



September 2015
No. 356

Ecobon

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

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*

Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 3:00 pm

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

Bluebirds - their life story told in pictures and how you can capture their beauty as well.

Presented by Jerry Griffin

Through his images Jerry will share how he has taken his award winning images of bluebirds and how you too can take these kinds of pictures. Jerry's simple techniques will work for any level of photographer. Jerry will share images he has taken at Palmetto Hall of not only bluebirds and their life cycle but also tufted titmouse, chickadees and even wood ducks.

Professional Experience

Jerry worked for Eastman Kodak both in Rochester, NY and Melbourne, Australia before his retirement. In his position as Assistant to Kodak's Worldwide Manufacturing Vice President, Jerry managed to travel the world including India and several trips into China. At the time of his retirement Jerry was the Director of Kodak Sensitized Goods Manufacturing for the Asia Pacific Region.

Photographic experience

Jerry has been an active member of Photo Society of America and has won over 100 medals and 150 ribbons in international competitions. One of his prints hangs in the Kodak CEO's office, another in the CEO's private dining room. Jerry served as President of the Kodak Camera Club in Rochester. He was the Kodak Photographer in Yosemite and Acadia National Parks several summers and on two cruises teaching people how to take better pictures. He has taught Beginning Digital Photography with the Oshier Life Long Learning (University of South Carolina) where he was named a "Distinguished Teacher" and Photoshop Elements and Digital Photography at the Hilton Head Art Academy. He gave seminars at Island Digital Photo on all aspects of Digital Photography including Camera Use, Composition, Travel Photography and Managing Your Photos. Jerry has twice served as the President of the Hilton Head Camera Club and has judged photo competitions throughout the country.

Jerry retired to Hilton Head in 1999 to play golf and get away from all that snow up north. Jerry and his wife, JoAnn, have two daughters and two grandchildren who unfortunately live in New York City. For the past several years he has been chronicling the bluebird activity at Palmetto Hall where he lives. In May 2015 one of his images (baby bluebirds and eggs) won the Island Packet "Spring" photo contest.

FREE ~ Open to the public without registration. **VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**
For More Information Contact: Coastal Discovery Museum at 843.689.6767
or visit our website: www.hiltonheadaudubon.org

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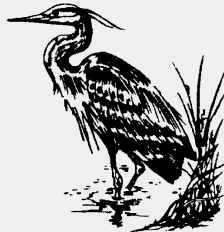
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The *Ecobon* is a monthly publication (September through May) of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society. Subscription is a benefit of membership. Direct inquiries to P.O. Box 6185, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938 or call one of the above officers or chairpersons.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Robert Rommel*

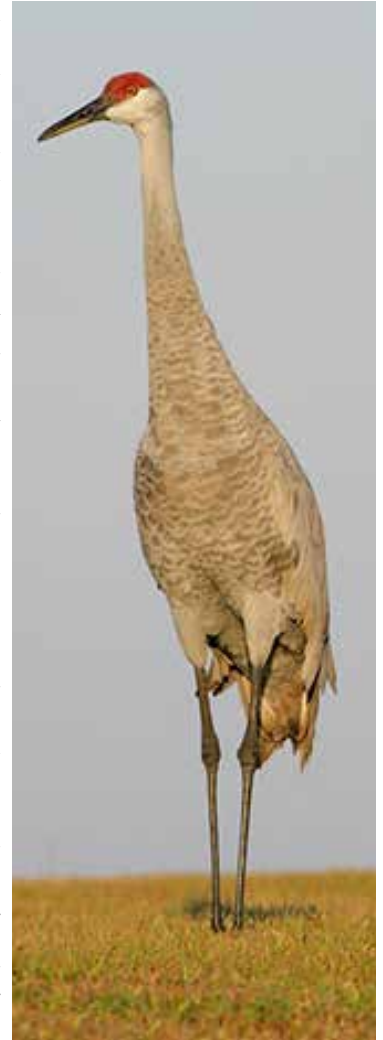
Departures and Arrivals

Early fall is a time of departures and arrivals. This is the time that many birds will leave their breeding grounds to return to their wintering grounds. As if to parallel their avian brethren, many of Hilton Head Island's winter residents will return from the cooler climes where they spent their summer.

I have the privilege of 'arriving' as the new President of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society. Like a young Sandhill Crane that will make its first flight across the continent, I don't know all the ropes and I certainly don't know where the journey will take us to. But I do have firm confidence that I will be starting out point in the right direction due to the solid foundation and past leadership of past HHI Audubon board members and presidents. Last year's group with Rick Riebesell as president was exemplary and expanded the society's activities and focus at the same time as preserving the events and traditions that we all have come to love.

That young crane will be relying on its wing mates during its maiden flight. I, too, will be relying on you all. The Hilton Head Audubon Society is *your* society. Please do not hesitate at any time to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or just a desire to talk. Whether you have a great plan for you think the society could be doing, a place where you think we have made a grievous mistake, or just a question about what the little brown bird in your yard might have been, I'd like to hear from you. You can always reach me by e-mail or phone (rommel@robertrommel.com / 734-274-1796).

That young crane may be in for a surprise as it flies across vast areas that are covered with concrete or dotted by buildings. Just a handful of generations ago its ancestors would only have flown across forests, rivers, marshes, and prairies. Yet the HHI Audubon Society is a testament that people still appreciate this bird, marvel at its flight, and delight in hearing its primordial call. During the hustle and bustle of this frenetic time take some time out to soak in Nature, hear her voice, and watch the pageantry that she will show. Whether it is taking a trip to see a marvel like the flight of the cranes or sneaking a long glance at the cardinal outside your window, appreciating these sights will provide boundless entertainment and highlight the connections we have with others in this amazing world!



RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Birding was very good in our HHI area since we last reported in early May. Late Spring migrants moved through our area while our Summer birds arrived and some will stay until Fall. Some Fall migrants and Winter arrivals have already shown up in our area.

Our early Fall migration is off to a great start with thirteen warbler species already reported in our area including: Hooded, Worm-eating, Prothonotary, Cape May, Prairie and Yellow Warblers, Ovenbird, both Waterthrushes, American Redstart and Northern Parula.

Some early Winter shorebirds have already arrived on our beaches as reported by our local Audubon group in its monthly International Shorebird Survey and others and included: Endangered Piping Plover, Marbled Godwit, American Oystercatcher, Wilson's, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher, Least, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings.



Rare bird species sighted during this long period were: Yellow-headed Blackbird at Port Comfort on HHI, Wilson's Phalarope near Savannah, Black Tern at Fish Haul Creek, Gray Kingbird on Tybee and Harbor Islands, Western Kingbird at Hutchinson Island, Virginia and King Rails at Savannah NWR, Solitary Sandpiper at Crystal Lake in Indigo Run, Bachman's Sparrow at the Sand Hills Preserve, White-rumped Sandpiper at Harbor Island, Yellow-breasted Chat, Cape May Warbler and Roseate Spoonbills at several locations.



Uncommon species reported included: Reddish Egret, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Whimbrel, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, American Bittern, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, Veery, Wood Thrush, Purple Gallinule, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Swainson's Thrush, Saltmarsh and Seaside Sparrows, Glossy Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Least Tern, Chimney Swift, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, House Wren and White-breasted Nuthatch.

During our 2014 Spring migration we reported finding twenty-four wood warbler species in our area including: Kentucky, Tennessee, Prothonotary, Black-throated Blue, Swainson's, Blackpoll, Cape May, Nashville Warblers as well as the rare and uncommon species mentioned above. Also sighted were thirteen other Spring migrants mentioned previously.



Other "good finds" reported included: Summer Tanager, Bobolink, Red Knot, Marbled Godwit, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Orchard Oriole, Black-throated blue and Eastern Meadowlark, Spotted Sandpiper, Painted Bunting, American Robin, Red- and White-eyed Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Stork, and many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Many thanks to all reporting their sightings: Kathy/Grant Greider, Diane Churchill, Carol Clemens, Chris Marsh, Fran/Danny Baer, Rita/Joe Kernan, Pauline Jones, Cindy/Ken Groff, Joanne McMemamin, Jane/Abie Hester, Dorothy Mosier, Annette Hausman, Mark Hymer, Doreen Cubie, Paul Weatherhead, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Deb Beam, Dick Phillips, Buddy Campbell, Royce Hough, Mary Ann Lueckel, Mary Ann Cruise, Nancy Mitchell and a number of 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@yahoogroups.com or call [843-432-2661](tel: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 entering the best birding season of our year now! It's a great time to go birding!



BOOK REVIEW

The Thing with Feathers – Noah Strycker

Subtitled “The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal about Being Human” is a fascinating book. Divided into three parts, Body, Mind, and Spirit, the book has short chapters each focusing on a specific bird and how its actions resemble human behavior. One chapter in the Body section discusses how homing pigeons find their way home. In the Mind section, there is a chapter dedicated to penguins and why they tend to all dive into the water at once. One of the most interesting was a chapter on Australian Bowerbirds in the Spirit portion of the book. These birds construct elaborate, artistic, bowers to attract a mate.

If you are looking for a good read or a gift for a birder, take a look at this very interesting and informative work.

Reviewed by Carol Clemens



Our first field trip for the fall season

- Location: Spoil Site SNWR (a restricted area)
- Date: Saturday, October 3, 2015
- Start time: 8:00 am till noon
- Leader: TBD
- Participants: Limited to 20
- Additional Information: There are no restrooms on the property.
- Mandatory Special instructions per the Spoil Site: Long pants, long sleeved shirts, closed toed shoes (boots are recommend), Bug spray.
- Upon arrival you will be required to sign various forms required to access this restricted area. Four wheel drive and SUV vehicles preferred. We are permitted a maximum of 5 vehicles.
- *To sign up, contact:*
- Cindy Groff@ 843-682-3840
- or email smilingcin@yahoo.com

Fact or Fiction ~

Keeping feeders up in the fall prevents hummingbirds from migrating south?

As the weather starts to change, many people fear that their feeders might entice birds to stick around too late in the season. However, a hummingbird’s instinct to migrate is so strong that it doesn’t matter whether feeders are available. Like other migratory birds, hummers grow restless as changes in day length and the angle of the sun occur in spring and fall. Ornithologists have termed this migratory restlessness “zugunruhe” from the German “zug” meaning pulling or move, and “unruhe” meaning anxiety or restlessness. It is possible to see a late straggler at your feeder, perhaps a female still putting on fat and muscle after rearing young before beginning her southward journey.

Taken from BirdWatcher’s Digest.



Membership Report for September 2015 Ecobon

Please welcome the following new members who have joined the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society during our summer break.

Linda Bloom
Ruth and Charles Perry
Judy Staubo
David Stephens
Keith and Joy Watkins



A reminder About Our Local Dues:

Thanks to all who so generously support the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society by joining our group. Without your dues, we would be very limited in what we can do. Remember we get no support from National other than the first year that someone joins the National Audubon Society. After that, all funds come to us through your dues and donations.

Remember...we are not just for the birds! We support other programs such as the Coastal Conservation League, our local Coastal Discovery Museum, and made a donation toward a classroom space at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge.

Wondering when to renew your membership in the local Audubon Society? We renew by quarters so that your dues are renewed one year from the time you paid. You will get an email reminder from us during the quarter in which your dues expire. You can either mail in the form and check or bring it to a meeting. Questions about membership?

Contact Carol Clemens clemens318@roadrunner.com or
Fran Baer seatwo@roadrunner.com

Thanks Keith!



For the past 15 years, Keith Carpenter has been monitoring and reporting on 15 bluebird boxes in the farm plots and Cypress areas of Hilton Head Plantation.

He has done this alone, faithfully checking the boxes on a regular basis each Spring to Fall. This year, Keith contacted the Hilton Head Audubon Society requesting someone to replace him. Working through our Hilton Head Plantation Christmas Bird Count Volunteers and our Audubon members in HHP, we were able to find nine people to help with these duties.

Thanks to Keith for his many years of service on this project and to the following who are taking over this task: Jim Ellis, Chris Johnson, Bonnie Lavy, Doris Lindner, MJ Maffie, Marian Trenis, Rick Ulrich, Cindy Wilson, and box repairer Bob Clemens.



Education Committee Report

Friday, August 14th, Kathy and I, ably assisted by Carol Clemens represented Hilton Head Island Audubon Society (HHIAS) at the Family Fun Day sponsored by The Coastal Discovery Museum. We spent the day on the covered deck at the end of the Oyster Walkway talking to families about the salt marsh, crabs, birds and HHIAS.

In April, Kathy (I was out of town) presented a program for Earth Day at the HHI library about litter and its effects on birds and turtles on the island. The program was well received by the kids, their parents and the library staff. Remember "Litter is a Mess for Humans BUT Litter Can Kill Birds and Turtles".

HHIAS has also purchased from National Audubon teacher packets for several local teachers.

I will be repeating the Birding 101 class again this fall at the Coastal Discovery Museum on Saturday mornings: October 17th & 24th and November 7th & 14th. The classes will start at 9:30 a.m. and run till noon. Last year's participants provided positive feedback and a good increase in membership.

Class is Free for members and just \$5 a session for non-member. Tell your friends and sign up by sending an e-mail to greider38@gmail.com

by Grant Greider, Education Chair

Programs For the Upcoming Months

The new Audubon season is here. Meetings start Thursday, September 10th at the usual time and location. Our speaker will be Jerry Griffin, a HHI resident and active Christmas Bird Count participant at Palmetto Hall. See complete information for the program in a separate article in Ecobon.

In the upcoming months we will have some excellent speakers from South Carolina Audubon, ACE Basin, Kiawah Island, and a whole lot more.



HHIAS Develops the Hilton Head Island Birding Trail

The Hilton Head Island Birding Trail is on the Internet (<http://hiltonheadislandbirdingtrail.org> or <http://hhibt.org>). Go to the site to discover the wildlife and birding areas around Hilton Head Island.

With funding from an ATAX grant from the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society developed the Hilton Head Island Birding Trail. Now the birding trail is live as an Internet site and available on a variety of platforms, including tablets and smart phones. The birding trail will provide those interested in accessing natural areas from Hilton Head Island with information about the areas and will also include information about local businesses who sponsor the birding trail. The Android app is available free at Google Play and the Apple app is available free at the App Store.

Audubon society members provide the content to the website. The site has information about natural areas, directions to the areas, and information about businesses supporting the birding trail. The smart phone application allows that information to be hand held, even in areas where there is no mobile phone signal. Social media marketing and direct advertising will generate use of the birding trail. The metrics for performance of the birding trail will be the activity on the website and identified visits to described areas and business sponsors.

The birding trails concept began with signs and pamphlets marking and describing areas where wildlife viewing, especially birding, could be enjoyed. Because of the physical work of placing the signs and the cost of printing pamphlets, the first birding trails were created through government agencies, usually departments of wildlife or tourism. Today a birding trail does not require physical signs on the ground or hard-copy pamphlets, rather the birding trail is a collection of information (database) about wildlife areas available on the Internet. Internet traffic information shows that the birding trail sites are very popular and draw visitors to wildlife areas. The nature-viewing public is depending more and more on Internet information, not only for specific information about natural areas, but also for all sorts of other related information about facilities and travel.

A goal of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is to help preserve wildlife habitat by creating a community-wide appreciation of natural areas. Natural areas are wildlife habitat and an attraction to visitors, who will patronize businesses around the natural areas they visit and will seek out businesses who support those areas. The Hilton Head Island Birding Trail provides information, including GPS driving directions, to the many scenic natural areas around the island. While many in the community may not perceive the aesthetic of the nature viewer, linking an economic benefit to a natural area helps the entire community recognize the value of the area and thereby encourages the preservation of natural wildlife areas.

Business sponsorship supports the operation of the Hilton Head Island Birding Trail. The birding trail software monitors use and enables businesses to see the visitor activity and patronage. Sponsors are entitled to use the logo and identifying information of the birding trail to indicate support of the natural areas and the birding trail. A sponsor will be listed on the birding trail website, will have the sponsor's location identified on a map, and will have a page on the web site available for information about the sponsor's business including any special offers the sponsor may wish to make. Businesses interested in sponsoring the birding trail should contact Rick Riebesell at rick@riebesell.com.



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Save the Date!

The Christmas Bird Count

is on

Monday, December 14, 2015

Coordinator:

Susan Murphy at HHICBC@gmail.com



Wild Birds Unlimited

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- Field Guides
- Nature Books
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- Custom Seed Blends
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45 Pembroke Dr., Suite 130
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
843-681-4461

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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

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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SEPTEMBER ~ OCTOBER 2015 Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Thurs. Sept. 3 Board Meeting at CCHH..... 10:00 am
Thurs. Sept. 10 Monthly Meeting3:00 pm
at Honey Horn

Birding 101 Classes - Saturdays
10/17, 10/24, 11/7, and 11/14
9:30 AM - Coastal Discovery Museum

OCTOBER

Thurs. Oct. 1 Board Meeting at CCHH..... 10:00 am
Thurs. Oct. 8 Monthly Meeting3:00 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.