



Ecobon

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

MAY PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*
Thursday, May 7, 2015 , 5:30 pm

Members and their guests are cordially invited to the HHIAS Annual Picnic
at the Waddell Mariculture Center
May 7th 5:30 pm



Al Stokes, Manager of Waddell, will be our expert guide to what they do at Waddell and why they do it. Lots of beautiful scenery and good company.

Audubon will provide water, plates, cups, napkins etc. along with the fried chicken

Members can sign up to bring either a dessert, vegetable dish or a salad of their choice along with an adult beverage of their choosing.

Bring lawn chairs and insect repellent (strongly recommended)

May Field Trip

Please note this is the last field trip until next fall.

Saturday, May 2nd at 8:00am

Leader: Jack Colcolough

Place: Solomon Trac (Part of SNWR)

Carpooling (recommended): Meet at Neos Restaurant Moss Creek Village 7:15am

We will be doing a good bit of walking please be prepare: Hiking Boots, Long Pants, bug spray.

Hopefully Finds: Prothonotary Warblers, Northern Parulas, Summer Tanager and other Warblers.

Contact: Cindy Groff 843-682-3840 or email smilingcin@yahoo.com

Membership Report

We welcome two new members who have joined since the last Ecobon was published!

James Asmuth
Kate Shaefer

Our Sincere Condolence.....

Many of our members know long-time birder and CBC chair Barry Lowes. It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Phil, Barry's wife on April 15th in Canada. Phil was a delightful lady who will be greatly missed.

For those who would like to send a card or note to Barry, here is the address:

PO BOX 5081
CLAREMONT Ont. L1Y 1A4
Canada

HHI Audubon

Board of Directors:

President

Rick Riebesell 681-6424

Vice President

Robert Rommel 734-274-1796

Treasurer

Pauline Jones 715-9405

Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary

Marianne Currie 681-8525

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Susan & Kelly Murphy 686-3733

Christmas Bird Count Liaison

Joan Wilson 837-2874

Ecobon Editor

Immediate Past President

Natalie Hefter 304-9789

Emeritus

Barry Lowes

Standing Committee Chairs:

Audubon Newhall Preserve

Jack Greenshields 715-0340

Bob Clemens 689-2903

Bird Walks/Field Trips

Cindy & Kenn Groff 682-3840

Conservation

Bill Nicol 671-4721

Robert Rommel 734-274-1796

Education

Grant Greider 404-313-8208

Membership

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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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Rick Riebesell*

It Has Been a Privilege

This will be my last President's Message. As my term as President of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society comes to an end, I thank the membership for supporting the Society and its activities. There are many individuals who during my tenure have worked very hard to maintain and improve the operation of the Society. I thank them for making things work.

Past President Natalie Hefter passed on an organization that was vibrant and active. In addition, Natalie kept up the web page and other things Internet. Joan Wilson continued her excellent work on the *Ecobon*, producing our very well-liked newsletter on time. Carol Clemens reorganized our membership data and got the dues paying machinery functioning. Fran Baer learned the system and backed her up. Marianne Curie continued as Secretary and rendered very readable meeting minutes in a format which incorporated written reports made before the meeting. Kathy Greider took charge of the programs with Grant Greider assisting and doing the Meet-A-Bird presentations. Grant also headed the education effort and taught the Introduction to Birding Series. Cindy and Ken Groff arranged monthly field trips that were well-attended. Susan and Kelly Murphy led the effort on the Christmas Bird Count and did a fine job even though the guiding light of our organization, Barry Lowes, was much missed. Pauline Jones worked with John Faucette to learn the job of treasurer. Also, Pauline assisted me in getting the Hilton Head Island Birding Trail funded and established. Jack Greenshields and Bob Clemens did a masterful job of managing the affairs of the Newhall Preserve. Bill Nicol coordinated the efforts of the conservation committee, which had many active members working with the town and developers. Robert Rommel served as Vice President and is the incoming President. He brings sterling qualifications to the task. Many of the same people who helped me will help him. That makes me feel very optimistic about the future of the Society.

These people and the members of the Society taught me that the Society is a strong force in the community not only because of its activities, but because of the habits of the members demonstrated by these activities. Our existence over time depends on humility, our ability to observe, learn from, and preserve the natural elements of this world. Society members model the behavior of paying attention to and learning from nature. Our activities enable this modeling and help others to recognize the benefits of taking time to appreciate nature. Our best activities focus upon this strength. There is a tradition that civilization or progress involves a mastery of nature, but the reality is that the forces of nature are far more powerful than the tools humans use to try to manage nature.

The most important thing we do is introduce others to pay attention and observe the mystery and fascination of nature. I am proud to have been able to serve that effort. It has been a privilege.

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

An active Spring migration is in progress and expected to peak shortly. Most of our Summer birds have arrived here and many of our Winter birds have departed for northern areas to breed.

We have gotten off to a very good start on our Spring migration with the reporting of seventeen species of warblers in our area so far including: Prothonotary, Prairie, Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated and Black & White Warblers, both Waterthrushes, Ovenbird, Northern Parula and the Rare species shown below. Other Spring migrants reported were: Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush and Common Tern.

Rare species reported were: Cape May, Hooded, Nashville and Worm-eating Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Kingbird, Bachman's Sparrow, Purple Sandpiper and King Rail.

Uncommon species month included: Late Purple Finch, many Pine Siskins, endangered Piping Plover, Wood Thrush, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red-cockaded and Hairy Woodpeckers, Loggerhead Shrike, Baltimore Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Whimbrel, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, American Pipit, American Avocet, Stilt Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt, Red-throated Loon, White-winged Scoter, Caspian Tern, Rusty Blackbird, Seaside and Field Sparrows, Wild Turkey, Eurasian-collared Dove, late Dark-eyed Junco, Sedge and House Wrens, Chimney Swift and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Other Summer arrivals and "good sightings" reported included: Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Chuck-wills-widow, Painted Bunting, Red Knot, Wilson's Snipe, Purple Martin, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, many Ruby-throated Humming-birds, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Green Heron, Sandwich Tern, Common Loon, Sora, Cattle Egret, Red-breasted Merganser and many Bald Eagles and flocks of Cedar Waxwings.

Many thanks to all reporting your bird sightings: Pauline Jones, Jane/ Abe Hester, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Joanne Mc-Menamin, Dianne Faucette, Cindy/Ken Groff, Shelia/Roger Johnson, Mark Hymer, Dorothy Mosior, Jim Grove, Kathy/Grant Greiger, Rita/ Joe Kernan, Annette Hausman, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Ellen/ Tom Lebeouf, Mary Ann Lueckel, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Lori Merrill, Vicky McMillan, Mary Alice Tartler, Karen Marts, Doreen Cubie, Mary Jane Cruise, Dick Phillips and the 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 of year to get out into the field for birding and to find the last of our Spring migrants as well as our Summer arrivals!

FEEDING BIRDS WITH ORANGES

An oriole's diet varies. Insects are harder to find in the spring, so orioles especially seek ripe fruit and berries in that season.

Perhaps the best thing about oranges is the low maintenance. Simply hammer a nail to a deck railing or fence post and stick an orange half to the nail. Or set a couple of orange halves right in your feeder.

Try to anticipate when orioles will arrive in your back yard. You'll have the best chance of success if you put oranges out early. If orioles heading north find a good feeding spot, they may stick around for breeding season and beyond, which means oriole guests for the entire summer.

Don't stop at oranges, put out apple halves the same way as oranges. Set an overripe banana, grapes, or even a chunk of melon on a platform feeder and have fun watching which birds fill up on fruit.

From Birds and Bloom

BELTED KINGFISHER

How fascinating it is to watch a kingfisher! These masterful hunters typically station themselves on an exposed snag over a creek, stream, river, or lake, and scan the clear water below for aquatic prey. When the kingfisher spies movement, it descends from its perch in a fast dive, eyes closed, and grabs an unsuspecting stickleback or stoneroller with its heavy, dagger-like bill.

The kingfisher rarely submerges, but instead grabs a small fish from just below the water's surface. Once its target is secured, the kingfisher returns to its perch and bashes its prey against the branch, stunning the fish, making it easier to swivel around and swallow head first.

Sometimes instead of hunting from a perch, a kingfisher will hover over the water, watching below. On some occasions these resourceful birds have been observed hovering above actively foraging egrets.

There are roughly 90 species of kingfishers on Earth: only three are commonly encountered in the United States and Canada: the smallish green kingfisher, the much larger ringed kingfisher, and the jay-sized belted kingfisher.

Most open-water habitats in North America harbor at least one belted kingfisher at some point in the year. The birds breed throughout the northern two-thirds of the United States and into much of Canada, but come winter when the temperatures dip, many are forced to move southward or toward coastal areas in search of open water.

From Bird Watcher's Digest

Conservation Committee Update

Members of the Conservation Committee have been monitoring the Town of Hilton Head activities impacting the environment and have been attending Planning and Town Council meetings when appropriate.

Several committee members have been meeting with other interested parties to discuss longer term goals and visions regarding environmental issues on Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County.

Hilton Head Audubon was given a presentation on the beach re-nourishment project by Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects & Facilities. The project is planned to commence in the Spring of 2016 and be completed by early summer. In the planning process, the town is giving consideration to Piping Plover activity at the Port Royal Plantation and the loggerhead sea turtle nesting season. We will be closely monitoring the re-nourishment of the Fish Haul Creek area.

Robert Rommel met with representatives of Blanchard and Calhoun who are the developers of the Shelter Cove/Kroger project and an understanding was reached regarding the retention pond that is behind Kroger and is used as a seasonal roosting site by many birds. The existing vegetation around the pond will be preserved and a viewing platform will be eventually constructed to include an educational panel.

The planning process regarding the linear park development and its impact upon the Folly, Chaplain Park, and Collier Beach are being closely followed. Fran Baer and Susan Murphy have been conducting wildlife surveys in the area following a protocol developed by Robert Rommel.

The Town of Hilton Head is pursuing the Audubon International sustainable Communities Program certification. The action plan specifically refers to joint efforts of the town and Hilton Head Audubon.

The planning and construction process of the redevelopment of Pineland Station is being monitored.

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges was attended. The Kingfisher Pond Discovery Center is a major goal of the Friends organization as there are no Federal funds available. The Savannah National Wildlife Refuge needs a building for school and community activities and this project will hopefully meet that need. Hilton Head Audubon has made a contribution to this project as have many individual members. Also at this meeting, Fish and Wildlife representatives reported on the impact of deepening of the Savannah River to accommodate larger container ships. The Savannah Wildlife Refuge will lose more than 200 acres of fresh water marsh due to salt water incursion. Some of this has been replaced by purchasing additional fresh water marsh lands funded by mitigation funds available because of the river dredging.

If any Hilton Head Audubon member sees an environmental/conservation area of concern or has any comments or suggestions or wants to become active in conservation, please contact Jack Greenshields at jackg308@gmail.com. or 651-491-1851.

Jack Greenshields

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Field Trip to view a National Wildlife Federation Back Yard Preserve and Monarch Waystation.

On Tuesday April 7 at 5:30 pm 50 members visited fellow members Ted and Gillian Heintz's property to see for themselves the benefits of seeking certification from the NWF and Monarch groups. Members spent time strolling round the property, binoculars at the ready to view the numerous birds that obligingly showed up. Some flew in to visit the eight feeders, but many were just enjoying the marsh and marine life in Heddy's Gutter opposite the property.

During cocktails and a light supper Gillian gave a very brief overview of the process and highlighted some of the changes to the garden that had led to certification. The major impact was the removal of the lawns and planting groundcover, flowers and vegetables instead. Sweet potatoes, strawberries, squash and watermelon are infinitely preferable to grass! She also spoke of the challenge of gardening with competition from deer, rabbits and other wildlife! Materials were on hand for members to take to start their own certification process.

While the purpose of the event was certification, members really enjoyed the social side of the evening as name tags helped people to get to know one another a bit better. The hosts were sorry to have to limit the number because of space. Anyone interested in knowing more about the process can email Gillian at Gillian@GilliansFineArt.com

There are 2 exciting programs coming up in addition to our regularly scheduled field trips that you might be interested in attending! See the program descriptions on pages 6 & 7. Email me with any questions! ~ Kristen

Satellite Tracking of Ospreys: Their Migration, Ecology, and Conservation

Join us May 27th at 5:30 pm at the Palmetto Electric community room for a program given by Dr. Rob Bierregard about osprey ecology. Dr. Bierregard has been studying ospreys since 1971 and we are very lucky he has offered to do a talk for us while visiting the area! We will also invite the Sea Island Fly Fishers and Hilton Head/Fripp Audubon clubs to join us for this program. Full program description is on page 6.

Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project Training Session *(contact Kristen to register!)*

This citizen science training program will be held on June 9th from 9AM-12PM at the Art Barn on Spring Island. Participating in citizen science projects is a great way to get your volunteer hours in! The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) is a citizen science project involving volunteers from across the United States and Canada in monarch research. You'll leave the workshop with specific knowledge on how to choose and monitor an MLMP site, enter your data on-line, interpret your findings, and engage your friends, family members, and neighbors in an exciting science research project. See page 7 for full details.

Through a grant, this program is available at no charge to you and the first 15 individuals or teams to sign up will receive a MLMP monitoring kit: a clip board with id guide, a folding ruler, hand lens, a field apron, thermometer, rain gauge, and invertebrate ID field guide. If you sign up for this workshop and receive a kit, MLMP project leaders ask that you commit to monitoring on a weekly basis for 2 growing seasons. (Missing a week or two due to travel or illness is ok, don't let that stop you! Better yet, sign up as a team and monitor with friends so you can share the responsibility.)

This program is worth 3 hours of advanced training, and will prepare you to log weekly volunteer hours through the growing season. It will be taught by Susan Meyers from Monarchs Across Georgia. Susan is a retired educator from Stone Mountain Park outside of Atlanta and was inspired to learn and teach about monarchs after a 2003 trip to their wintering grounds in Mexico. She is an official MLMP trainer.

Kristen Marshall Mattson, environmental educator
The LowCountry Institute
40 Mobley Oaks Ln.
Okatie, SC 29909
843-987-2732



from Pinterest



April's Pinckney Field Trip

by Carol Clemens

After postponing the original Pinckney trip because of threats of severe weather, the group met on April 18th to enjoy a leisurely stroll up to and around Ibis Pond at Pinckney. It was a very productive trip with a list of 40 birds sighted. Highlights included a summer tanager, red-headed woodpecker, whimbrel, sora, blue grosbeak, and numerous varieties of nesting egrets and herons. Thanks to Cindy G. for organizing the trip and to Carol C. for leading it.



Satellite Tracking of Ospreys: Their Migration, Ecology, and Conservation



Join us for a presentation by biologist
Dr. Rob Bierregaard
looking into the lives of ospreys.

Wednesday May 27th at 5:30PM
The Community Room at
Palmetto Electric in Hardeeville

When, in the mid 1990s, technological advances permitted us to build radio transmitters capable of sending signals to satellites orbiting the earth and small enough to place on an Osprey, windows into their lives away from the nest were thrown wide open. Thanks to bird banding recoveries, we already knew that most North American Ospreys migrate to South America, and we had a reasonable feel for the routes and timing of their migrations. But because almost all band returns are from dead birds, we lacked the fine details of their migratory routes and knew little of their movements around the nest during the breeding season.

Dr. Bierregaard is a research associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University and a former professor of ornithology and ecology at UNC-Charlotte. He has been studying ospreys since 1971 and has been tagging them in the eastern U.S. since 2000. He has deployed satellite transmitters on 50 juvenile and 41 adult Ospreys. His studies—the first to collect a significant body of data on juvenile migration—have led to surprising discoveries about the dispersal and migration of naïve Ospreys as they leave their natal territories and explore the world around them. Ever-more sophisticated satellite transmitters have enabled us to document in unprecedented detail the hunting behavior of adult males feeding their families.

This program is sponsored by the
LowCountry Master Naturalist
Association



The Palmetto Electric
Community Room is located at:
1 Cooperative Way
Hardeeville, SC
across from the entrance to the New
River campus of USCB and adjacent
to Sun City

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project



Are you concerned about the status of monarch populations?

Would you like to become a citizen scientist and contribute data to the study of monarchs?

*Do you have access to a natural area or garden where milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) are growing?*

Join us for a Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP)* workshop to learn how you can help! Teams that will monitor the same site are encouraged to participate to share the experience. Participants will learn about monarch biology including how to identify eggs, the five stages of larvae, pupae, and male and female adults. In the field training using the MLMP protocols for sampling monarchs and milkweeds as well as the online data entry process will be covered.

Date: Tuesday June 9

Time: 9AM-12PM

Location: Spring Island Art Barn

Contact Kristen kmattson@lowcountryinstitute.org or 843-987-2732 to register



Space is limited. Register now.



*If your team is willing to commit to regularly monitor and report your data for **two** milkweed growing seasons, you will receive an official MLMP Monitoring Kit (valued at \$45) which includes an apron, clipboard, rain gauge, hand lens, ruler, thermometer, a set of life cycle cards, and the book entitled "Milkweed, Monarchs and More: A Field Guide to the Invertebrate Community in the Milkweed Patch." **One kit per team.***

*The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project is a citizen science project involving volunteers from across the United States and Canada in monarch research. It was developed by researchers at the University of Minnesota to collect long-term data on larval monarch populations and milkweed habitat. The overarching goal of the project is to better understand how and why monarch populations vary in time and space, with a focus on monarch distribution and abundance during the breeding season in North America. As an MLMP volunteer, your contributions will aid in conserving monarchs and their threatened migratory phenomenon, and advance our understanding of butterfly ecology in general. mlmp.org

The hands-on training and monitoring equipment for this Monarch Larva Monitoring Project workshop have been made possible through the generous support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.





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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Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938

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MAY ~ SEPTEMBER 2015 Calendar

May Newhall Walks on Thursdays at 10:00 am

Sat. May 2	Field Trip	8:45 am
Thurs. May 7	Board Meeting at CCHH	10:00 am
Thurs. May 7	Annual Picnic	5:30 pm
	at Wassell Mariculture Center	

Happy Summer!

Thurs. Sept. 3	Board Meeting at CCHH	10:00 am
Thurs. Sept. 10	Monthly Meeting	3:00 pm
	at Honey Horn	

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.