



August/September 2022

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Welcome back! We are pleased to report many new initiatives at Hilton Head Audubon. They reflect the collective gifts of our stellar volunteer team, and the synergy that results from enthusiastic birders, conservationists and naturalists, as well as members from all walks of life — college, corporations, finance and medicine.

Our eye-catching new logo, Ecobon banner and website are designed to capture your attention and engage you with informative new sections: [Birding Hotspots](#), (*special thank you to member [Bill Pender](#) for helping update this section!*), [Birdability](#)—which focuses on accessible locations for birders with mobility challenges; an expanded introduction to our beloved 50-acre, [Audubon Newhall Preserve](#); and a new [Advocacy page](#) highlighting our work championing birds and the healthy habitats they need to survive and thrive. Our new [Speakers Bureau](#) enables your organization and visiting groups to benefit from our expertise in every aspect of bird life and conservation here, including the vibrant and growing area of Ecotourism.

Among our many upcoming events is our Sunday, October 2, Member Appreciation Social at The Island Winery on Hilton Head. You are welcome to bring a guest and the public is also invited, though space is limited. So, [reserve your spot now!](#)

Your Hilton Head Audubon Board and Committee Members

Update on Master Birder Class

We had such great response to our Fall Master Birder Class that we are working on offering a Spring 2023 cohort. If you are interested, please join the waitlist to receive priority registration information. [Click here to add your name.](#)

Ways to Give

Did you know recent studies show that giving can actually boost your physical and mental health? The health benefits associated with giving can include lower blood pressure, increased self-esteem, less depression, lower stress levels, a longer life and greater happiness and satisfaction. Imagine how it benefits birds and their ecosystems, which are threatened

by development, climate change and environmental threats.

Hilton Head Audubon accepts donations online, using Venmo, or by mailing a check. Donations can be made in honor or memory of someone.

[Donate online.](#)

[Donate by mail.](#)

Donate by Venmo. **If you have Venmo, scan the Venmo QR code** or go onto the [Venmo app](#) and find us by typing “HHI Audubon Society” or “@HHIAudubon”.



We use our donations to support: advocacy regarding conservation/birding in our region, providing birding education programs to area schools, maintaining and interpreting through signage and tours of the Audubon Newhall Preserve, managing the annual Christmas Bird Count, actively participating in regional Citizen Science programs, and increasing awareness about local conservation projects or concerns.

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering is a vital way to contribute to Audubon, and to participate in an enriching aspect of life here in the Lowcountry.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Audubon Society’s everywhere. At Hilton Head Audubon, they essential to carrying out our mission of protecting our birds and their habitats. Volunteers manage and organize our bird walks

and field trips, brainstorm our public policy statements and events, keep our website and Ecobon running, and make a daily impact on the ecosystem on our island and surrounding environments.

We are proud that our volunteers span all ages and backgrounds. They share the reward of contributing toward the brain trust that has been powering Hilton Head Audubon for almost 50 years.

We welcome you. Join us! [Learn about our volunteer opportunities here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

JOIN US



Events

Mark your calendars: Our regularly scheduled monthly member events will resume in September and continue through the year. Meetings will be held at 2:30 on the first Tuesday of each Month at The Coastal Discovery Museum's [insert name of room].

We kick off the season on Tuesday, September 13th at 2:30 PM. Hilton Head Audubon will host Diana Churchill, author and naturalist guide, as she presents an illustrated talk about fall bird migrations, with hints to identifying warblers. The meeting will start at 2:30 and run about an hour and a half or slightly less. This event is free and open to Audubon members and the public.



Diane Churchill

To view all upcoming events in a calendar format, [click here.](#)

September

Member Meeting Featuring Diane Churchill

Fall Warbler Migrations

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

[To learn more, click here.](#)

Newhall Work Day

Saturday September 10, 2022

[To learn more, click here.](#)

October

Member Appreciation Social at Island Winery

Sunday, October 2 2022

It's the social event you've been waiting for: an outside venue filled with bird-lovers sipping on excellent barreled-aged wine!

[To learn more and purchase tickets, click here.](#)

Member Meeting Featuring Erin Levesque

Waddell Mariculture Center

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

[To learn more, click here.](#)

November

Member Meeting - Speaker TBD

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

[To learn more, click here.](#)

December

Member Meeting Christmas Bird Count

Featuring Robert Rommel

Thursday, December 8, 2022

[To learn more, click here.](#)

Annual Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

[To learn more and how to participate, click here.](#)

Field Trips and Walks

Nemours Plantation Field Trip

September 15, 2022

Nemours Plantation is located in northern Beaufort County and covers over 10,000 acres. The historic property 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. **A few spots still open!**

[To learn more and register, click here.](#)

Newhall Preserve Guided Walks

Free guided tours every Tuesday led by Master Birders Jack Coleman or Rosemary Staples. Please gather in the parking lot by 8:30 AM. Groups are welcome by appointment

Nature Interpretive walks with Lowcountry Master Naturalist Rita Kernan

are also available by appointment. Contact Rita at rakhhi@aol.com for details.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

HILTON HEAD AUDUBON IN THE NEWS



A Thanks from Intern Faith Sulak

Hello, my name is Faith Sulak. I am a rising Junior at Furman University studying Environmental and Conservation Biology. This summer I had the opportunity to have an internship through the HHI Audubon Society. I mainly did survey work at Newhall Nature Preserve. There I would ask people entering the preserve some basic questions, like how they heard about Newhall and if they had ever been there before, and I would ask them questions when leaving, for instance, what they enjoyed and what they thought we could improve on. When I wasn't at Newhall, I was sitting in on Town Hall meetings discussing development plans and their impact on the environment and doing work with the Coastal Discovery Museum. This summer has been amazing and bird packed. I learned so much about the wildlife here on the island and have begun to appreciate my hometown more than I ever thought I would. I just want to thank the Audubon Society and everyone I met this summer for making it so great!

Meet Isabelle Pardew



Many thanks to Isabelle Pardew, the gifted artist who created our beautiful new graphics. Isabelle is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer based in Maryland, creating artwork that reflects the personality of various flora and fauna in nature.

"Originally studying applied mathematics, I decided to pursue my passion in illustration, and to make advocacy a priority to bring awareness to the threats facing our wildlife. I enjoy illustrating birds – notably Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, equines, landscapes, and flowers. While I primarily work digitally, traditional mediums also bring their own unique style to a piece. In every artwork, I seek to present the point of view of the subject and how they interact with their environment – a hummingbird excitedly navigating their territory, or a shorebird wading in a marsh on a cool evening."

Visit her portfolio at IsabellePardew.MyPortfolio.com

National Audubon Launches Bird Migration Explorer

Some species of migratory birds are already flying south and many more are about to start as fall migration picks up in earnest. These amazing birds complete some epic journeys and connect us all across the hemisphere, from Alaska to Argentina.

To celebrate the joy of birds and the wonder of migration, Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative has been working with partners and researchers

around the world to present the Bird Migration Explorer, a first-of-its-kind digital platform that visualizes the journeys, connections and challenges that bird migration offers us.

The interactive platform launches on Thursday, September 15th, but please take a look at this [primer document](#) and [intro video](#) to learn more.



Newhall Work Days

Hello Fellow Tree Huggers:

I'm pecking away at the keyboard to report on our July 16th Work Day at the Audubon Newhall Preserve. Our participants included high schoolers Thaddaeus and Ava Elizabeth Rios; regulars Sal Gioia, Hilton Klein, MaryEllen Blankenship, Karen Lucey, Julia and David Buzzard; and your Fearless Leader. Sal and Hilton moved three benches to the other side of the perimeter path around the Audubon Pond, in hopes that Big Al will not munch on our visitors, and then returned to assist with the "log-rolling crew." Thaddaeus and his sister, Ava Elizabeth helped several of us move and realign logs around the perimeter of the parking lot, and others of us moved branches to a large pile on the south side of the access drive for removal by our friends from Sea Pines CSA. Thanks to CSA we have added two additional parking spaces to the parking lot! As always, "May The Forest Be With You."

-Bob Clemens



To read about the work days and the fabulous work accomplished by our dedicated Newhall volunteers, please visit the [Newhall Notes section](#) of the website.

FEATHERS IN OUR LENSES

PROTECTING BIRDS AND THE PLACES THEY NEED.

COMMUNITY SIGHTINGS AND STORIES



A Change of Seasons

by Patty Kappmeyer

This summer we are experiencing typical lowcountry weather. The area is sitting under a large, moist air mass bringing high dewpoints and oppressive humidity. However, some evenings you can feel it, a subtle cool breeze blowing in drier air reminding us that we are on the cusp of summer

shifting to fall. It is this time of year I am reminded of a quote by William Faulkner it applies well to South Carolina as it does to his native Mississippi.

“ . . .in August in Mississippi there's a few days somewhere about the middle of the month when suddenly there's a foretaste of fall, it's cool, there's a lambence, a soft, a luminous quality to the light, as though it came not from just today but from back in the old classic times.”

- William Faulker, Light in August

For me and my fellow birders, this means the onset of the Fall migration. And our birding enthusiast photographers are out in force documenting the change of seasons. Images from our collective backyards have captured juvenile bluebirds, cardinals, nuthatches, painted buntings, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and many more. Some will stay and others will start to move on to make room for our overwintering species. Out in the marshes and mudflats, juvenile ibis, egrets, herons and storks are spotted flying off their roosts in large formations at sunrise and setting down to feed in the comfort of their groups.

Signs of fall migration abound. Warbler sightings are trickling in among them prairie warblers, yellow warblers and black and white warblers. Early migrants are feeding out at Fish Haul and Mitchelville beaches - sanderlings, dunlin, willets, ruddy turnstones, piping plovers, least sandpipers , semi-palmated plovers, and black-bellied plovers - some sporting remnants of breeding plumage. Our spotlight bird, the black tern, is a common migrant in our area but seemingly infrequently observed or photographed. Thanks to members Michael Oliver and Alan Biggs we are able to share images of this special seabird.

Per Alan Biggs: *they're larger than a Least Tern and smaller than a Forster's Tern. Nonbreeding adults have dark gray wings and a dark ear spot on a mostly white head. Some of the birds appeared to molting out of their breeding plumage, which is mostly black and gray. Thanks to Michael Oliver for his sighting and post a few days ago (on 8/21/22).*

This is a wonderful example of how our cameras are instrumental tools in

documenting bird activity. It is these communal experiences that bring us together as a caring community of people who are inspired by birds and want to protect them.



Courtesy of Michael Oliver

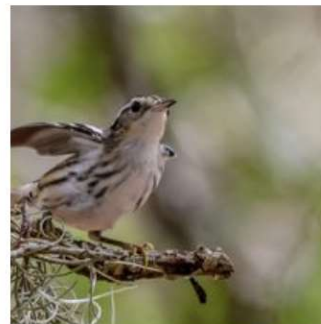


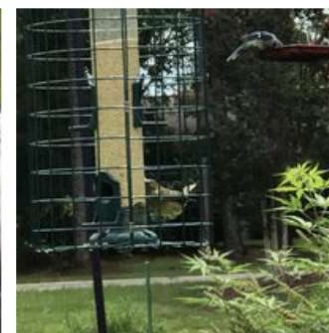
Courtesy of Alan Biggs

August Sightings: 66 species!

[Click here to view the list.](#)

Please enjoy these collages of bird activity during the past month.





If you know someone who isn't a member following our column, encourage them to [join HHI Audubon](#).

As a reminder, 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.