

February Program

Hilton Head Audubon is thrilled to announce Sidney Gauthreaux, Ph.D, as our featured speaker for this month's membership Zoom. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, at 3 pm.

Dr. Gauthreaux is known as the father of radar ornithology and began working with weather surveillance radar (WSR-57) at the National Weather Service installation in New Orleans to detect, quantify, and monitor



migrating birds in the atmosphere while a college freshman. His graduate research first focused on the use of radar to study bird movements in the atmosphere with

particular emphasis on radar studies of the arrival of trans-Gulf of Mexico bird migration. He later expanded his studies to radar stations over much of the eastern United States in spring and fall.

Since 1992, the use of modern Doppler weather radar (WSR-88D) has revolutionized the study of bird migration. It is now possible to monitor the movements of birds and insects through the atmosphere in

Title: Learn How the Use of Radar Transformed the Study of Bird Migration

Speaker: Sidney Gauthreaux, Ph.D, Head of the Edisto Open Land Trust, retired ornithology professor, who taught at Louisiana State University and more recently Clemson University.

Date: Thursday, February 11

Time: 3-4:30 pm

[Click here to join](#)
Meeting ID: 580 900 3493
Passcode: 638898

the surveillance areas of approximately 159 weather radar stations. For many birders, these advances mean better forecasts of migration waves and real-time knowledge of geographical areas where large numbers of migrants are stopping over on their migratory journeys northward in spring and southward in fall. For military aviation this information can be used to help avoid bird aircraft collisions. From a conservation perspective, the year-to-year variation in the patterns of migration in national radar images are of great value for monitoring the health of the North American bird migration system.

Dr. Gauthreaux is a retired ornithology professor, having taught at Louisiana State University and more recently Clemson University. A member of Audubon South Carolina's Board of Advisors, he is the immediate past chair of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.

Osprey Watch 2021 starts in February

The 2020 Osprey season was a bit challenging with COVID restrictions that made it difficult at times for the monitors to get to their assigned nests. Despite the challenges, it was a great season. Forty one Hilton Head residents participated as monitors or back-up monitors for 61 osprey nest sites for the International Osprey Watch program through the Center for Conservation Biology. The data compiled is part of the Lowcountry Institute's monitoring program, which collects data to monitor challenges to aquatic ecosystems, climate change, depletion of fish stocks, and contaminants. While not all the sites were active last



Osprey by Mary Alice Tartler

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President's Message

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



The other day I came upon a small group of Great Egrets, some of whom were coming into breeding plumage. They were perched on a tree branch overlooking a pond, and it made a nice scene. I focused and shot. Then I stepped closer, focused and shot. Then I stepped closer, and ... gone.

The thing is, I know better. Take the good, when aiming for the great will spook the birds. Good is better than nothing. Especially when it doesn't stress the birds.

One of the great things about Hilton Head Audubon is our cadre of amazing photographers. I've seen almost everyone do it right. But if you're like me and forget, there are some a few basic rules to remember:

- Avoid causing unnecessary burden or stress to birds. Never approach birds with the intent of making them fly.
- Nesting birds are especially vulnerable and need extra consideration. The same goes with shorebirds. When they are resting on our beaches, let them rest. Photograph them with a long lens at a respectful distance.
- Be careful of sharing the locations of specific birds with other photographers or birders. Think carefully about potential impacts to the birds or their habitats, both individual and cumulative.
- Remove GPS data from your images/videos for rare or sensitive species like owls.

Concern for birds' habitat is also essential. Be aware and respectful of your surroundings. Avoid trampling sensitive vegetation or disturbing other wildlife.

These are just a few basics. You can read more here: [Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography](#).

While we're on the subject of ethical behavior, let's also remind ourselves of the [American Birding Association's Code of Ethics](#). The first is all about respect, for birds, the environment, the birding community and the rights of others, including respect for private property.

The code also reminds us that birding should be fun and help build a better future for birds, for birders, and for all people. One of the things that makes birding not so much fun is when experienced birders look down on beginners. We were all beginners once, and we are all still learning. If you're a veteran birder, take time to mentor a novice.

Which leads me to the last point: Birders should always give back more than they take. Whether it's volunteering or contributing to Audubon or another conservation organization, whether it's helping to lead a walk or participating in one of our Newhall Preserve Work Days, or helping teach kids about birds through our school-based Great Backyard Bird Programs, there's a lot you can do to give back.

Don't just think about it. As the Nike slogan goes, "Just Do It" ... respectfully.

John Bloomfield

Osprey Watch continued

year, 52 of the 61 nests produced 63 successful fledglings. There were nine other young that we were unable to determine if they fledged or not.

For 2021, we will need a few more people to serve as a nest monitor or back-up monitor. This is a fun activity to do with a friend. It requires dedication to check on your assigned nest and email your observations at least twice a month and more often if there is a lot of activity. Want more info? Have questions? Ready to help? Please email Carol Clemens now at clemens318@gmail.com or call 317-370-2444. **Monitoring starts now** so don't delay. Also, just as important as monitoring, if anyone spots an osprey nest being built, please contact Carol. New nests are added because observant people note osprey activity and send her the exact location. If it is a brand new nest, she'll find a monitor for it.

Christmas Bird Count

by Susan Murphy, CBC Coordinator

Our Christmas Bird Count on December 15, 2020, was a great day, even though cool and windy. Here are the results, which have been approved by the CBC Regional Editor:

- Total number of birds: 26,475 (last year was 28,722)
- Total species: 135 (last year was 130)

There were a few species that we identified after the 2019 count that we missed or rarely saw that we hoped to find this year and we did: Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Red Knot, Eurasian Collared Dove, Loggerhead Shrike and Eastern Screech-Owl.

Rare Bird Forms were submitted for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Painted Bunting, Reddish Egret, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and for count week, sightings of Purple Finches (male and female) and a Pine Siskin.

Other interesting finds included 32 Canada Geese, 10 Eastern Meadowlarks, 10 American Kestrels and two Merlins.

A challenge after the count was mapping our Bald Eagle sightings to determine which were overlaps between teams. It was very helpful that our observers recorded the location, time and direction of flight and whether adult or immature. By comparing sightings, the panel and Area Captains were able to reduce the number of adults by 16 and immatures by six. One of the interesting



Reddish Egret by Carol Clemens

discussions during panel meetings concluded that two sets of two immature eagles seen near each other were actually two separate pairs since they had different plumage. Our final count of eagles was 52.

It was also challenging to determine the number of American White Pelicans, since flocks were seen by several different teams. Our final count was 148.

Perhaps because of our growing number of feeder watchers, we had the most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the past 10 years at 29.

We had record participation again this year. In December 2019 we had the 4th highest number of participants of all of the 2,646 count circles, at 346. In December 2020, there were 349 participants: 230 field observers and 119 feeder watchers! We continue to add new participants to our count, with 89 new people this year.

The updated 10-year history of our count is now on the website. I encourage you to take a look at how some numbers are similar or vary widely year-to-year. [Here is the link.](#)

The Regional and International Summaries for the 2019 count are now on the [Audubon website.](#)

Many thanks to all who participated and special thanks to the Area Captains who spend so much time and effort organizing and tabulating to make this count happen! Thanks to Robert Rommel, Bob Speare and Carlos Chacon who served again as our review panel, this time on Zoom. It was a marathon effort as they met for a 15-minute appointment with each of our 19 area captains to discuss their team reports.

**The next Hilton Head count is
Wednesday, December 15, 2021.**

The Audubon Newhall Preserve has started the New Year with lots of visitors and nice comments on the condition of the Preserve. We continue to improve with short-term projects and will soon draft a strategic plan for the future. If anyone wishes to provide suggestions for the plan, they may reach out to any member of the Board: Bob Clemens (rclemens318@gmail.com), Rita Kernan (rakhi@aol.com), Tom Hennessey (tmhennessey@outlook.com), Matt Matoon (matt.matoon@aol.com), Jack Coleman (jjcolema@iupui.edu) or Lynn Hodgson (Hodgson.lynn@aol.com).

Thanks to Aliceon Stillman and her husband David who repaired and painted the frames for the interpretive panels in the Pocosin and the Audubon Pond Decks. Lynn Hodgson and her helpers continue to offer bird walks on Tuesday mornings. See the website for details.

Finally, mark your calendars and “Save the Date” for a Newhall Workday at the Preserve with the local Rotary on **Saturday, March 6 at 9 am**. Please email Bob Clemens (rclemens318@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend, so that there will be sufficient coffee and donuts to serve the expected legion of volunteers!

Audubon Newhall Preserve



The Audubon Newhall Preserve was established in 1965 as the Island Wildlife Preserve, when Caroline “Beany” Newhall, recognized the need to conserve woodlands on this rapidly developing island. She persuaded Charles Fraser of the Sea Pines Company to deed 50 acres of land for a nature preserve. Over the years, Beany devoted endless hours to saving plants from the paths of developers and transplanting them into this protected environment. In 1976, she deeded the Preserve to Hilton Head Audubon, together with an endowment fund, to ensure its ongoing maintenance. In 1993, the pond was restored, and this recreated an integral focal point for the Preserve. Thanks to the foresight and generosity of its founder, Beany Newhall, this woodland will forever remain a sanctuary for all to enjoy.

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew severely damaged the Preserve. In the aftermath, an army of volunteers, the local Rotary, Sea Pines CSA, and the SC State Forestry Commission, all pitched in to restore the Preserve. More than 300 downed trees were removed from the perimeter firebreak and nearly 400 trees were planted to restore the forest. Trail signage was restored and replaced. Memorial benches were donated or replaced. Milled asphalt has been donated by Sea Pines CSA to improve the parking lot and widen the roadway from Palmetto Bay Road. Most recently, pollinator gardens have been prepared at the back of Audubon Pond. In short, the Audubon Newhall Preserve has “bounced back” better than ever!

Click the map above of the Newhall Trail Guide to look inside

PÁGINA INFORMATIVA

La campaña contra el calentamiento global y lo que tú puedes hacer día con día

Las decisiones hechas día con día pueden tener un impacto en el cambio del clima global. El contaminar menos en la vida cotidiana no significa que se tenga que vivir sin las comodidades modernas, simplemente implica tomar decisiones más sabias y utilizar productos que ayuden a ahorrar energía. Cada estadounidense emite un total de 5.6 toneladas de gases de invernadero—lo que equivale al doble de la cantidad emitida por la Europa Occidental—y siendo éste el caso, todos podemos tomar decisiones que pueden reducir el impacto de nuestras familias en el medio ambiente.

- 1. ¡Reduce, reusa, y recicla!**

Pon de tu parte para reducir la cantidad de basura al elegir productos que se puedan volver a usar, en lugar de objetos desechables. Siempre que puedas, recicla todo lo que te sea posible, y pónete como propósito el reciclar la mitad de la basura de tu hogar.
- 2. Hay que amansar al monstruo frigorífico**

Un refrigerador moderno utiliza aproximadamente 50% menos energía que los refrigeradores de hace 10 ó 15 años. Esto es de importancia, ya que los refrigeradores constituyen entre el 10 y 15% del consumo total de energía doméstica.
- 3. La climatización del hogar**

Intenta subir la temperatura del termostato en el verano e intenta bajarla en el invierno. Si tú no tienes un termostato automático, instala uno, y prográmalo para que funcione menos durante las noches. Intenta instalar mejor aislamiento en tu vivienda.

 - Programa tu calentador de agua para que permanezca a 49 grados Celsius
 - Ahorra energía aislando tu calentador de agua
 - Bájale a tu termostato entre uno y dos grados en el invierno, y súbele entre uno y dos grados en el verano
- 4. Cambia tus bombillas**

Cambia tus bombillas convencionales incandescentes a lámparas fluorescentes compactas (o CFLs). O intenta utilizar al máximo la luz natural solar durante el día. Las bombillas fluorescentes

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PÁGINA INFORMATIVA

La verdad acerca de las lámparas fluorescentes compactas (CFLs)

Las bombillas o focos incandescentes son de los artículos más ineficaces dentro de tu hogar. Las lámparas fluorescentes compactas (o CFLs) son una alternativa mucho más eficaz para ahorrar dinero y reducir la emisión de gases de invernadero que incrementan el calentamiento global. Un CFL típico utiliza solamente un 25% de la electricidad de un foco incandescente (o tradicional) para producir la misma cantidad de luz. El cambiar todos los focos de tu vivienda a CFLs es un paso que puedes tomar para luchar contra el calentamiento global por medio de la disminución del consumo de electricidad, ya que el alumbrado constituye un 30% del consumo total de electricidad en los Estados Unidos. Increíblemente, con tan sólo el 5% de la población del mundo, como país, los E.U.A., produce un 25% de los gases de invernadero, y es uno de los máximos emisores de gases de invernadero a nivel mundial.

Mitos y Hechos

Mito: Los CFLs son demasiado costosos.
Hecho: Los ahorros de los CFLs valen mucho más que el costo inicial de la bombilla. CFLs duran 10 veces más largo que bombillas normales y también usan menos energía lo que significa ahorros considerables en las cuentas de electricidad.

Mito: La luz de los CFLs tiene un color desagradable.
Hecho: Hoy en día los CFLs más nuevos se pueden encontrar en diferentes formas y colores.

Hecho: Los CFLs contienen mercurio.
Si los CFLs contienen una pequeña cantidad de mercurio. Sin embargo, el uso de CFLs reduce drásticamente las emisiones de las plantas de generación eléctrica con carbón y esto reduce la emisión de mercurio a nuestra atmósfera. Además, hoy en día los CFLs se pueden llevar a cualquier Home Depot (y muchas otras tiendas) para ser reciclados de manera segura y sana tras su uso.

Mito: No hay CFLs que satisfagan mis necesidades, y, además, los CFLs producen un zumbido molesto al estar encendidos.
Hecho: Hay, de hecho, una amplia variedad de CFLs ya disponibles para todo tipo de uso o necesidad y, gracias a la tecnología, los CFLs son silenciosos.

Mito: Los CFLs tienen un parpadeo muy molesto.
Hecho: No. Las lámparas fluorescentes compactas modernas generan una luz continua y sin parpadeo.

Mito: Lo que yo haga o no haga no tiene ningún impacto en el calentamiento global.
Hecho: El cambiar los focos incandescentes a CFLs sí ayuda a reducir la contaminación que causa el calentamiento global, y es una de las maneras más fáciles de reducir el consumo de energía. Por ejemplo, si cada hogar en los Estados Unidos reemplazara tan sólo un foco incandescente con un CFL, la contaminación de un millón de automóviles desaparecería. Igualmente, con simplemente reemplazar tres focos incandescentes con CFLs se ahorrarán en promedio 136 kilogramos de dióxido de carbono y \$60 dólares anualmente. El Departamento de Energía de los Estados Unidos tiene excelentes recursos en cuanto a cómo ahorrar energía. La página en la red se encuentra en: <http://www.1recor.energy.gov/consumer/consensoj>.

Pero, ¿y mi gobierno qué puede hacer para luchar contra el calentamiento global?

El gobierno puede invertir en iniciativas para generar energía renovable; regular la contaminación de gases de invernadero; climatizar hogares y negocios, y desarrollar viviendas más eficientes para disminuir el consumo de energía. Si los senadores y diputados son presionados por ciudadanos como tú, el gobierno federal será presionado para tomar acción. Tú puedes también llamar a las oficinas de tu diputado y tus senadores por medio de la operadora del Capitolio estadounidense, (202) 224-3121. Nótese que no todas las operadoras hablan español, pero hay hispanoparlantes disponibles para ayudarte si no hablas inglés. También puedes escribir cartas al editor para que sean publicadas en algún periódico local, y puedes asimismo pedir a otras personas que hagan lo mismo en su comunidad. Únete a la red de acción de Audubon, www.audubonaction.org (en inglés) o escribe a: audubonaction@audubon.org

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Field Trips

by Carlos Chacon, Field Trip Coordinator

Please note, as a benefit of membership, members of HH Audubon are sent an **EMAIL** to sign up for all trips. These trips sell out quickly, are on a first-come, first-serve basis, and we do not keep waiting lists. Therefore the links for trip signup are not listed in the *Ecobon* or on the website.



February 10 - Nemours Foundation - SOLD OUT

The Nemours Foundation property, located in northern Beaufort County, covers more than 10,000 acres and includes a variety of great bird watching habitats including old rice fields, fresh and brackish water marsh, upland pine and hardwood forest, bottomland hardwoods and cypress/tupelo swamps. The site is managed by the Nemours Wildlife Foundation, which conducts research and outreach programs.

Nemours staff biologist Beau Bauer will lead the group on a bird watching outing that will cover some of the habitats present in the plantation. He will be assisted by Steven Guy, one of Beaufort County's foremost birders.



February 23 - Colleton River Club - SOLD OUT

The Colleton River Club offers diverse habitats will the possibility to see several types of birds including shorebirds, wading birds, songbirds, and birds of prey. More than 40 species can be seen on a typical outing, including American Kestrel and Loggerhead Shrike.

Note that in the month of April, Colleton River members identified over 100 different species within the community. The group will have the opportunity to see a Bald Eagle nest and explore several good bird watching locations within the

plantation, including salt marsh mudflats, freshwater lagoons, maritime forests and freshwater wetlands.

Participants will be divided into groups of two or four to explore the golf course and surrounding areas. Participants will be asked to pay an additional \$10 fee for the use of Golf Carts during the trip. Expert birder Carlos Chacon and Colleton River member and experienced bird watcher Stephen Dickson will lead the field trip.

February 27 - Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge - SOLD OUT

With over 5,000 acres of various bird-friendly habitats, Pinckney Island is a fantastic bird haven, sitting right between Hilton Head Island and Bluffton.

All Hilton Head Audubon field trips are limited to 10 people at this time. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced.

May 31 – June 8 Costa Rica Birding Trip

With the expectation that many of us will be vaccinated soon, we are pleased to announce that Hilton Head Audubon Field Trip Chair Carlos Chacon will lead an international birding trip to tropical Costa Rica.

With more than 900 species, the tiny Central American country is one of the world's top birding destinations. Carlos Chacon, a Costa Rica native, will lead a small group of Audubon members through eight days of birding at three locations within Costa Rica.

The trip starts in the capital city of San Jose on May 31. From there, participants will visit the northern wetlands and the famous Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge for two days of birding on land and by boat. The following two days will be spent exploring the Tropical Rain Forest near the famous active Arenal Volcano, an area of high biodiversity and home to rare species including the Bare-necked Umbrella Bird. The trip ends with two days of birding in the cloud forest.

At an elevation of 4,600 feet, the Monteverde Cloud Forest is home to the stunning Resplendent Quetzal as well as many Cloud Forest specialties. With six species of toucans, and more than 50 species of hummingbirds, Costa Rica is a great bird watching destination.

Carlos will do a virtual presentation about the trip on Monday, March 1 at 6 p.m. Email him at eco1adventures@gmail.com for more information about the trip or to join the presentation. Carlos will advise potential participants on COVID-19 protocols in Costa Rica.

Through Our Binoculars

by Jack Colcolough

Winter bird species sightings reported in our area were one of our highest ever during the last month with seventeen rare, nine out of season and so many uncommon species. Irruptive species, including Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins continued to be seen at many locations; it has been one of our best winters ever for them. Most of our winter ducks and shorebirds are also here.

Rare species reported

- Wilson's Warbler at the Forest Preserve in Sea Pines and Skidaway Island



Wilson's Warbler, Pattie Kappmeyer

- Rufous Hummingbird in Savannah
- Black-chinned Hummingbird on Hilton Head Island and in Savannah
- Brown Creeper in Bluffton
- Snow Goose on Callawassie Island and in Beaufort County
- Great Cormorant in Belfair
- Grasshopper Sparrow on Hunting Island
- Fox Sparrow on Onslow Island and in Savannah
- King Rail in Jasper County
- Yellow-breasted Chat at Skidaway Island
- Virginia Rail at the ACE Basin NWR Combahee Unit
- Purple Sandpiper on Tybee Island
- Red-breasted Nuthatches, Common Ground Doves, Sandhill Cranes and Roseate Spoonbills at several locations
- Snowy Egret/Little Blue Heron hybrid on Skidaway Island.

Out-Of-Season species

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Painted Bunting, Black-throated Blue and Prairie Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Summer Tanager and Black-necked Stilt.



Purple Sandpiper, John Bloomfield

Uncommon Species

Bachman's Sparrow (resident at Webb WLC), Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, Redhead (duck), Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, American Black Duck, Mottled Duck, Ruddy Duck, Baltimore Oriole, Long-billed Dowitcher, Great and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, Greater Scaup, Glossy Ibis, Stilt Sandpiper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, American Pipit, White-winged Scoter, Reddish Egret and Caspian Tern.

Also, Avocet, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, American Bittern, American White Pelican, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wild Turkey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Winter, Sedge and House Wrens, Northern Bobwhite, Red-cockaded and Hairy Woodpeckers, Loggerhead Shrike, Saltmarsh, Nelson's, Vesper and Seaside Sparrows, Eurasian-collared Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Kestrel, Blue-headed Vireo and Rusty Blackbird.

To report a bird sighting that is accidental, rare, out of season, uncommon, or a species that you consider to be a good find, e-mail: birding-friends@googlegroups.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.

Editor's Note: After more than 15 years of reporting on bird sightings in the Lowcountry, Jack has decided that it is time to pass the torch. His service to Hilton Head Audubon through this column, the Christmas Bird Count and other adventures, and his unmatched enthusiasm for birds and birding – which has caused many of us to pick up a pair of binoculars or a camera – is unrivalled. We thank him with all our hearts.

If you have an interest in writing a guest column over the next few months, please let us know. We'll be seeking a long-term replacement, although we know Jack cannot be replaced.

Ready Your Binoculars For the Great Backyard Bird Count

This February 12–15, birders from around the globe are taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a four-day birding event where you fuel science and conservation while celebrating the birds near you. Check out the event's newly redesigned [website](#) to explore all of the ways GBBC can make an impact, connecting people with birds—and each other.

To learn more about the GBBC and how to join the fun, tune in to our free webinar conversation featuring GBBC coordinators from the Cornell Lab, Birds Canada, and Audubon—happening February 9 at 12:00 p.m. EST. [Register here to attend.](#)



South Carolina Baltimore Oriole Winter Survey and Great Backyard Bird Count set for February 12-15

South Carolina's 2020 Baltimore Oriole Winter Survey reported the largest number of orioles wintering in the United States for the sixth year in a row. The 2021 SCDNR Baltimore Oriole Winter Survey, conducted as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count will be Feb. 12-15.

Even if you do not have orioles on the count days, if you have orioles frequenting your feeders during the winter months (December, January and February), or know someone who does, SCDNR would like for you to participate in the survey. For more information on the Baltimore Oriole Winter Survey or to receive this year's survey results, contact Lex Glover at GloverL@dnr.sc.gov.

Welcome to our New Members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Nancy Gasen
Angie Hutchins
Janice McKelvey
Lou Natale
Cathy Theisen
Michael Wheeler
Cindy Van Winkle

Members and non-members can join, renew or make donations on our website. **We only 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

[To fill out a form and mail in a check - click here to download the form](#)

Step Right Up: An invitation to join our board

By Jane Hester, Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair

Last year Hilton Head Audubon developed a long-range plan with a goal of growing our organization and becoming a leading advocate for birds and conservation in the Lowcountry. One of the strategies to meet that goal is diversifying our board of directors and volunteer base to ensure we can sustain the momentum we have generated over the past several years.

This year, several of our board members will be rotating off the board, some for personal reasons and others for a well-deserved break after many years of service.

We think this is an exciting opportunity. New board members bring new ideas and approaches and provide a fresh perspective. This is a great time to put your personal and professional skills to work to support a vital, all-volunteer organization meeting an important community need.

Below is a brief explanation of each of the positions that will be vacant as of May 2021. A more complete list of duties can be found in the by-laws. We are hoping you will be willing to serve in one of these positions. These are some of the areas for which we are recruiting, and a brief overview of their responsibilities:

President: Presides as the head of the organization and guides its activities, policies and strategies. Presides at all annual, monthly or special meetings. Serves as liaison with National Audubon and its state office in South Carolina.

Treasurer: The treasurer develops, with the aid of the Board, our annual budget and financial plan, and prepares periodic financial reports for the board and our members. Has custody of the organization's funds and securities and is responsible for depositing and disbursing funds. Light bookkeeping and basic accounting knowledge are required for this role.

Membership: Is responsible for managing relationships with our members and growing our membership base. We're looking for an outgoing person with knowledge of database management to coordinate interactions with our members. Works closely with the treasurer in executing his/her duties.

Programs: Makes plans and arrangements for monthly program meetings, including recruitment of speakers. Works closely with the president and other officers to ensure speakers are in line with the organization's priorities and can



provide a positive, informative experience for our members and guests.

Communications: Sets the organizations public outreach strategy and maintains our primary communications vehicles, including editing of *Ecobon*, management of our social media pages, including the website. Coordinates email distribution in conjunction with the membership chair.

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the above roles. What's required: Your energy and commitment to Audubon and your ability to attend regular monthly board meetings (which these days are being conducted virtually). Training will be available for any of these positions.

If you're interested in joining the board and would like to explore the possibility further, please write to hhiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org and a member of the Nominating Committee will be in touch.

Please join us for the next phase of our journey.



February - April 2021 Calendar

March

Thursday, March 11 3 pm **HH Audubon Program Meeting** **Speaker: Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux**
via Zoom Retired LSU and Clemson
Professor and Head of the Edisto
Open Land Trust

April

Thursday, April 8 3 pm **HH Audubon Program Meeting** **Speaker: TBD**

May

Thursday, May 13 3 pm **HH Audubon Program Meeting** **Speaker: TBD**

[Click here to join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 580 900 3493

Passcode: 638898

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All are welcome to attend!

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](#) and in each issue of Ecobon. All are welcome.



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