, our local society gets a small rebate. However, after that initial rebate, the local chapter receives nothing from National when you renew with them.

Are you confused about when your National dues are due because you get numerous mailings from them? Simply request that you receive only one membership renewal notice each year from National. **Please call Membership Customer Service at 800-274-4201** to make that request. All you need to have handy is your zip code and mailing address. I called, and it was very easy to do! Also, if you are a National Member and do not know when your National dues expire, contact either Carol or Fran (contacts below) and we can look it up for you!

Are you confused about when your LOCAL dues expire? We send out email reminders the quarter your local dues expire. Dues are good for one calendar year from the month you pay. If you have a question about your local dues, contact either Carol or Fran, or ask us at the Membership table at any local meeting.

The bottom line is that without our local Hilton Head Island Audubon Society dues and funds raised from the annual birdseed sale, we would have little or no operating funds. Your local dues stay local!

Your Membership chairs

Carol Clemens cclemens318@roadrunner.com

Fran Baer seatwo@roadrunner.com

New Members:

Please welcome the following folks who have joined us since mid-January:

Jeff and Carol Billman
Nancy Butler
John Cannon
Sandy Cathey
Joan and Berk Lambert
Kay Lauener
Barbara and John Wheeler



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facebook

A neat site to help you ID common birds!

National Geographic has a neat tool to help you identify the most common 150 birds. Answer four simple questions and a group of possible birds with an image is provided. Try it and see if it helps point you in the right direction for an ID!

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/backyard-bird-identifier/>



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Founded in 1974, the Hilton Head Audubon Society uses 100% of local membership dues for programs and activities in our own area. Your local dues provide support for the following:

- Monthly programs
- Field Trips
- Citizen Science projects such as the Christmas Bird Count
- Audubon Newhall Preserve
- Education Outreach programs
- Various learning opportunities

We need your help to continue these activities. All of the above are possible through our LOCAL DUES! We do NOT receive national funds for any of our local programs. Please join the Hilton Head Island chapter of the Audubon Society and support these local programs. Remember.....100% of the chapter dues stay LOCAL!

For membership information, contact: enews@hiltonheadaudubon.org

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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

I wish to make an extra donation of _____(amount)

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

Please mail to: P.O. Box 6185 – Hilton Head Island, SC - 29938 (Rev. 2/2015)



Audubon

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ECOBON

P. O. Box 6185

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938

Title: Ecobon

Issue Date: March 2015

Frequency: Monthly Sept.-May

Organization: Hilton Head Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 6185
Hilton Head, South Carolina 29938

Issue #: 353

MARCH ~ APRIL 2015 Calendar

Thurs. Mar. 5 Newhall Walk 10:00 am

Thurs. Mar. 5 Board Meeting at CCHH..... 2:00 pm

Sat. Mar. 7 Field Trip 8:45 am

Thurs. Mar. 12 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm
at Honey Horn

Weds. Mar. 25 Evening Program at Palmetto Electric Co-op ... 6:00 pm

Thurs. Apr. 2 Board Meeting at CCHH..... 2:00 pm

Thurs. Apr. 9 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm
at Honey Horn

Sat. Apr. 11 Field Trip 8:45 am

Weds. Apr. 22 Evening Program at Palmetto Electric Co-op ... 6:00 pm

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

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.