



October 2022

Inside this issue:

- What's New
- Upcoming Events
- New & Noteworthy
- Audubon Newhall Preserve
- Feathers Through Our Lenses



Members and Friends of Hilton Head Audubon,

Thanks to you Hilton Head Audubon successfully kicked off the Fall season with record attendance at our September meeting and a capacity crowd at the October social!

September Member Meeting Recap

Diana Churchill, author and naturalist guide, spoke to an audience of 75 at the Coastal Museum, presenting an illustrated talk about fall bird migrations, with hints to identifying warblers and full audio of chirps, warbling, songs and her own impressive examples of the varied types of trills we can hear this migration period.



Member Appreciation Social

Our Member Appreciation Social at the Island Winery attracted a 50-plus, full capacity crowd who enjoyed meeting one another, sipping wine and learning about the Conservation Voters of SC, which John Tynan, Executive Director, introduced.



*HHIAS President Kay Grinnell with John Tynan
Executive Director, Conservation Voters of SC*



John Tynan addressing the crowd.



HHIAS members and guest enjoying wine and bird talk.

October and November Member Meeting Lineup

On Tuesday, October 11 Hilton Head Audubon will host Erin Levesque, Biologist/Manager, Waddell Mariculture Center, SCDNR – Marine Resources Division. Erin will present “Stewards of the Sound and Beyond”.

On November 8, Field Biologist Amber Kuehn, manager of Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island, will present an overview of the 2022 Hilton Head sea turtle season.

Karen Penale Joins HHIAS Board

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our newest board member, Karen Penale, who will also be the Education Chair for the organization. As the newly appointed board Chair of the Education Committee for Hilton Head Audubon, Karen hopes to help start a Junior Audubon to encourage a young population of local birders.

Karen is a Master Naturalist and recently completed the Palmetto Environmental Education Certification (PEEC). A retired teacher with 24 years' experience, Karen is teaching part time as the Environmental Learning Class teacher at Cross Schools in Bluffton. Recently, she started a new business called WonderFun Learning with a partner who is also a retired teacher. The business provides local kids, families and visitors fun experiences at our low country parks and beaches to learn about the flora and fauna as well as the history of Hilton Head Island.

Your Hilton Head Audubon Board and Committee Members

Join/Renew

Joining HHIAS or renewing your membership is easy, [click here to complete the online forms](#). Please consider a contribution beyond the basic annual membership level to support our mission. As the holidays are approaching a reminder that Gift memberships are available for purchase, [click here](#).

Members receive the first notification of and the ability to register for Hilton

Head Audubon sponsored field trips, educational events and social gatherings, a subscription to Ecobon our digital newsletter and a chance to actively participate in citizen science (Christmas Bird Count) and conservation efforts. But more importantly your membership allows us to continue conservation and educational efforts throughout Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County, South Carolina.



\$10 Fledgling
Basic Membership
Student



\$25 Carolina wren
Basic Membership
Individual



\$35 Cardinal
Basic Membership
Family



\$100 Great Egret
Membership Plus
Additional Contribution



\$250 Ruddy Turnstone
Membership Plus
Additional Contribution



\$500 Painted Bunting
Membership Plus
Additional Contribution



\$1,000 Bald Eagle
Membership Plus
Additional Contribution

Donations

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

[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.

We have immediate volunteer positions available to man our booth at the weekly Hilton Head Farmer's Market. The Hilton Head Farmers Market gathers every Tuesday from 9:00am-1:00pm at the Costal Discovery Museum's Honey Horn campus. If you are interested, please contact us at the following email address: hhiaudubon@hiltonheadaudubon.org

[Learn about all of 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 be held at 2:30 on the first Tuesday of each Month at The Coastal Discovery Museum's Sea Island Room.

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

Newhall Work Day

Saturday October 8, 2022

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

October Member Meeting

Featuring Erin Levesque

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

On Tuesday, October 11 at 2:30 PM, Hilton Head Audubon will host Erin Levesque, Biologist/Manager, Waddell Mariculture Center, SCDNR – Marine Resources Division. Erin will present “Stewards of the Sound and Beyond” and will discuss how her group, The Estuarine Finfish Research Section works together to design and answer questions on species including red drum, cobia, and southern flounder. Eagles, gulls, ducks, herons, storks, cormorants, ospreys are among the birds that eat such Lowcountry fish.

The Estuarine Finfish Research Section is a group within the Marine Resources Research Institute, S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). The Waddell Mariculture Center (WMC) is a field experiment station of the and is one of the country's largest and most sophisticated facilities for mariculture research.

This group monitors marine finfish populations in South Carolina and informing management of these species. Biologists at the Waddell Mariculture Center work within this research group and are specifically responsible for the culture of marine finfish for the purpose of stock

enhancement and associated research.



November Member Meeting

Featuring Amber Kuehn

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

On November 8, from 2:30 - 4:00 PM, Field Biologist Amber Kuehn, manager of Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island, and owner/operator of Spartina Marine Education Charters, will present an overview of the 2022 Hilton Head sea turtle season.

Sea Turtle Patrol HHI, which she founded, is comprised of volunteers under the direction of SCDNR (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources). They patrol the beach beginning May 1st until the end of hatching season, which is in October, protecting our local sea turtle population.

Each morning, the patrol searches the beach for nesting loggerhead tracks, identifies nests, and marks them with poles. The nests are monitored for hatching after 45 days of incubation. When hatchlings emerge from the nest, the date is recorded and 3 days pass before the nest is inventoried. The contents of the nest are then counted and categorized.

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.](#)

2023 Master Birder Class

Join the waitlist to receive priority notification about the next session, [please click here.](#)

Field Trips and Walks

Oldfield Field Trip - October 21

Sold out!

Jarvis Creek Field Trip - October 22

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

Pinckney Island NWR Field Trip - November 12

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

Palmetto Bluff Field Trip- November 19

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

Spring Island Field Trip - December 10

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

Kingfisher Pond Field Trip - December 18

[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



National Audubon Announces Migratory Bird Initiative

It is well known that Hilton Head Island and the surrounding lowcountry are critical dots on the Great Atlantic Flyway. In September National Audubon launched The Migratory Bird Initiative (MBI) with one mission: to secure the future of migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere using the power of migration science. As one critical component of this work, the Migratory Bird Initiative is helping to gather the latest information on where hundreds of bird species go to breed and winter in the Americas throughout their annual cycles as well as their migratory routes between these places. Namely, the three key types of migration data are: occurrence and abundance data from models of eBird data (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), banding encounter data (courtesy of the USGS Bird Banding Lab), and tracking data such as geolocators and satellite transmitters (from numerous sources primarily hosted on Movebank).

Realizing what it would mean for bird conservation to connect these three types of data in a bigger, unified picture, Audubon brought together a team of scientists, biologists, GIS/data analysts, and communicators. The initiative integrates these data to better understand birds' annual cycles, connections, and threats. Identifying threats allows Audubon and partners

to protect the hundreds of species of migratory birds soaring across the Western Hemisphere. To read the full article, [please click here](#).

The Health Benefits of Birding: So Much More Than Birds

By Laura Voight

Birding is one of life's great joys. Discovering the endless beauty and variety of birds immerses us in nature, away from our daily stresses. In the Lowcountry, we are fortunate to live in one of the country's richest birding areas. Our live oak and pine forests, palmetto thickets, saltwater marshes and sandy beaches create an unmatched stage for birding – from delicate woodland songbirds and high-flying raptors to long-legged wading birds and flocks of shore and sea birds.

Every beginning birder feels that magical moment when a seductive chirp or trill makes you pause, listen for more and scan for movement in the grasses or branches that indicates a bird or two. Then, you see that small, feathered creature who stopped you in your tracks. That “aha” moment fills you with a joy and excitement that keeps you coming back for more.

The health benefits of birding – from watching and learning about these amazing, feathered creatures and getting out in nature, to sharing our joy and fascination of birds with others – are increasingly recognized by the conservation and scientific communities. In her Audubon Magazine article, “Birding With Benefits,” Jill Adams outlines recent findings on nature's ability to improve our mental health. “One leading theory is that nature can restore our attention and counter the mental fatigue that today's urban and sensory-filled environments cause,” she notes.

To continue reading the article, [please click here](#).

Laura Voight is an Audubon Hilton Head board member and the Conservation Chair.

FALL 2022 Key Conservation Issues

Hilton Head Island Audubon is working on two key conservation issues this Fall. The first is getting out the vote for the Beaufort County Greenspace Tax, and the second is our Shorebird Protection Project.

We'd love your support! Our Conservation Committee is looking for more people who are passionate about and interested in conservation. If you'd like to join us, send us an email and we'll be in touch soon. A committee commitment isn't necessary.

More about the Greenspace Tax on our November 8th Ballot

WHAT IS THE GREENSPACE TAX?

Known as the "Penny Tax", the Greenspace Tax will actually collect a maximum of \$100 million over two years to "purchase land, conservation easements and buy down density to slow and prevent development." This 1¢ tax can be renewed two more times – potentially raising a total of \$300 million! Only 10% of land in southern Beaufort County is still unclaimed from development, so now is the time to do all we can to save what's left.

HOW DID THIS TAX GET TO THE BALLOT?

SC State Senator Tom Davis (District 46, Beaufort and Jasper Counties) wrote the Greenspace Tax bill and was instrumental in getting it through our state legislature last summer. Beaufort County Council members saw the value in this bill after listening to the Senator Davis, the experts at SCDNR and several LowCountry conservation organizations on its importance. The bill was passed by the Beaufort County Council last summer to allow it onto our Fall 2022 ballot. Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks goes out to Senator Davis for all his hard work and on this important issue.

WHAT IS HHIA'S POSITION / HOW TO LEARN MORE?

Simply put, passing this bill will give us an excellent opportunity to protect and preserve habitats that the birds we love so much need to survive and thrive.

Hilton Head Island Audubon stands with other conservation-minded organizations, including SC Audubon, Coastal Conservation League,

Conservation Voters of South Carolina, Open Land Trust, and Trust for Public Land, in supporting this bill. These organizations have developed an excellent, concise website: VoteYesForGreenSpace.com that explains the ballot question in easy to understand terms. Check it out.

WHAT CAN I DO?

It will take all of us to see this through and pass it. Here's how you can help:

Talk to others about the importance of this vote, and ask them to talk to their friends and family.

Go to the website voteyesforgreenspace.com for talking points.

Vote YES on question 1!

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Senator Tom Davis is doing a speaking-engagement blast at several venues on Hilton Head Island and throughout Beaufort County between now and election day. Consider attending an event and encourage others to go, to show support and speak up in favor of the Greenspace Tax

Write letters to the editor of the Island Packet and other local publications and organization newsletters; talk to organizations or groups; and let people know the importance of passing this bill in any way you can.

If you'd like help with any project to pass the Greenspace Tax, please email us with "Greenspace" in the subject line and we'll be in touch.

Thank you!!



TripExpert Choice Award

Audubon Newhall Preserve has won a 2022 Experts' Choice Award. Experts' Choice is the only accolade based on professional reviews drawn from 100+ publications including leading travel guides, magazines and newspapers. The award, now in its sixth year, has received coverage in major outlets including The New York Times, The Daily Telegraph and GQ.

The award recognizes Audubon Newhall Preserve as one of the very best attractions in Hilton Head. Fewer than 2% of businesses receive an award.



Please [visit TripExpert to view all the 2022 winners.](#)

Newhall Work Days

Ignoring dreadful weather forecasts, we had nine stalwart volunteers show up at the Preserve for our September Work Day. Fortunately, the weatherman was wrong about the rain, so we only had to brave the heat, humidity, and bugs! Julia and David Buzzard cleaned our interpretative panels at the Pocosin Boardwalk, Audubon Pond, and Deck, and Matt Matoon and Co-Chair Jack Coleman led crews to address overgrowth on the Branch Wood Trail and around the Greenshield Gate. The Rios siblings, Ava Elizabeth, Thaddaeus, and Nathanael tackled trimming and mowing duties, and John Grobe and Co-Chair and Fearless Leader Bob Clemens pressure washed the Pocosin Boardwalk (only made possible by the prior installation of a water line at the Pond!) A group Photo was taken before we became too disheveled. From left to right we have Matt, John,

Jack, David, Julia, Thaddaeus (or is that Nathanael?), Ava Elizabeth, and Nathanael (or is that Thaddaeus?). Cleverly not pictured is the photographer, your Fearless Leader.



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



Some Thoughts on Fall Migration

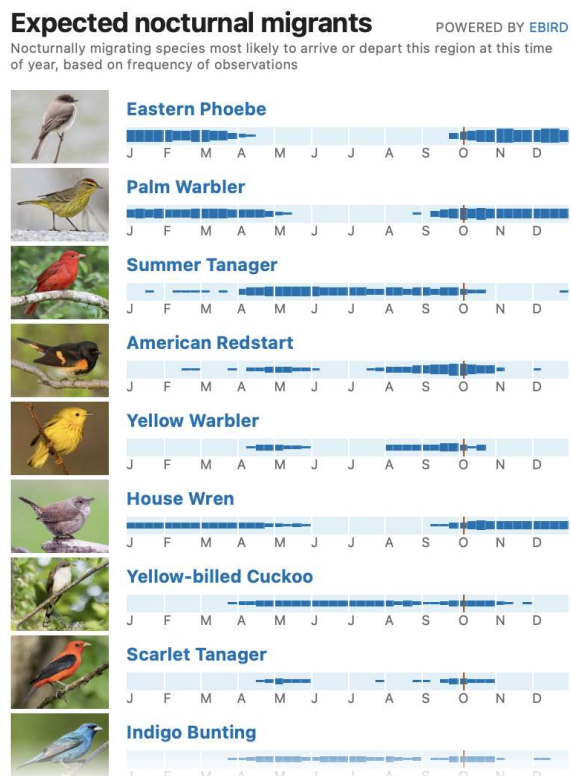
by Patty Kappmeyer

I find solace in the ritual of Fall migration. It reawakens my sense of wonder

about the natural world and offers comfort in its predictability amidst the chaos in the world. Millions of species are on the move again using Hilton Head Island as a stopover on their seasonal journey. It is a joy to spend more time outside birdwatching for familiar visitors and the occasional stray.

New technology like [Migration Birdcast](#) provides live bird migration maps that show how much, where, and when migration is occurring in real-time at a local level. However, it is the power of observation that makes the results of the technology "real".

I am giddy with excitement when American Redstarts grace my backyard and I can watch them dart and prey on insects. Or to see a female summer tanager preening in my birdbath. And to hear that a close friend, Karen Seminary, had an Eastern Phoebe visit her bird feeder as if on cue!



The [Facebook group page](#) for Hilton Head Audubon is comprised of over 2,500 members and friends who are interested in birding and conservation in the Lowcountry. This group of community scientists is our "boots on the ground" documenting birding activity on a daily basis and corroborating the migration technology.

For example, almost everyday we are fortunate to have Mary Alice Tartler post a recap of the day in migration! And we have newcomers like Micki Bartynski Coles who shared a photo of an Eastern Kingbird on a day the migration dashboard had the species at the top of the list.

There are several ways to report bird sightings : use eBird, [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.

Photo courtesy of Micki Bartynski Coles



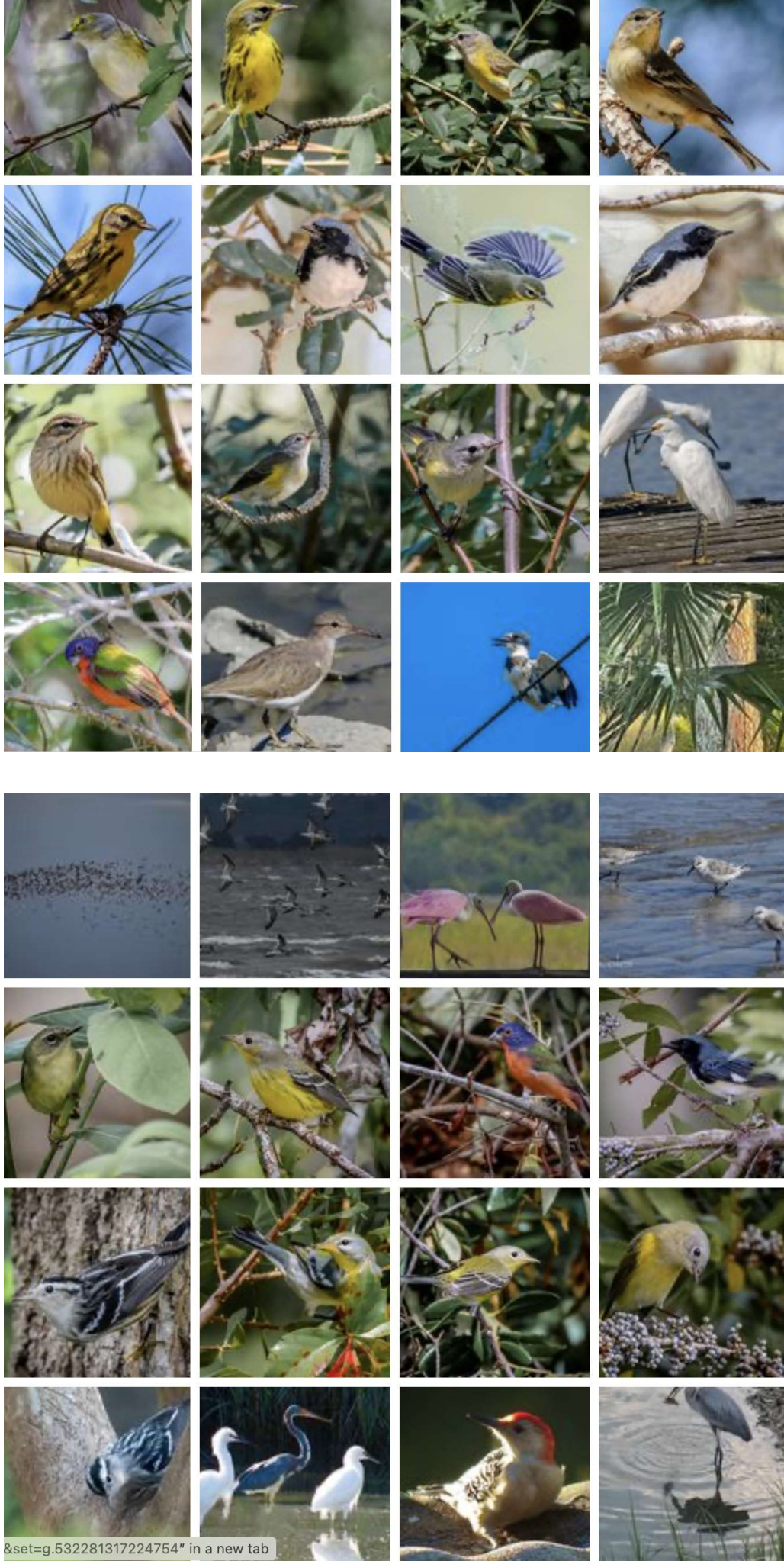
Photos courtesy of Mary Alice Tartler

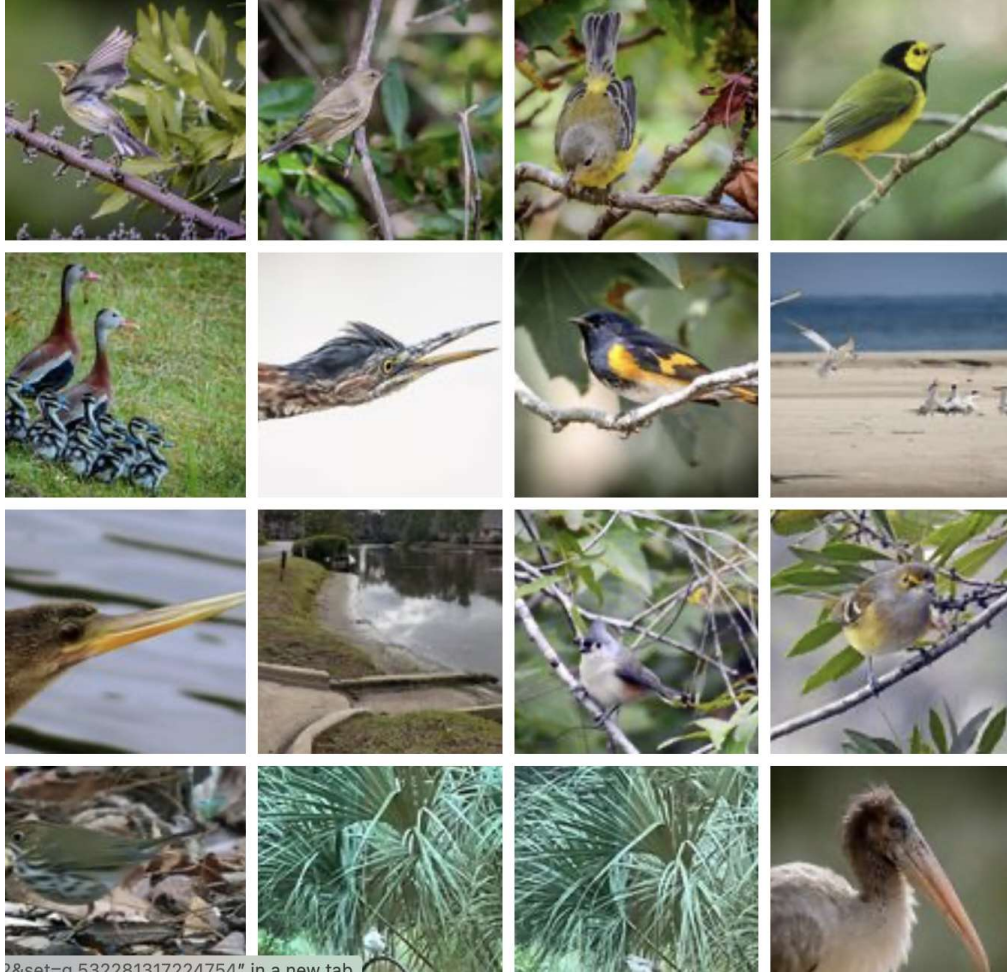




October Sightings: 76 species!

[Click here to view the list.](#) Please enjoy these collages of bird activity photographed during the past month.





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