



## October Program Meeting

### An Update on Audubon's Work in South Carolina



Please join us for our next virtual program meeting October 8. Our featured speaker will be Justin Stokes, Vice President and Executive Director, Audubon South Carolina. Justin will be providing an update on how Audubon is continuing its vital conservation work during the pandemic.

Prior to joining Audubon SC in 2019, Justin was National Audubon's Vice President of Political Affairs and Executive Director of the Audubon Action Fund. Prior to joining Audubon, Justin served six years as chief of staff in the United States House of Representatives working for four members of Congress, including from the South

Carolina delegation. He also worked on a Republican presidential campaign and got his start in public service in the South Carolina Governor's office.

Justin is a native of Camden, South Carolina, a graduate of Clemson University, and recently completed the Wilson Fellowship in Strategic Management for Environmental Leadership at Harvard Business School.

**When: Thursday, October 8, 3pm  
via ZOOM**

**How to Join:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7819826859>

**Meeting ID: 781 982 6859**

**Speaker: Justin Stokes, Vice President  
and Executive Director, Audubon SC**

## In Brief

### 2020 Christmas Bird Count Reminder

This year's Christmas Bird Count for the Hilton Head area is Tuesday, December 15. Our count area is a 15-mile diameter circle covering Hilton Head and Daufuskie Islands, parts of Bluffton and our waterways. We identify species and count each bird we see or hear. If you participated in the count last year, your Area Captain will be contacting you soon. If you are new to our count and interested in being a part of this international effort, please e-mail Susan Murphy at [HHICBC@gmail.com](mailto:HHICBC@gmail.com) and she will have an Area Captain contact you.

### Silent Auction During Christmas Bird Count Meeting

We will again be offering a silent auction to be held Nov. 30-Dec. 9. Though the auction will be virtual, Hilton Head Audubon members will receive an email including a link to the online auction site. Winners will be announced at our Christmas Bird Count meeting on December 10.

### Motus Tower

We've resumed discussions with Marriott about the installation of a Motus Wildlife Tracking Tower at one of its hotel properties. We'll keep you posted on further developments concerning this project.

## HH Audubon Wants You!

We're always looking for volunteers from all walks of life.

- Do you have management/finance skills or an interest in conservation policy and advocacy?
- Are you interested helping us plan our programs?
- Are you a teacher with a passion to help build the next generation of birders and conservationists?
- Do you like the outdoors? We're always looking for helpers at Newhall.

In general, we need volunteers for any and all activities that help us advance our mission of ensuring that Hilton Head remains a bird-friendly, conservation-minded community where people and nature thrive together. Interested in learning more?

Please contact us at [hiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org](mailto:hhiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org)



# President's Message

## Board of Directors

**President** John Bloomfield  
**Vice President** Lynn Hodgson  
**Treasurer** Wendy Dickes  
**Recording & Corresponding Secretary**  
Jane Hester

## Member-at-Large

Alan Biggs  
Julia Buzzard  
Kay Grinnell  
Carol Tunnicliffe

## Christmas Bird Count Liason

Susan Murphy

**Past President** Jane Hester

## Standing Committees

### Audubon Newhall Preserve

Bob Clemens Rita Kernan  
Tom Hennessey Matt Matoon

### Bird Walks/Field Trips

Carlos Chacon

### Conservation

John J. Coleman III

### Communications/ECOBON/Website

Marina Bloomfield  
Sean Dennis

### Education

Lois Lewis  
Mary Ellen Blankenship

### Membership

Marina Bloomfield

Web: [www.hiltonheadaudubon.org](http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org)

Subscription is a benefit of membership.

Direct inquiries to:

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Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

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[hiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org](mailto:hiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org)

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



## A Delicate Balance

On September 24 the Beaufort County Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously rejected a plan to construct a luxury resort on Bay Point Island. This was an important victory for conservation and a recognition of the delicate balance that must be maintained between legitimate development and the need to protect environmentally sensitive lands that give the Low-country its identity and charm.



Hilton Head Audubon is proud to have worked alongside a broad coalition of partners to help achieve this result, from a statewide coalition of conservation interests to the Gullah/Geechee Nation to a bipartisan cadre of political leaders.

Governor Henry McMaster summed it up this way: "This is a win not just for Bay Point Island, but for South Carolina. We will continue to stand up to protect the beautiful environment we inherited from our ancestors and pass it along to generations not yet born."

Our Audubon was born out of the need to preserve the delicate balance between the beauty of our region and the needs of those who call it home. The Audubon Newhall Preserve was established in the 1960s when one of our founders, Caroline "Beany" Newhall, persuaded Charles Fraser of the Sea Pines Company to deed 50 acres of land for the preserve. It was not the last time they would work together.

Newhall and Frasier later teamed to help defeat a plan that would have led to the construction of a petrochemical plant at Victoria Bluff across Mackay Creek from the Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge. Had they failed, the character of Beaufort County would have been altered forever. Today, that land is permanently preserved.

History is important. It tells us what's in our genes and helps guide the path forward. That's why, to this day, volunteers are working tirelessly to maintain the preserve. It's also why we'll continue to work long and hard on behalf of birds, wildlife and the places they need.

Quite simply ... the places they need are the places we love.

John Bloomfield

# Cornell's FeederWatch Returns in November

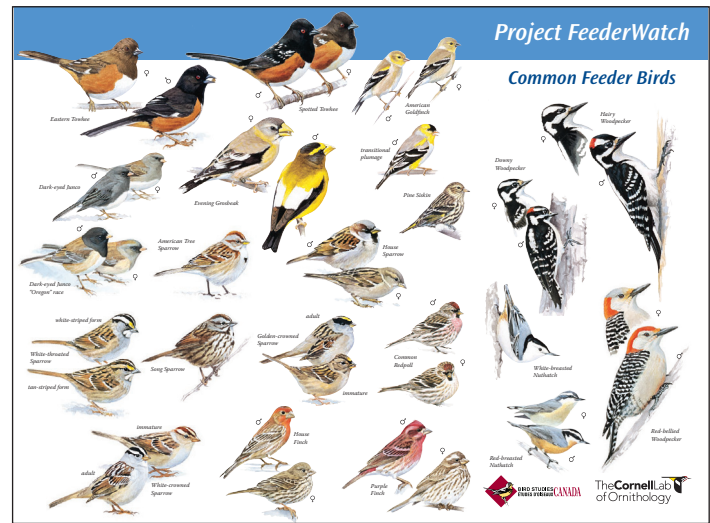
The 2020–21 FeederWatch season runs from Saturday, November 14, to Friday, April 9. FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Participants periodically count the birds they see at their feeders and send their counts to Project FeederWatch.

FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. Some Hilton Head Audubon members have been participating in FeederWatch for more than 30 years.

New members are always welcome. Your bird counts help you keep track of what is happening in your own backyard and help scientists track long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. With FeederWatch, your observations become part of something bigger. Anyone interested in birds can participate.

[Click here to join.](#)

You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.



**Project FeederWatch** **Common Feeder Birds**

**The Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

**Join Project FeederWatch**  
and learn about the birds in your own backyard while helping scientists study bird populations.

FeederWatch is as easy as...

1. Putting up bird feeders
2. Counting the birds that visit
3. Sending the data to scientists

[www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org)

**New participants receive**

- Project instructions and information about birds and bird feeding
- 17" x 21" poster of common feeder birds
- Feeder Watch calendar
- Winter Bird Highlights, our annual publication
- A subscription to the Cornell Lab's or Bird Studies Canada's newsletter.

**Sign up today!**

- Participation fee is \$18 in the U.S. or a donation of any amount in Canada.
- Sign up online at [feederwatch.org](http://feederwatch.org) or call (800) 844-2472 in the U.S. or (888) 448-2472 in Canada.

## Welcome to our New Members

A warm welcome to our new members:

- Lisa Pianta
- Sarah Krueger
- Mark Cavallo

Members and non-members can join, renew or make donations on our website. We accept Visa, Mastercard or Discover. An email will be sent when your membership is due. You may choose

to pay online through our secure portal or mail in a check (the website has a form for you to fill out and mail with your check). **Please do not mail in a check without the form.** We continually update our records and want to make sure you're receiving our emails and *The Ecobon*. If you have any questions about membership, please email:

[hhiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org](mailto:hhiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org)

# Newhall News

by Bob Clemens  
Audubon Newhall Chairman

The Audubon Newhall Preserve (our Island's "Hidden Gem") continues to enjoy many visitors seeking relief from COVID Cabin Fever! Our visitor tally through Mid-September was more than 1,000 visitors from 44 states and 11 Canadian Provinces and foreign countries including Hungary, Brazil, and South Africa. And we know that only a fraction of those visiting the preserve sign the logs when they leave.

The September 26 workday was a great success as seven Audubon members and seven Rotary club members joined forces to plant the two pond pollinator gardens, plant new trees and shrubs, and cull non-native invasive plants from the Preserve. Audubon members included Rita Kernan, Jane Hester, Mary Ellen Blankenship, Miho Kinnas, Karen Penale, Jack Coleman, and Bob Clemens. Thanks also to Matt Matoon, who had earlier helped restart the irrigation system for the pond gardens. Another workday is planned for Saturday October 17 at 9 am, so save the date.

Our thanks also go out to Karen Simpson and Aliceon Stillman-Williams, who helped update the Preserve's online information on Google maps, Yelp, and Trip Advisor. We also added the Preserve to an App called "AllTrails!" If anyone has suggestions as to other free sites or Apps we can use to promote the Preserve, please contact Bob Clemens at [rclemens318@roadrunner.com](mailto:rclemens318@roadrunner.com).



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

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

[HiltonHeadWBU@yahoo.com](mailto:HiltonHeadWBU@yahoo.com)

To order online - [click here](#)

# Field Trips

by Carlos Chacon, Field Trip Coordinator

## Exploring Mitchelville Freedom Park

Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park celebrates the first community in America where people born into slavery lived and worked together as members of a free society.



*Hilton Head Island, South Carolina*

On October 10 at 8 am, we will gather under the large oak tree by the Mitchelville parking lot to learn from the park's executive director, Ahmad Ward, about the rich history of Mitchelville as well as future plans for the site.

From there we will explore the maritime forest, salt marsh, beach and mud flats in the company of former HH Audubon president Robert Rommel, learning field techniques and tips for identifying migrating shorebirds as well as gulls, terns, Black Skimmers, American Oystercatchers, and waders.

We are limiting this trip to 10 people and will enforce appropriate social distancing techniques.

Please wear masks and bring hand sanitizer and wipes. Water-proof boots, bug spray and sunscreen are also recommended.

*Current members will have priority registration and will receive an email to sign up.*

**Note:** We are exploring an additional field trip for October 24. We will provide location and details of this trip via email.

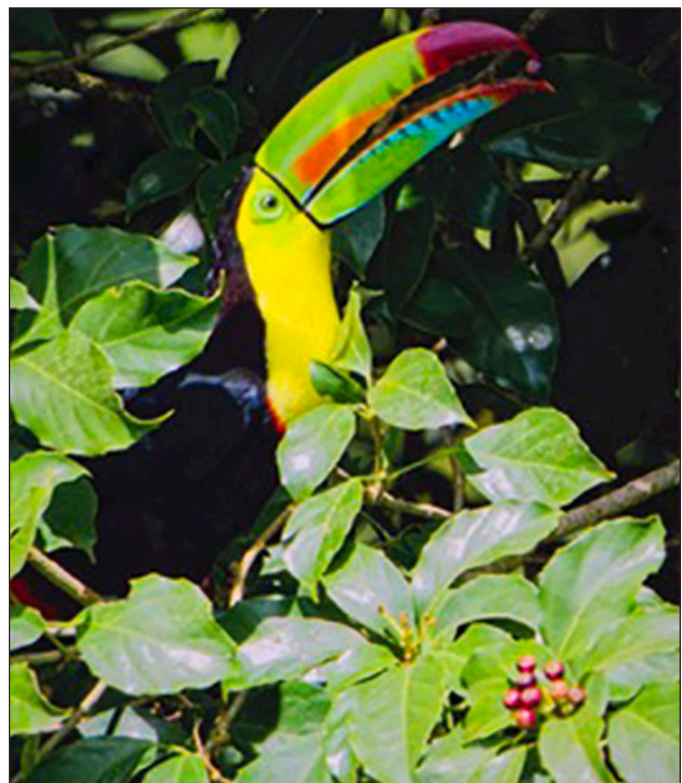


# Costa Rica Trip

Our 2020-2021 HH Audubon field trip season will give us an opportunity to travel to the bird-watching paradise of Costa Rica should conditions permit.

From May 31 to June 8, 2021, our new field trip coordinator, naturalist and avid bird watcher – Carlos Chacon – plans to lead a group of 10 participants from Audubon to his home country of Costa Rica. The trip will include a visit for two days to the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, a famous wetland area in the northern part of Costa Rica, two days in the famous Rain Forest of the active Arenal Volcano, and two days exploring the Cloud Forest in the mountainous area of Monteverde.

This trip will give you the chance to expand your bird-watching horizons, traveling to marvelous Costa Rica in the company of expert bird watchers. With almost 900 species of birds, packed in a country the size of West Virginia, Costa Rica truly is a bird watcher's paradise, featuring more than 30 species of hummingbirds, several species of toucans, famous tropical trogons and many other spectacular birds. For more details about this trip, please contact Carlos Chacon at [eco1adventures@gmail.com](mailto:eco1adventures@gmail.com).



*Keel-billed Toucan by John Bloomfield*

# Through Our Binoculars

by Jack Colcolough

Our early fall migration is off to a great start: sightings of 22 warbler species have already been reported this fall as well as 13 species rare to this area. Many wintering species have started to arrive, while some summer visitors still linger.

## Rare Species

- Blue-winged Warbler on HHI
- Tennessee Warbler on HHI
- Blackburnian Warbler at The Landings
- Black-throated Green Warbler at the Sandhill Loop in Chatham County, Georgia
- Cape May Warbler at Jarvis Creek Park and in Savannah
- Sooty Tern in Chatham County
- Black Tern at Fish Hall Beach
- Hooded Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat at Battery Creek
- Scarlet Tanager at Hunting Island State Park
- Roseate Spoonbill on HHI
- Bachman's Sparrow at Webb Wildlife Center
- Solitary Sandpiper on Pinckney Island and Common Tern at several locations.

## Uncommon Species

- Endangered Piping Plovers
- Wilson's Plover
- Baltimore Oriole
- Chestnut-sided, Yellow and Prairie Warblers
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Reddish Egret
- Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers
- Caspian Tern
- American and Least Bitterns



American Bittern by Fran Baer

- Whimbrel
- Red-cockaded and Hairy Woodpeckers
- Northern Bobwhite
- Blue Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting
- Glossy Ibis
- Purple Gallinule
- Black-bellied whistling Duck (Now resident at Pinckney NWR)
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Seaside Sparrow
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Eurasian-collared Dove
- Black-necked Stilt
- American Kestrel
- Wild Turkey
- Alder Flycatcher
- Veery
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls
- Bank Swallow, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites
- Bobolink
- Long-billed Dowitcher



Black-throated Blue Warbler by Mary Alice Tartler

## Other Migrant Species - First of the Season

- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- American Redstart (in large numbers)
- American Robin
- Semipalmated Sandpiper

## Arriving Winter Species

- American Goldfinch
- Pied-billed Grebe
- American Coot
- Marbled Godwit
- Black-bellied Plover
- Red Knot (threatened species)
- Western and Least Sandpipers
- Semipalmated Plover

- Ruddy Turnstone
- Western Sandpiper
- Blue-winged Teal
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Phoebe
- Northern Harrier

#### Good Find/Birds of Interest

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Painted Bunting
- Bald Eagle
- Franklin's Gull
- Osprey
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Orchard Oriole
- Summer Tanager
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Eastern Towhee (including Red-eyed subspecies)

Many thanks to all reporting your bird sightings: John Bloomfield, Jane/Abe Hester, Bob Speare, Dottie Bass, Mary Alice Tartler, Carol Clemens, Carol Tunncliffe, Fran/Denny Baer, Kay Grinnell, Alan Biggs, Dick Phillips, Kathy/Grant Greider, Tom Marko, Aaron Palmieri, Diana Churchill, Steve Calver, Russ Wigh, Buddy Campbell, Chris Marsh, Stephen Guy, and Tony and Rose Johnson.

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 e-mail me at : [BirdingFriends@yahoo.com](mailto:BirdingFriends@yahoo.com) or call 843-432-2661. Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date and location of your sighting and other pertinent information. Please keep up the good work of reporting your bird sightings on Birding Friends and posting them to [ebird](http://ebird.com).

Now is the time to get outdoors and look for these fall migrants and arriving winter birds. We usually reach our migration peak during the first two weeks in October.

## October - December Calendar

### October 2020

Thursday, Oct. 8

3 pm Member Program via ZOOM

**Speaker:** Justin Stokes  
Executive Director, Audubon SC

Saturday, Oct. 17

9 - 10:30 am Audubon Newhall Work day

To sign up, email Bob Clemens [rclemens318@roadrunner.com](mailto:rclemens318@roadrunner.com)

### November 2020

Thursday, Nov. 12

3 pm Member Program via ZOOM

**Speaker:** Amber Kuehn  
Update on the Turtle Patrol

Monday, Nov. 30

**Online Silent Auction Begins begins at 12 noon** (information will be posted on the website and emailed to members)

### December 2020

Wednesday, Dec. 9

**Online Silent Auction Ends at 12 noon** - winners will be notified by phone/email and announced at the Christmas Bird Count meeting, tomorrow, Dec. 10, at 7 pm

Thursday, Dec. 10

7 PM Member Program via ZOOM

Silent Auction Winners Announced

7:30 pm Christmas Bird Count Meeting  
via ZOOM

**Speaker:** Robert Rommel  
Former HH Audubon President

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Christmas Bird Count

To join the Member Programs via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7819826859> - Meeting ID: 781 982 6859

Hilton Head Audubon holds monthly member programs from September to May at 3:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Information about meetings is listed on our [website](http://www.audubon.org) and in each issue of Ecobon. All welcome.