



Ecobon

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



Hilton Head Island Audubon Society

Annual Picnic Thursday, May 10th

RSVP by May 7th to clemens318@gmail.com

Where: Waddell Mariculture Center
211 Sawmill Creek Road (DIRECTIONS BELOW)

When: **5:00 p.m.** Walk around, enjoy the area, and relax with friends!

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Program by: **Al Stokes: The Work of the Waddell Mariculture Center**

Cost: **\$10 per member / \$10 per guest**

May be paid at the picnic (by cash or check) and includes a donation to the Waddell Mariculture Center.

Food: HHIAS will provide Fried Chicken*, plates, silverware, napkins, soft drinks, and water.

Each family is asked to bring a side dish that serves 4-6

Last names A – I: bring a salad or veggie dish

Last names J – Q: bring a dessert or fruit

Last names R – Z: bring chips, crackers, or cheese plate

You may bring adult beverages if desired.

Insect Repellent is suggested!

Bring a chair if you want.

***If Fried Chicken is not a desired a main dish, please bring something else for yourself.**



Reserve by May 7th by emailing: clemens318@gmail.com



Take William Hilton/US 278 to Sawmill Creek Road

From HHI, turn RIGHT onto Sawmill Creek Road; From BLUFFTON it will be a LEFT turn.

Continue until you see the entrance to Waddell on your LEFT. Continue through the entrance to the last building on the right. Park in the parking area or along the road.

HHI Audubon

Board of Directors:

President

Jane Hesterim4dbirds@gmail.com

Vice President

John Bloomfield ...jm.bloomfield@outlook.com

Treasurer

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Rita Kernan

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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 email one of the above officers

or chairpersons or send a general

email to hhiudubon@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Jane Hester*

I am honored to accept the presidency of Hilton Head Island Audubon Society. As a long time member, area Christmas Bird Count captain, past board member, grant recipient and occasional field trip leader, I have long enjoyed the benefits and opportunities afforded by our organization. HHIA has had a long history of strong leaders and members who are dedicated to fulfilling our mission which includes protection and preservation of natural ecosystems. It is hoped that we will, with everyone's help continue our fine tradition of stewardship and appreciation of nature.

Since this is The Year of the Bird increased emphasis has been placed on the National Audubon Society and its role of maintaining a world with secure places for birds and wise policies that protect both birds, their habitats and human populations. However, it seems that the threats and assaults to our environment pose a greater danger than ever. These dangers are occurring worldwide as populations increase. In our community we are fortunate to have so many people committed to birding and to conservation. As the year moves forward I hope we can continue to address our local issues either by finding resolutions or by softening impacts of things we cannot remedy. This will take a team effort, not only from our Audubon Society, but also from other like-minded organizations in our area. With everyone pitching in, we will have a chance to preserve our natural environment from which we take so much pleasure. I look forward to a great year.

Board Election

At our monthly meeting on April 19, 2018, the membership enthusiastically voted for the nominees for our board for the 2018-19 year.

Our new board members are:

Jane Hester - President

John Bloomfield - Vice President

John J. Coleman III - Conservation Committee Chair

Lynn Hodgson - Member at Large

Marina Bloomfield - Member at Large

Our current Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Chairs and Members at Large have all agreed to serve another year. Robert Rommel, as past President, will continue on the board as a Member at Large.

We also have two volunteers as a result of our call for assistance: Marge Igyarto has joined the Education Committee and Cindy Groff will head up Social Media as part of the Publicity Committee.

Contact information for the board members is on Page 2. Please contact them if you have interest in any of these activities.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Pauline Jones, Robert Rommel, Susan Murphy) I would like to thank all who expressed interest in board positions as well as those who volunteered to serve on committees.

Congratulations and welcome to our new board members!

Susan Murphy

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough



Western Tanager

We are well into our Spring migration with it comes a very active birding month for us! Most of our Summer species have arrived and some of our Winter species are still here but all will be leaving soon ... and fourteen species of warblers have already been reported this Spring, including transient migrants that are still passing through our area. It appears that we are having a late migration again this Spring.

Accidental species reported during the last month were: Black-legged Kittiwake (gull) that has hung around the Savannah docks for several weeks, Bridled Tern sighted out in the Atlantic Ocean near Savannah and beautiful Western Tanager found in Pooler, GA.

Rare species found were: Cape May Warbler, Virginia Rail and Common Tern on HHI, Scarlet Tanager in Beaufort, SC, Bachman's Sparrow at Webb WMA, Black-chinned Hummingbird at Skidaway Island, Wilson's Phalarope and King Rail at Onslow Island and Solitary Sandpiper in Savannah, GA.

Uncommon species were many and include: Hairy and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, American White Pelican, Pine Siskin, endangered Piping Plover, American and Least Bitterns, Whimbrel, Yellow, Orange-crowned and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Brewer's Blackbird, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Merlin, American Kestrel, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Mottled Duck, Loggerhead Shrike, Orchard Oriole, Glossy Ibis, Long-billed Dowitcher, House Wren, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos, Saltmarsh, Seaside, Grasshopper and Field Sparrows and American Pipit.



Blue Grosbeak

Other recent 'First-Of-The-Season' birds and 'Good Finds' reported include: American Redstart, Summer Tanager, Northern Parula, Red-eyed Vireo, Chuck-wills-widow, American Robin, Purple Martin, Prothonotary, Yellow-throated and Black & White Warblers, Eastern Meadowlark, Great-crested Flycatcher, Sandwich Tern, American Goldfinch, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Peewee, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Sora, Gadwall, Cattle Egret, many nesting Bald Eagles and Ospreys and many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Many thanks to all reporting your bird sightings: Jane/Abe Hester, Pauline Jones, Dottie Bass, Carol Clemens, Fran/Denny Baer, Alan Biggs, Roger/ Shelia Johnson, Dottie Bass, Kathy/Grant Greider, Cindy/Ken Groff, Carol Tunncliffe, Kay Grinnell, Susan Murphy, Annette Hausman, Gini Holihan, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Chris Marsh, Dorothy Mosier, Mary Alice Tartler, Dick Phillips, Bob Speare, Rita Kernan, Tina Rosen, Aaron Palmieri and many visitors.



Black Legged Kittiwake

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Out-Of-Season (OOS), Uncommon, First-Of-The-Year (FOTY), First-Of-The-Season(FOTS) or a species that you consider to be a "Good Find" e-mail: BirdingFriends@yahoo.com or call 1-843-432-2661. Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date and location of your sighting and other pertinent information.

We are having a great migration this Spring!
You should bird as much as you can now before it gets too hot!



Membership Report for May 2018

Hi fellow birders!

We had a lot of renewals this past month, but no new members.

Remember that dues are based on a rolling calendar. For example, if you joined or renewed in May 2017, you are a paid member through May 2018. We send an email reminder with a renewal form in the quarter your dues expire. The renewal may be mailed to us or turned in at a meeting. Once your dues have been received and processed, you will get an email from Membership confirming your renewal.

Have membership question? Has your email address changed? Please be sure to contact us with questions or updates.

Your membership team:

Carol Clemens: clemens318@roadrunner.com &

Fran Baer: seatwo@roadrunner.com



What kind of nest is in the box?

- **Nest material:** Pine straw/dried grass, no feathers, leaves etc.
- **Eggs:** blue, few white
- **Species:** Eastern Bluebird
- **Nest material:** Green moss base, fine grass, hair/down on top
- **Eggs:** white, evenly spotted with reddish brown, concentrated on large end
- **Species:** Carolina Chickadee
- **Nest material:** Green moss base, leaves, tufts of hair, some grass
- **Eggs:** white, small dots concentrated on large end
- **Species:** Tufted Titmouse
- **Nest material:** bark strips, hair, fine grass, fur, wood chips
- **Eggs:** white, evenly distributed fine reddish-brown spots
- **Species:** Brown-headed or White-headed Nuthatch
- **Nest material:** Bulky nest, debris like leaves, grass, bark, hair, fur, cellophane
- **Eggs:** white/pale pink, brown-reddish flecks concentrated at one end, little or no gloss
- **Species:** Carolina Wren

Want to join? Need to renew? Please print this form and mail or bring to the next meeting with your dues. To contact us, email: hhaudubon@gmail.com

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!)

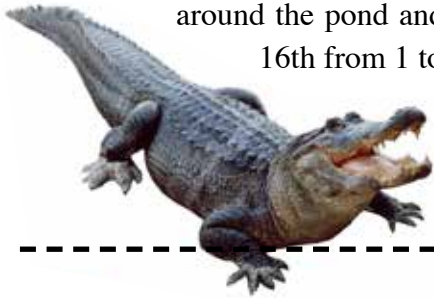
Can you help us with any of these activities on an as needed basis? Please check any of interest to you. Audubon Newhall Preserve Help with Field Trips Conservation Education Christmas Bird Count Publicity/Programs other

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

For committee only: Renewal date _____ new _____ (revised 3/17)
National _____

Audubon Newhall Preserve by Bob Clemens

The Audubon Newhall Preserve has enjoyed tons of appreciative Spring vacation visitors of late, and Rita Kernan's watering crews have been working overtime on the new trees and shrubs donated by the Island Rotary. Now the Sun City Rotary has offered to donate another 30 trees or shrubs, which we may use to better screen the Preserve from our neighbors. On our March work day we continued to spread mulch on the trail



around the pond and on the Branch Wood Trail! Our next work day will be on Wednesday May 16th from 1 to 2:30 PM. Watch for more improvements in the weeks to come: more signage, a birdbath dripper, and new benches! A reminder we ought not have to add, but **No Swimming** in the pond please! On Easter Sunday we had a swimmer. (Humans are not good for the alligators' diets!)

CHASING THE LIGHT

Photographers are chasers of light and managers of illumination. After one acquires a camera, it usually doesn't take long to realize that the angle and quality of natural light can make or break a photo. Everything looks good in early-morning sunlight. The same is true in the hour or so prior to sunset. As birders, such times - especially early morning - also place us in the peak of bird activity. Our subjects tend to be easier to find and stalk during these times.



Photo by Fran Baer

Increased awareness of lighting will improve your images. In general, sunlight that comes from behind, over your shoulder, will produce the best illumination. Use your shadow as a pointer. Ideally, it will point directly at your subject, or close to it. Try to envision shooting into a cone, with your shadow as the crosshairs. If the subject is within 10 degrees of either side of the shadow - within your cone of light - you'll likely have a pleasingly lit subject.

(From Bird Watcher's Digest, by Jim McCormac)



Have you seen this bird?

If you see a swallowtail kite as pictured above, please be a "citizen scientist" and report it. Simply go to the site listed and fill out a very brief form. You will be helping the Avian Conservation Center monitor **Swallowtail Kites**.

Thanks for your help!

<https://stki.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org/>

Thank You!

Thanks to Jim and Jeanine Stokes who recently donated a spotting scope and tripod to the Audubon Society to be used for both our educational programs and field trips.

In addition, they donated a variety of bird guides and other items which were offered in exchange for donations at the April meeting. We appreciate their generosity and support of the Hilton Head Audubon Society!

May Field Trip by Bob Speare

May Field Trip...please not this is ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL and is NOT on a Saturday!

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Place: Webb Wildlife Management Area, Garnett, SC

Meeting Spot: Webb WMA Visitor Center

Time: 8:30 am

Limit: 20

Leader: Jane Hester and Webb WMA Staff

The Webb Wildlife Management Area is managed by the South Carolina DNR, and is one of South Carolina's Important Bird Areas. With over 12,000 acres of varied habitats including longleaf and loblolly pine forests, mixed hardwood forests, old growth cypress stands, freshwater ponds, and cultivated open fields, Webb WMA is a mecca for both migrating and resident bird species. On this exciting final field trip of the season, we'll bird together in one of Webb's trail wagons, with a DNR naturalist leading us to some of the best birding areas on the property.

Among the wide variety of warblers, woodpeckers, sparrows and other woodland bird species we expect to see, we'll have a good chance to observe two birds listed as endangered in South Carolina - the red-cockaded woodpecker, and the Bachman's sparrow.

This field trip is free to Hilton Head Audubon members, \$5 for non-members. As always, Hilton head Audubon members are given preference and guests are included if space is available. One of the benefits of membership is preference on field trips. Also, in fairness to others, please sign up only if you do plan to attend. Our field trips are very popular and fill up fast. If you **MUST** cancel, in consideration of our other members, please cancel no later than May 6th so someone from the waiting list is able to attend. Also, if you went on the previous trip to Webb earlier this year, you will initially go on the wait list to allow others who were unable to participate for whatever reason last time to have this experience.

Anyone wishing to carpool to Webb WMA should meet at the former Neo's Restaurant in the parking lot at Moss Creek Village and be ready to leave by 7:15 am. The travel time to Webb WMA from Neo's is just over one hour. Directions and more information about Webb WMA is available at www.dnr.sc.gov.

To sign up for this field trip, please contact Bob Speare at bobspeare@gmail.com or 843-715-9772.

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL! It will NOT give you a reservation. You must contact Bob as specified above.



Check out our new HH birding app!

<https://www.hiltonheadislandbirdingtrail.org/>

and the State Birding app:

<https://www.southcarolinabirdingtrail.org/>

You can go to the App store and download them for free or use them on the above web sites.



Festival Centre at Indigo Park
45 Pembroke Dr., Suite 130
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
843-802-2010
HiltonHeadWBU@yahoo.com

- Bird Seed, Blends & Suet
- Bird Feeders & Houses
- Mounting Hardware
- Birdbaths & Accessories
- Binoculars & Field Guides
- Nature Books & Gifts

New Ownership / Same Location

Dear Nest Adopter,

Welcome to the Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Adopt-A-Nest Program. We are so grateful for your interest in the endangered giant sea turtles which nest on our beaches. Throughout the season, we will tell you all about your nest, general news of the sea turtles, how you can help save them, and related happenings as they occur. We try to limit the emails to every 10 -14 days during the season, but once in a while, there is exciting news that I can't wait to share with you.

The countdown is on until the first mother sea turtle arrives on Hilton Head Island to lay the first nest of the season! We never know exactly when it will happen – last year it was May 4th, the year before it was May 10th. In 2014, the first one did not show up until May 20th. We should have a contest to guess the arrival date!

But in the meantime:

The sea turtles are getting ready: At this moment, courtship and mating of male and female sea turtles is taking place in the ocean. Actually, female sea turtles may mate with several different males just before nesting season. When she finally lays her eggs, they will have been fertilized by a variety of males!



The Beach is ready: A lot has happened on the beach this winter to make it more hospitable for nesting sea turtles. After the renourishment of the beach last year, the sand (which is pumped onto the beach from the bottom of the ocean) is compacted, crusty and contains a lot of shells. So the town arranged for the beach to be “tilled” – a big machine drags a rake to loosen the sand.



The town is also installing sand fencing and planting vegetation to re-establish the dunes that were lost in Hurricane Matthew. The fencing is specifically designed to be sea turtle-friendly so the mothers and hatchlings can get to and from the dunes during nesting and hatching.



The Sea Turtle Patrol Team is ready: Led by Amber Kuehn, this amazing group of trained volunteers is ready to begin their early morning, daily 14+ mile beach ride on May 1st, looking for sea turtle tracks like this:

We'll let you know as soon as the first nest appears....!

Andrea

Andrea B. Siebold
Sea Turtle Nest Adoption
Coordinator
Coastal Discovery Museum
843-415-2211
andreabsiebold@gmail.com
www.coastaldiscovery.org


HILTON HEAD ISLAND
SEA TURTLE PROTECTION PROJECT
COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM



Audubon



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ECOBON
P.O. Box 6185

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MAY - SEPTEMBER 2018 Calendar

MAY

- Thurs. May 3 Board Meeting 10:00 am
- Tues. May 8 Field Trip - Webb Wildlife 7:30 am
- Thurs. May 10 Annual Picnic 5:00 pm
at Waddell Mariculture Center
- Weds. May 16 Work Day 1-2:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

- Thurs. Sept. 6 Board Meeting 10:00 am
- Thurs. Sept. 13 Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm

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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

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.