

# Ecobon

September 2019 No. 392

# Robert Rommel Kicks Off September Meeting

In a wide-ranging talk, former Hilton Head Audubon President Robert Rommell will discuss what the Low-country means for his photography. He'll talk about our unique ecosystems, some of the changes in our environment over the last decade and common themes he portrays in his work.

Robert is a fine art nature photographer who exhibits his work at his Gallery of Nature in downtown Bluffton as well as at art festivals across the Southeast. His art focuses on North American wildlife and landscapes with a special emphasis on the Lowcountry. Before his photography career, Robert was educated and employed as a biologist. He has been an Audubon member since childhood and involved with HH Audubon since becoming a full-time area resident in 2011. You can view Robert's website at <a href="http://www.robertrommel.com/prints/featured-prints/">http://www.robertrommel.com/prints/featured-prints/</a>





When: September 12, 2019, 3:00-4:15 PM

Where: Coastal Discovery Museum 70 Honey Horn Dr. Hilton Head Island

Speaker: Robert Rommel

"The Lowcountry: An Artist's Canvas"

# Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to our new members who have joined since May:

Stephen Dickson

Patricia and Raymond Gelinas

Marilynn Glacken

Caroline & David Johnson

Susan Markham

Edithe Parody

Kathy Seyalioglu

Julie Yutzey

Linda Zambelli

We have now implemented an online membership process where you can join, renew or make donations by using Visa, Mastercard or Discover. An email will go out when your membership is due, and you may choose to pay online through our secure portal or mail in a check (the website has a form so you can mail in a check). Prior membership forms are void after September 1. If you have any questions about membership, please email Marina Bloomfield at hhiaudubon@gmail.com.

# **Board of Directors**

**President** Jane Hester

Vice President John Bloomfield

Treasurer Wendy Dickes

Recording & Corresponding Secretary Lynn Hodgson

Members-at-Large Marge Igyarto Ioan Wilson

**Christmas Bird Count Liason** Susan Murphy

Past President Robert Rommel

**Emeritus** Barry Lowes

# **Standing Committees**

**Audubon Newhall Preserve**Bob Clemens Rita Kernan
Tom Hennessey Matt Matoon

**Bird Walks/Field Trips**Bob Speare Martha Worthy

**Conservation** John J. Coleman III

**Ecobon**John Bloomfield
Marina Bloomfield
Sean Dennis

**Education** Lois Lewis

**Membership** Marina Bloomfield

**Programs**Kathy Greider
Alan Biggs

**Website**Marina Bloomfield

Web: www.hiltonheadaudubon.org

The Ecobon is a monthly publication (September through May) of Hilton Head Audubon, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Subscription is a benefit of membership.

Direct inquiries to: P.O. Box 6185 Hilton Head Island, SC 29938 email: HHIAudubon@gmail.com

# President's Message

Another September has arrived, and with it fall migration. I hope you're all studying up on those confusing fall warbler IDs. Let there be no confusion about this: your Audubon Board has planned an exciting year of birding, conservation and learning. Our members have been hard at work to make 2019-2020 an outstanding year of trips, speakers and impactful conservation activities.



During the summer, Vice President John Bloomfield and I met with Rex Garniewicz, CEO of Coastal Discovery Museum. Given that our organizations share many of the same priorities, we are excited to report that we have signed a formal memorandum of understanding, under which we will jointly pursue forums and events above and beyond our normal monthly programs, as well as other education and conservation opportunities to be developed together.

We are also actively exploring arrangements to place a Motus tower on Hilton Head Island. The Motus (Latin for movement) Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative research network that uses a coordinated system of towers and radio tags to track the movement of birds and other small flying creatures. Motus towers are currently being planned across South Carolina with a concentration along the coast. Data from these towers will add to the understanding of migration patterns in our area as well as across several countries.

Education, too, will be ramping up this fall. Education Chair Lois Lewis has teamed up with local schools to promote participation in Cornell's Great Backyard Bird Count. Another program, soon to be underway, will teach area children about seabirds and shorebirds and their habitats. We hope to turn these children into teachers and advocates as they design signs to educate locals and tourists alike about respect for the birds that rely on our coast. Once completed, we hope to place signs along popular entry points to our beaches. The Town of Hilton Head has agreed to help with this venture.

We are so blessed to have our special Newhall Preserve, a bright star in our conservation constellation, which, through the dedication of Bob Clemens and his tireless vice chairs and volunteers, continues to shine the stewardship light brightly.

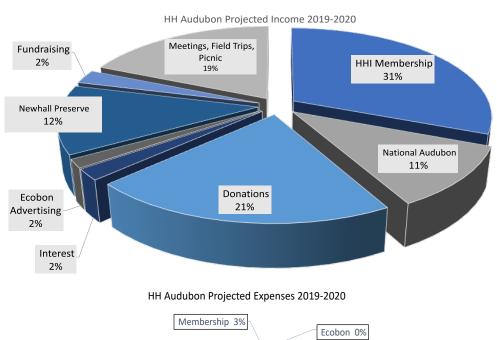
But 50 acres open daily to the public do not maintain themselves. Last year we drew on reserves in order to make major needed purchases for Newhall. Even without those purchases, our expenditures still exceeded our income. Once again this year, despite aggressive budget cutting (for example, we will no longer be printing hard

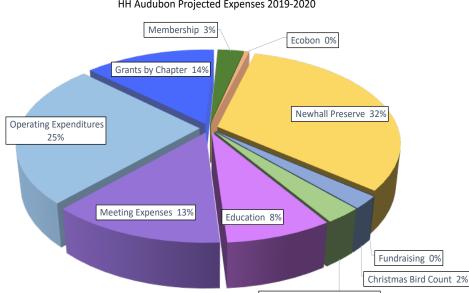
copies of Ecobon), we are projected to fall into the red. New Membership Chair Marina Bloomfield and I are working to secure Accommodations Tax money from the town in order to defray some of our printing expenses. Yet this may not be enough, so the Board has voted to raise dues by \$10 per year – to \$25.00 a year for individuals and \$35 for families. This is our first dues increase in many years, and a rise of less than \$1 per month seems quite a bargain for the value we are trying to bring to our members and our community. We are also instituting a student category to attract younger members and are beginning a leadership giving program for people who want to take the strongest stand for birds and conservation in our community.

Lastly, as explained in an earlier email, we are restructuring the cost of field trip participation to defray expenses and better reflect their value.

Change is never easy, and we hope you will support our efforts to be fiscally responsible while growing and building our organization. As the caregivers for Newhall Preserve, we must be prepared for emergencies at the hand of Mother Nature. As a leading conservation organization in our community, we must educate and advocate, as well as enjoy our beautiful coast. Hilton Head Audubon will continue to strive for a Lowcountry where people and nature thrive.

Jane Hester President





Conservation Committee 3%

For the fiscal year that began May 1, we are currently projecting *income of approximately \$16,000* and expenses of \$18,000. The recent board decision to increase dues and begin charging for field trips will help us correct the deficit. We are also exploring Accommodations Tax funding for some of our work as well as special fundraising events, including a Silent *Auction at this year's Christmas* Bird Count meeting. We will also keep working to trim administrative costs primarily related to marketing and communications.

# Notes From The Field

#### September Means Field Trips!

We've got some exciting changes to our field trips, bird walks and other programming beginning this fall season. We've also added more opportunities to get into the field with Hilton Head Audubon to learn about the birds and other wildlife in our Lowcountry region.

# **Field Trip Fees**

First off, you'll notice that we're now charging a nominal fee for our field trips. While this is something new for Hilton Head Audubon, it will allow us to include many guest leaders at various trips and well as support some important conservation-related initiatives that we will be undertaking in the near future. For many other Audubon groups and like-minded conservation organizations, small program fees go a long way to supporting the efforts of the organization.

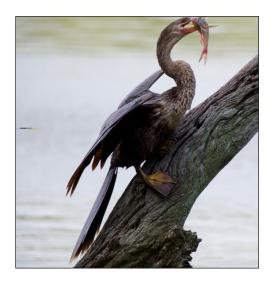
# **Online Registration for Programs**

We are also introducing a new online registration process that will make signing up for birding and other programs easy and will provide you with immediate confirmation. More info on this can be found on the HH Audubon FAO page.

# **Quick Bird Trips**

Here in the Lowcountry, a number of exciting bird occurrences can often come up quickly. Beginning now, we're starting a Quick Trip Alert List, so we can send an email to people when we put together a Quick Bird Trip — a birding event that might occur in a day or two in order to take advantage of some interesting bird activities.

To be added to the list of folks we'll contact when we set up a Quick Bird Trip, just send an email to FieldTrips@hiltonheadaudubon.org.



# **September Birding Field Trip**

Where: Sea Pines Forest Preserve, HHI

When: Saturday, September 14; 8:30-11:00 am

**Leader**: Bob Speare **Limit**: 20 participants

Fees: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

The Sea Pines Forest Preserve boasts the largest tract of green space on Hilton Head Island. Within these 600 acres are the many forests, swamps, and ponds that make this a wonderful place to find birds year-round. The site is recognized as a South Carolina Important Bird Area (IBA) — one of only four in Beaufort County. This easy walk, timed for early fall migration, will focus on field identification of the resident birds that are found on Hilton Head throughout the year and the neotropical migrants that are moving through the area on their journey to their wintering grounds south of the border. Directions and additional details will be available upon registration.

Preregistration required -- to register, <u>please click</u> here.

## **October Birding Field Trip**

Where: Altamaha Towne Heritage Preserve, Okatie

When: Friday, October 4; 8:30-10:30 am

**Leader**: Matt Johnson, Audubon SC Director of

Bird Conservation and Engagement

**Limit**: 20 participants

Fees: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

Please join us for this special program as we explore Altamaha Town Heritage Preserve, a property protected with funds from the Beaufort County Rural & Critical Land Preservation Program. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this 100-acre sanctuary was purchased for its historical and archeological significance, but its mature woodlands also host a diversity of wildlife. Birds will be the main focus of this guided walk, but all organisms encountered will be discussed and enjoyed!

We will walk the 0.8-mile (one-way) trail through the woods down to the marsh, looking for wildlife as we go. Directions and additional details will be available upon registration.

*Preregistration required* — to register, <u>please click</u> here.

#### **Beginners Bird Walk**

Where: Jarvis Creek Park, HHI

When: Thursday, September 12, 9:00-10:30 am

**Leader**: Bob Speare **Limit**: 20 participants

Fees: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members

Designed for new members, non-members, and other folks new to birding, this walk will introduce participants to some of our local birds and ways to identify them in the field. Jarvis Creek Park is a wonderful place to see and hear a surprising variety of bird species. We'll stroll along the one-mile loop identifying the birds and other organisms we see along the way. Bring binoculars. Preregistration required -- to register, please click here.

# Tuesday Morning Bird Walks at Audubon Newhall Preserve

**Where**: Audubon Newhall Preserve, 88 Palmetto Bay Rd, HHI

When: Beginning Tuesday, September 17, 8:30-

10:30 am **Fees**: free

No registration and no fee -- just join us for a leisurely two-hour walk through the native trees and wildflowers to look for migrating and resident bird species that are found on this wonderful 50-acre property. New birders are welcome!



- Bird Seed, Blends & Suit
- Birdbaths & Accessories
- Bird Feeders & Houses •
- Binoculars & Field Guides
- Mounting Hardware

New Ownership / Same Location

#### **Birding 101 Course**

Where: Coastal Discovery Museum

When: Saturdays, September 28, October 19, November 9, November 23 (field trip), and December 21 --

all are from 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Limit: 20 participants

Fees: \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members

Designed for beginning birders, Birding 101 introduces participants to a number of topics that will increase their general knowledge of local birds and bird identification. A series of classroom sessions will feature interactive lectures and hands-on materials to describe the bird anatomy, bird taxonomy, feathers, vocalizations, migration, field guides, binoculars and more.

Field trips to various habitats on the Island will reinforce classroom materials and put into practice the bird identification techniques we'll learn. Each participant will receive a copy of "Sibley's Birding Basics" book, which we will use throughout the course. Preregistration required -- to register, please click here.



# Through Our Binoculars

Bird sightings reported in our area have been good and plentiful. This report covers the period from mid-April to mid-August since Ecobon is not published from May through August.

We enjoyed a very good late spring migration with 19 species of warblers and 10 transient migrants reported in our area. Accidental sightings of firstever Limpkins were reported at three sites: Sun City,

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge and in Savannah. The Limpkin was a Florida-only bird for many, many years until it started showing up in nearby Georgia... and now SC and even NC. Our fall migration is currently on and migrant species are beginning to move into and through our area, while many summer visitors are still here but will be leaving soon.



Limpkin, Sun City by John Bloomfield

# Rare species reported

- early fall Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos
- irruptive Red-breasted Nuthatch
- migrant Blue-winged, Worm-eating, Hooded and Swainson's Warblers



Blue winged Warbler by Carol Clemens

- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Roseate Spoonbill
- migrant Black and Common Terns
- White-rumped and Solitary Sandpipers

 migrant Scarlet Tanager, Cliff Swallow, Common Ground Dove, King Rail and Bachman's Sparrow

#### **Out-of-season species**

- endangered Piping Plover
- Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Louisiana Waterthrush, American Avocet and Black Scoter

## Significant recent early fall warblers sighted so far

- Worm-eating, Prairie and Prothonotary Warblers
- Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes and American Redstart

#### **Uncommon species**

- Peregrine Falcon, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, Loggerhead Shrike, Bank Swallow
- Whimbrel, Least Bittern, Black-necked Stilt, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Plover, Glossy Ibis
- Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Bobolink, Indigo and Rose-breasted Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Eurasian-collared Dove, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey
- Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Ruddy and Mottled Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Purple Gallinule
- Lesser Black-backed Gull

## Other "Good Finds" species

- Migrant Black-throated Blue Warbler, Summer Tanager, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orchard Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, Black-and-white Warbler
- Red Knot, Sora, Spotted Sandpiper
- Bald Eagle and many Painted Buntings and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Many thanks to all for reporting your bird sightings: Jane/Abe Hester, Bob Speare, Cindy/Ken Groff, Dottie Bass, Mary Alice Tartler, Carol Clemens, Carol Tunnicliffe, Fran/Denny Baer, Shelia/Roger Johnson, Kay Grinnell, Alan Biggs, Dick Phillips, Kathy/Grant Greider, Kay Hodnett, Lynn Hodgson, John Bloomfield, Jim Hutchison, Cherry Underwood, Beck/Lindy O'Rourke, Kay Grinnell, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell and many visitors.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare,

Out-Of-Season, Uncommon, First-Of-The-Year or First-Of-The-Season or a species that you consider to be a "Good Find," email <u>BirdingFriends@yahoogroups.com</u> or call (843) 432-2661. Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date, location of your sighting and other pertinent information.

Our fall migration is just beginning and it is the best time of year to go birding ... try to find some of our transient fall migrants and arriving winter visitors as well as our summer visitors that are still here!



Black Tern by John Bloomfield

# Osprey Watch

2017-2018 season when there was a total of 44 fledglings.

by Carol Clemens

This osprey season, 42 Hilton Head residents participated as monitors or backup monitors in the international Osprey Watch program through the Center for Conservation Biology. The data compiled is part of the Lowcountry Institute's monitoring program under Kristen Mattsen. The purpose is to collect data to monitor challenges to aquatic ecosystems. This includes climate change, depletion of fish stocks, and contaminants.

If you are interested in helping with this program next year, or if you know of an osprey nest that may not be part of the program, please contact Carol at <a href="mailto:cclemens318@gmail.com">cclemens318@gmail.com</a>. If you are reporting a nest, please send its exact location so we can determine if the nest is already part of the project. Thanks to all who help!

Osprey are a perfect species to monitor since they feed almost solely on fish. Contaminants in the water and lack of fish can greatly affect the osprey population. By compiling data on osprey arrival, egg laying and fledging, we can use osprey as a barometer for possible climate change effects.



Osprey by Mary Alice Tartler

Preliminary data indicates that the 2018-2019 osprey season was a huge success. A total of 65 nest sites were monitored for at least part of the season.

Fourteen of the nests were newly reported by monitors and one other was reactivated after years with no activity.

Fifteen sites were inactive since no pair of ospreys was seen at the nest site.

Eleven nests were active with an adult pair at the nest at least early in the season. However, these 11 showed no signs of successful incubation or may have produced a chick that didn't fledge.

Two sites were not viable because a tree was removed, and another nest was taken over by a Great Horned Owl.

The great news is that 62 chicks successfully fledged. This is a significant increase over the



Osprey Nest by Carol Tunnicliffe

# Audubon Newhall Preserve

by Bob Clemens Audubon Newhall Chairman

It has been a busy summer at the Audubon Newhall Preserve, with nearly 100 recorded visitors from 24 states and three foreign countries. According to Audubon Newhall Chair Bob Clemens, this number represents just a just a fraction of our actual visitors, since we know that many do not take time to sign the logbook. Bob notes the numbers are important for our Accommodations Tax (ATAX) grant application to help fund our maps and brochures.

In May, Sally Krebs, a Certified Arborist and Sustainable Practices Coordinator for the Town of Hilton Head, performed a survey of the preserve and complimented us on our hurricane recovery efforts. You can read Sally's report <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

As a result of Sally's recommendations, we are embarking on a birdhouse project for the Preserve. Stay tuned for more details on how to get involved. We also need volunteers to serve as trail monitors for the fall months. Trail monitors walk the trails weekly, sweep the boardwalk and deck and report anything that needs attention. If you can help, contact Bob at RClemens318@roadrunner.com or (317) 989-5777.

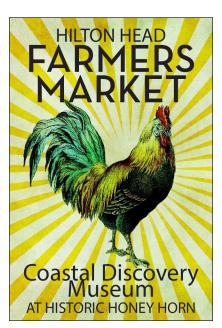
Also, please check out page 124 of the August issue of Local Life for a four-page article on the preserve, which is noted as "Hilton Head's hidden gem." The article recounts the history of the site and gives an overview of the native plants, trees, birds and other wildlife you can enjoy during a visit. You can read the article <a href="https://example.com/heat-state-english-recorder-page-124">https://example.com/heat-state-english-recorder-page-124</a> of the August issue of Local Life on the preserve, which is noted as "Hilton Head's hidden gem." The article recounts the history of the site and gives an overview of the native plants, trees, birds and other wildlife you can enjoy during a visit. You can read the article here.

Visit the Hilton Head Farmers Market at the Coastal Discovery Museum every Tuesday from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Free Parking.

Take home fresh local produce, pasture raised chicken, free range rabbit, pork, seafood, salsa, fresh sausage, cookies, breads, she crab soup, and more.

Have your knives sharpened while

shopping. Shop local, meet new friends, strengthen our community, and rebuild our local food economy! Closed Jan. 1.



Congratulations to the Newhall team for their dedication in preserving one of our island's most important natural assets.



Thanks to those who pitched in during our August workday. Pictured above (from left) are Bob Clemens, Rita Kernan, Tom Marko, Karen Penale, Joanne Marko and Jack Coleman.



# Audubon For Everyone

## A report from the National Audubon Convention

The Nation Audubon Society held its biennial convention in Milwaukee in late July, and I was honored to attend as a representative of Hilton Head Audubon and the Audubon South Carol na Board of Advisors. Some 600 like-minded conservationists attended this year's session, which was themed "Audubon for Everyone." Reflecting the diversity behind that theme, attendees represented chapters, centers and sanctuaries from our most rural outposts to the most populated urban centers, leaders from Audubon's 60 new college chapters, staff from Audubon's BirdLife International partner groups and other conservation groups aligned with Audubon's mission. Audubon wants to make all people welcome in the enjoyment and preservation of nature – and that's a view I readily embrace.

One of the most inspiring sessions was led by Virginia Rose, a board member of Travis Audubon in Austin, Texas and founder of Birdability, which aims to get people of all abilities outdoors to enjoy birds and nature. Virginia shared her insights on how to work with public officials and sanctuary managers to make facilities more accessible.

Virginia has been in a wheelchair for 45 years. Of Birdability, she says: "I have benefited so much from being outside. It has fed my soul and given me a confidence I did not have before." She believes the confidence and sense of community that can be found in birding can be transformative to people who are physically challenged. Embracing Birdability is one way that Hilton Head Audubon can help make "Audubon for Everyone."

In his plenary remarks, National Audubon President David Yarnold discussed the vibrance of the Audubon movement, powered by dedicated volunteers for more than 130 years. He talked about the organization's ability to bring together people from all political ideologies, and specifically thanked Hilton Head Audubon for our work in support of the Energy Freedom Act passed



National Audubon President David Yarnold

overwhelmingly by the South Carolina legislature and signed into law earlier this year.

Yarnold also previewed an update to Audubon's landmark climate report of 2014, which found that climate change threatens nearly half the bird species in the continental United States and Canada. He said the new update will feature interactive tools that can assist conservation planning decisions by showing pinch points where birds are particularly at risk, including coastal communities such as ours.

Perhaps the greatest value of meetings like this are the connections made with Audubon volunteers and staff around the country. It makes one realize you are part of something bigger, something powerful and inspiring. Yes, we will always be local, but we are also a strong link on a chain that binds all chapters together as part of one of America's largest and most trusted conservation organizations. We should all be proud to be part of it.

# **Bequests**

If you wish to honor a family member or friend with a memorial gift, remember the Audubon Newhall Preserve or the Hilton Head Island Audubon in your will, you may designate a gift 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, SC 29938. Email: hhiaudubon@gmail.com.

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.

# The Best Birds of the Summer

For some, summer birding is the chance to travel to a far-off destination and add exotic tanagers and trogons to a life list. For others, it's a chance to relax and enjoy the birds that breed on Hilton Head Island and in our surrounding communities. It's also a chance to enjoy a rarity or two that make it to our shores.

We asked our members: "What was your best bird of the summer?" Here's what they told us:

## Polly Sten Lilac-breasted Roller - Okavango Delta, Botswana

The Lilac-breasted Roller is a stunning example of

a bird that gets as much attention as a pride of lions. It will patiently 'pose' for you while it scans the woodlands for its next meal. It is called a Roller because of the mating antics it performs in the air. Just like our



Painted Bunting, the Lilac-breasted Roller is another reminder of the beauty nature holds for us.

# Sandy Ploszaj Ospreys - Port Royal Plantation



I was very fortunate to monitor the nest on the top of the water tower in Palmetto Dunes where they had a webcam. I have many photos and videos of the chicks and parents. All three chicks survived!

## Pattie Kappmeyer Wilson's Plovers -Jekyll Island, Georgia



This was a life bird for me: the climate-threatened Wilson's Plover with chick! I spotted this family (three chicks in total) while on a camping and birding trip this summer. The Jekyll Island Authority has designated safe habitats for these plovers who come to nest on its coast around April and to protect the chicks who hatch around June. This photo was taken on the south dunes beach area.

## Jackie Rosswurm Red-tailed Hawk - Sea Pines Plantation

I first saw this unexpected visitor cooling his talons and drinking from my backyard birdbath early



morn on July 11th. One of our local birding experts let me know he had the markings of an immature Red-tailed Hawk. That was exciting to learn, but even

more exciting was when he reappeared late one afternoon last week, back in the birdbath, again drinking and cooling his talons. Needless to say, I look forward to many more visits from this gorgeous bird.

# John Bloomfield Whooping Cranes - Baraboo, Wisconsin

One afternoon in late July, I was traveling some back roads near Baraboo, Wisconsin after visiting the International Crane Foundation. To my de-



light I saw three Whooping Cranes foraging and cavorting in a nearby field. Only 849 Whooping Cranes exist today and just a tiny fraction of these are in Wisconsin, where small numbers of birds have been introduced in recent years to support the recovery of the species. This is the closest I have ever seen them.

# Fran Baer Osprey, Palmetto Dunes

For the first time, I became involved in the Osprey Observation program by assisting Carol Billman in documenting activity in a nest visible from the small boat dock in my backyard. I quickly got



"hooked" and began to photograph two juveniles, NOT just one as first thought! Once they learned to fly, one very vocal youngster came to a branch right above our dock, partially eaten fish in talons, to observe me taking its picture!

## Norma McLean Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (juvenile) - Port Royal

This bird was spotted in a nest in a shady area above the boardwalk in Port Royal.



#### Alan Biggs Eastern Bluebird - Hilton Head Plantation

This photo was taken near the Hilton Head Plantation POA along Surrey Road. I monitor 10 Eastern Bluebird boxes there from March through September and I get to witness a plethora of different bluebird behaviors. Here is a busy male with what looks like



a recently captured katydid. I like the photo because the bird looks a bit unkempt (as if it's been too busy to take care of itself -- which is likely true) and the insect's antennae are clearly visible against the soft green background.

#### Kay Grinnell and Phil Nelson Bare-faced Curassows - Patanal, Brazil



In June we traveled to the Pantanal -- the world's largest wetlands -- in Brazil. On the first day of our visit, a Bare-faced Curassow mother and chicks walked toward us on a boardwalk railing. We froze in awe, and they kept sauntering toward us until they were about 10 feet away! The female is in the lead; note at least three young ones following her. We saw dad, who sports a black crown and bright yellow beak, later during our walk.

# Jack Colcolough Osprey - Indigo Run Plantation

My wife Mari and I were playing a quiet game of Scrabble while overlooking our backyard creek (lagoon) and saw a juvenile Osprey fly from the

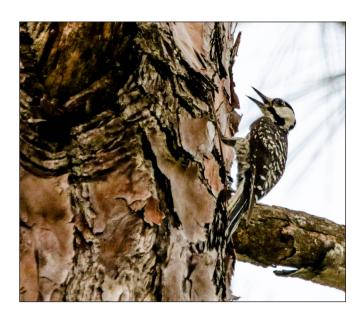
platform nest at the end of our block. It landed in some shrubs outside of our picture window and next to our home. It fell down into the shrubs and could not get out. I hurried outside to see what I could do to free it.



I took a lawn rake and was beginning to think the worst: This young bird must have broken its wing or damaged something else ... and cannot fly! After about 15 minutes of prodding with the rake to try to make a clear path and get it to move out of the shrub, the Osprey finally came to the front of the shrub and plopped out onto the ground. Then, it looked at me intensely for a few seconds as if to say, "Thank you," and then took off flying!

# Mary Alice Tartler Red-cockaded Woodpeckers - James W. Webb Wildlife Center, Hampton, South Carolina.

On August 1, I went out with some friends for a fun day of birding at Webb. Upon entering, I almost immediately spotted several woodpeckers flitting high in the pines. It was totally unexpected and a special thrill for me to determine that they were Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and a life bird for me as well!



# **e**Bird

# INTERESTED IN EBIRD BUT NOT SURE HOW TO START?

Log onto

https://ebird.org.home. eBird collaborates with National Audubon and is managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

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# September – December 2019 Calendar

September		
Thursday, Sept. 12	<b>Beginners Bird Walk</b> Jarvis Creek Park	9 am
Thursday, Sept. 12	HH Audubon Member Meeting Speaker: Robert Rommel "Nature Photography in the Lowcountry" Location: Coastal Discovery Museum	3 pm
Saturday, Sept. 14	September Birding Trip Sea Pines Forest Preserve	8:30 am
Saturday, Sept. 28	<b>Birding 101 (1st of 5 sessions)</b> Coastal Discovery Museum, Discovery Lab	9 am
October		
Friday, Oct. 4	October Birding Trip Altamaha Towne Heritage Preserve, Okatie	8:30 am
Thursday, Oct. 10	HH Audubon Member Meeting Speaker: Carlos Chacon "Lowcountry Vultures" Location: Coastal Discovery Museum	3 pm
Saturday, Oct. 19	<b>Birding 101 (2nd of 5 sessions)</b> Coastal Discovery Museum, Discovery Lab	9 am
November		
Saturday, Nov. 9	<b>Birding 101 (3rd of 5 sessions)</b> Coastal Discovery Museum, Discovery Lab	9 am
Гhursday, Nov. 14	HH Audubon Member Meeting Speaker: Amber Kuehn "Turtle Patrol 2019 Season" Location: Hilton Head Public Library	3:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 23	<b>Birding 101 (4th of 5 sessions)</b> Field Trip	9 am
December		
Гhursday, Dec. 12	HH Audubon Pre-Christmas Bird Count Program Location: First Presbyterian Church William Hilton Parkway, HHI	7 pm
Saturday, Dec. 21	<b>Birding 101 (last session)</b> Coastal Discovery Museum, Discovery Lab	9 am

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. Members and guests welcome.