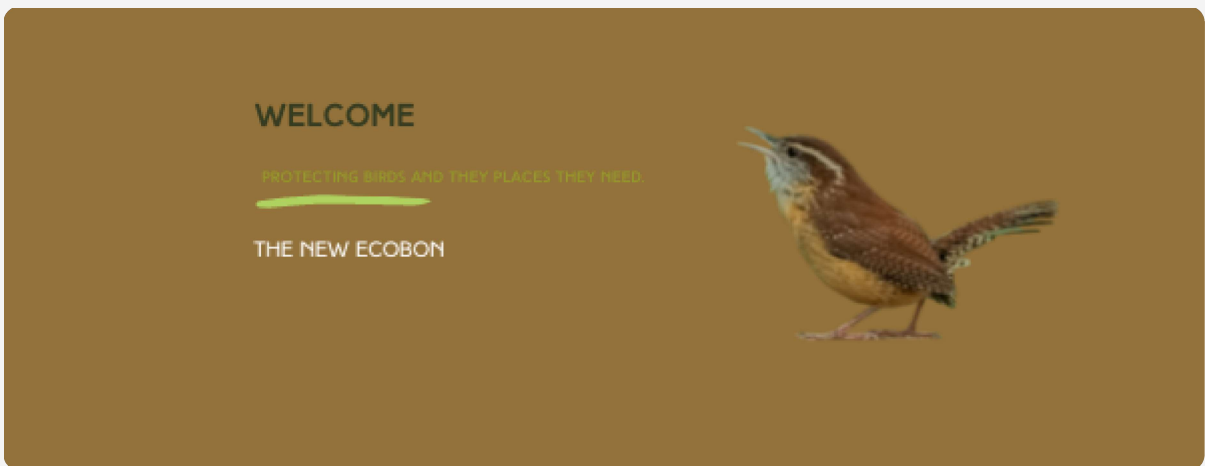




October 2021

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Welcome to October Ecobon

Over the summer HHIAS conducted a Membership Survey to understand the interests of our base so we can craft programs and benefits to serve

those interests and align with our mission. In September the Board reviewed the results and is crafting an action plan to address all the findings which will be shared with membership at a later date.

Some membership needs that surfaced are reflected in new programs, events, content and communications, specifically:

- More transparency in volunteering and outreach opportunities.
- Opportunities to participate in community science projects.
- Improve website information about calendar/events, field trips, birding hotspots or to join/renew membership.
- Improve the field trips sign-ups and communication process.

The **October Calendar** kicks off with the **National Audubon Virtual Convention** October 1-2 open to everyone and introduces a pay-what-you-can registration fee. Learn more and register [click here](#).

HHIAS will offer **Climate Advocacy Training** in partnership with SC Audubon on October 23. We hope you can participate in this important issue affecting birds. If this class fills up we will offer additional training dates. [Register here](#).

In our HHIA member survey you requested more transparency and communication regarding volunteer opportunities. Our October member meeting will be a **Member Volunteer Fair**. The fair will showcase volunteer opportunities and allow members to sign up based on their interests and level of commitment. We need more volunteers to enable your Audubon chapter to do more for you and for our birds! If you aren't able to attend, you can still volunteer. Member volunteer opportunities and information about how to volunteer will be posted on the HHIA website after the fair. Details: the Fair is rain or shine on October 28th at Dolphin Head in Hilton Head Plantation from 3:30-5:30 pm. BYOB and snacks. Just mention you're going to the Audubon meeting at the HHP security gate. The event will conclude with guided bird walks in Hilton Head Plantation so wear comfortable shoes and bring your bins if you plan on birdwatching.

Field Trip season is in full swing. As a reminder, you can register directly

from Ecobon using the links provided or [visit the website](#).

Karen Lucey who participated in the September field trip to Jarvis Creek submitted this drawing to commemorate her first field trip!



Any questions? Drop us an email at ecobon@hiltonheadaudubon.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

JOIN US





Field Trips

To register click on the links or go to the [website](#).

Saturday, October 2 @8:00am - Crystal Lake

[Crystal Lake Field Trip - October 2, 2021](#)

Saturday, October 9 @8:00am - Newhall Forest Preserve

[Newhall Forest Preserve Field Trip - October 9, 2021](#)

Saturday, October 16 @8:00am - Pinckney Island NWR

[Pinckney Island NWR Field Trip - October 16, 2021](#)

Saturday, October 23 @8:00am - Palmetto Bluff

[Palmetto Bluff Field Trip - October 23, 2021](#)

Saturday, October 30 @8:00am - Kingfisher Pond

[Kingfisher Pond Field Trip - October 30, 2021](#)

Events Calendar

Please click on the links for more details.

OCTOBER

2021 National Audubon Virtual Convention

Two-day event: October 1-2 from 1:00 to 4:00pm

[Register here](#)

Newhall Weekly Bird Walk

Tuesdays in October @8:30am - starting October 12

[Weekly Bird Walk at Newhall Preserve](#)

BIRDS! Join Lynn Hodgson for an hour's walk to welcome back our migratory birds and learn about the habits of wintering and native residents. Lynn will help us learn to identify the birds by their songs, flight patterns and habitat preferences. Bring binoculars and come often as each week we discover new visitors who just stop by on their travels south or old familiar friends who call Newhall their home.

Newhall Weekly Nature Walk

Fridays in October @9:30am - starting October 15

[Guided Nature Walk at Newhall Preserve](#)

Join Debby Boots for a stroll around the pond. We will learn how the forest prepares for winter, all about the underground woodwide web and investigate the medicinal and culinary uses for over 30 native trees, shrubs and flowers. Following walk, participants can sample some edible teas and snacks from plants we find along the trail. Bring binoculars. Beautyberry bug repellent provided.

Newhall Work Day

Saturday, October 9 @9:00am with local Rotary

[October Newhall Volunteer Work Day](#)

Climate Advocacy Training with SC Audubon

Saturday, October 23

[Click here to register](#)

HHIAS will host Climate Advocacy Training and a bird banding demonstration conducted by South Carolina Audubon for HHIAS members and supporters.

October Monthly Member Event

Thursday, October 28 @3:30pm Member Volunteer Fair at Dolphin Head Recreation Center, HHI Plantation.

[October Member Volunteer Fair](#)

NOVEMBER

Newhall Weekly Bird Walk

Tuesdays in November @8:30am

[Weekly Bird Walk at Newhall Preserve](#)

BIRDS! Join Lynn Hodgson for an hour's walk to welcome back our migratory birds and learn about the habits of wintering and native residents. Lynn will help us learn to identify the birds by their songs, flight patterns and habitat preferences. Bring binoculars and come often as each week we discover new visitors who just stop by on their travels south or old familiar friends who call Newhall their home.

November Monthly Member Event

Wednesday, November 17 @3:00pm Member Meeting at Palmetto Electric Community Room, Hilton Head Island.

Topic: Feral Cats

[November Member Meeting with Guest Speaker](#)

DECEMBER

Newhall Weekly Bird Walk

Tuesdays in December @8:30am

[Weekly Bird Walk at Newhall Preserve](#)

December Monthly Member Event

Thursday, December 9 @7:00pm CBC Information Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island.

[Christmas Bird Count Information Meeting with Guest Speaker](#)

CBC Bird Count

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

[2021 Christmas Bird Count](#)

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 or visiting our area and interested in being a part of this international effort, please e-mail Susan Murphy and an Area Captain will contact you.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

HILTON HEAD AUDUBON IN THE NEWS



Update on Special Projects

By John J. Coleman III MD

Over the Fall of 2020 and throughout 2021 HHIAS has participated in the Eco-Heritage Advisory Coalition. This is a project initiated by three Hilton Head residents, Terry Herron, John Parsons and Richard Thomas with the goal of creating a Greenway of natural areas that connects the Shelter Cove community through the Mid Island tract to Fish Hall Creek and Burkes Beach. HHIAS participated in all aspects of this effort but was especially concerned with the reclamation of the Mid Island Tract as a natural wild area. Jack Coleman and Lynn Hodgson made on site presentations to Mayor McCann and city council members on several occasions highlighting the advantages to birds and people on keeping this area natural. HHIAS contributed a letter of support for this plan along with other nature involved entities such as the Coastal Discovery Museum, the Spring Island Trust and The Heritage Library. We also provided the analysis of the property by Tim Evans, South Carolina's Audubon Forester. The Coalition will meet with the Town Council and the Consultants hired by the town for the disposition of the Mid Island Tract.

Between 6/17 and 6/28 HHIAS joined with Charleston Bird Club and Silver Bluff Audubon to participate in the National Audubon Society's Fly In. This was a Zoom lobbying session to promote Natural Infrastructure . Audubon groups from South Carolina, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas lobbied select House and Senate members. Jack Coleman participated in the sessions with Senator Tim Scott and Representative Nancy Mace. Others lobbied Lindsey Graham and Jim Clyburn.

The specific requests related to Natural Infrastructure to protect lands from flooding. First was that Congress permanently authorize and regularly fund the CDBG-DR, The Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery administered through HUD. This would allow preemptive projects and strategies not only post facto funds. SC currently has used some of these funds to buy out homes in flood plains and restore wetlands. The second request is that Congress direct FEMA to promote nature based risk reduction through its BRIC program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, setting aside 15% or more of the funds for Natural Infrastructure. The third request was that FEMA partner with the national Fish and Wildlife Service to establish demonstration grants for promotion and education on Natural Infrastructure.

HHIAS is working with The South Carolina Forestry Commission to assess risk and develop strategies for fire mitigation at the Newhall Preserve. A visit by members of SCFC is in the process of being scheduled.

AUDUBON NEWHALL PRESERVE

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

NEWHALL NOTES



Newhall Notes

Our September work day was a success in that we accomplished a great deal with just four people! Susan Kelsey mowed the grasses in the parking lot and Audubon trail; Jim Reynolds and Bob Clemens tackled trimming branches obscuring signs on Palmetto Bay Road; and Stephen Streeter trimmed our many trails. Kristin and Logan Cambron arrived with only a few minutes left, but jammed a lot of work in the time available!

Next workday is October 9 at 9:00am where we will be joined by volunteers from a local Rotary club.

THROUGH OUR BINOCULARS

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED

COMMUNITY SIGHTINGS & STORIES



Interested in Taking Over this Column?

Through our Binoculars has been a beloved section of Ecobon since its inception by Jack Colcolough. Jack relied on his expert network of birders and reports from birding-friends@google to compile the monthly column of birding activity and sightings. Without Jack's personal touch, the concept is now covered by eBird lists, birding-friends@google and the HHIAS Facebook group page.

To keep this column alive, we are seeking a volunteer or volunteers to compile and report for Through Your Binoculars. This would be a great learning opportunity!

Our Birding Community

There are several ways to report sightings and general birding activity: use eBird or join the HHIAS Facebook group or Birding-Friends@google.com.

If you would like to join the Birding-Friends google group please send an email requesting access to ecobon@hiltonheadaudubon.org.

Here is a media collage of September birding activity from the [HHIAS](#)



Book Review: Owls of the Eastern Ice

By Carol Tunnicliffe

I recently finished a book I'd like to highly recommend to our members.

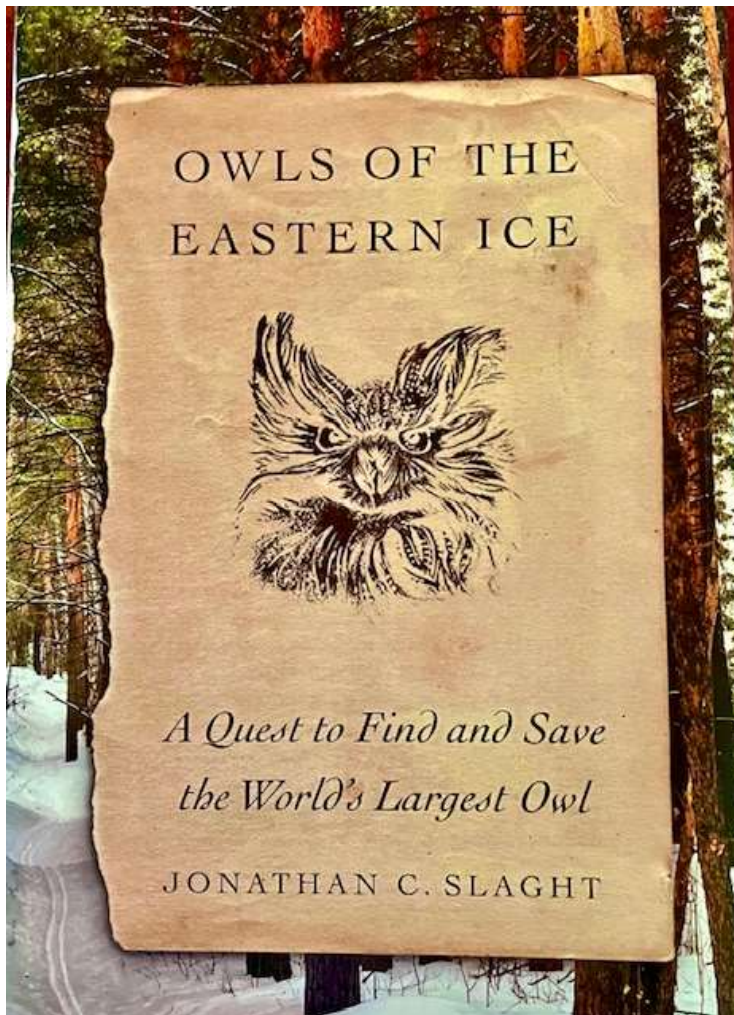
This true adventure narrative is an account of a scientist and his small research team's five year journey to save an elusive endangered species, the Blackiston's fish owl. (And yes, their main diet is fish!) This enormous owl, which has a wingspan of a little over six feet and is virtually unknown to the outside world, lives in remote forests of eastern Russia. To make this project even more challenging, these elusive birds are easiest to find in winter when their tracks are visible on the snowy banks of the rivers where they feed. All of these factors, the harsh winter environment, the remote locations, the elusive nature of the species and very little existing research made their mission very daunting and created many harrowing situations along the way. They also made creative problem solving a necessity on a daily basis. And not only did they need to find these birds, they needed to learn all about them and their shrinking habitat in order to craft a conservation plan that would hopefully insure their future survival.

Interwoven with their scientific journey are the vivid portrayals and descriptions of the remote forests, the isolated settlements, and the interactions with colorful characters they meet in these remote areas.

But the stars of this journey are the amazing fish owls themselves and we learn all about these fascinating birds right alongside the researchers, every step of the way.

This book, which was authored by the scientist/conservationist who created this project and led the team, really opened my eyes to what's involved in field research and the advancement of science. I was constantly amazed, inspired and humbled by the dedication, tenacity, and resourcefulness exhibited by this team and their intrepid leader.

But most importantly this book expanded my awareness even more of just how critically important it is to protect our dwindling habitats.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer Opportunities

October 23 Climate Advocacy Training with SC Audubon

[Register here.](#)

October 28 Member Volunteer Fair

We're looking for committee members and those interested in occasional volunteering to help expand our impact, including conservation, advocacy, education, communications, programs, field trips and membership. Come to the volunteer fair to learn how you can get more involved.

[October 28 Volunteer Fair and Information Session](#)

Program Chair Committee

Program Chair is vacant. If you are interested in joining the Program committee or serving as Chair, please contact Kay Grinnell, President for more information at hiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org

Audubon Newhall Preserve

Workdays are scheduled once a month on Saturday mornings. Also, we have special projects that may require volunteers to lend a hand. If you would like to be added to volunteer list, please contact Bob Clemens at rclemens318@gmail.com.

Next scheduled work days is on

[October 9 Volunteer Work Day with local Rotary.](#)

Ecobon

Article submissions are encouraged. Content should be relevant to birding and habitat in the lowcountry of South Carolina. We also are looking for a person to take ownership of the Through Our Binoculars section. To submit or exchange ideas on an article please contact us at ecobon@hiltonheadaudubon.org

Community Science

Participating in community science can be as simple as [submitting an eBird list](#) while out birding.

2022 Nightjar Survey

Alan Biggs and Bob Speare are planning a follow-up nightjar survey in 2002. If you are interested in participating, contact us at communityscience@hiltonheadaudubon.org