

Fripp Audubon Club



For Immediate Release

June 2 2015

The Beaufort Barrier Islands designated as a Global Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society

Globally Significant Important Bird Area

The Beaufort Barrier Islands IBA was originally approved In November of 2009 for the Fripp Audubon Club. This was followed In May of 2015, with the Fripp Audubon Club's application to the National Audubon Society for the designation of the Beaufort Barrier Islands as a Global IBA was approved. The Global Initiatives were based on the very large number of shorebirds, seabirds and wading birds who winter and migrate to the Caribbean, Central and South American wintering grounds including a number of threatened and endangered species.

The Beaufort Barrier Islands Global IBA will be one of seventeen Global IBA sites in South Carolina. It is the only Global IBA site in Beaufort County. Nationally there are 630 global sites across the country encompassing 288,661 883 acres.

The Beaufort Barrier Islands are a chain of 6 coastal Islands which span sixteen miles from Harbor Island on St. Helena Sound on the north to Capers Island at the entrance to the Port Royal Sound on the south. These islands represent 10,000 acres of extensive beaches, Maritime forests, expansive and pristine salt marshes, tidal creeks, rivers and numerous small hammock islands.

This unique barrier island ecosystem provides a rich diversity of habitat which attracts over 182 bird species that are permanent residents, winter or summer visitors, or migrants along the Atlantic flyway. While the beaches provide important areas for migratory seabirds the Maritime forest and salt marsh edges provide safe haven ,food sources and resting opportunities. These Islands provide safe stopovers for all birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway.

Pete Richards with the Fripp Audubon Club says that " achieving the Global IBA designation is a major accomplishment which gives Beaufort international recognition and a chance to showcase the important aspects of our Beaufort Barrier Islands global IBA.

Contact Pete Richards 843 441 2153

The Beaufort Barrier Islands Global IBA

Globally Significant Important Bird Area

*Harbor Island, Hunting Island, Fripp Island, Old Island, Pritchard's Island, Capers Island
and 10,000 acres of pristine salt marshes*

