

# Gillespie Creek Journal

## I Go Down to the Shore

By  
Mary Oliver

I go down to the shore in the morning  
And depending on the hour the waves  
are rolling in or or moving out  
And I say, oh, I am miserable,  
What shall-  
What should I do? And the sea says  
In its lovely voice:  
Excuse me, I have work to do.



Very Cold Semipalmated Plovers Discuss Barrier Island Work to be Done

All Photos by Judy Appel



Isle of Palms  
South Carolina  
**A Barrier Island**



St. Phillip's Island  
Beaufort, South Carolina  
**A Barrier Island**

Barrier Islands are formed as waves repeatedly deposit sediment parallel to a shore line. Wind and waves shift them in regular patterns southward. Often Barrier Islands form a more stable Sea Island inland with a separating river between.

Nestled between are the pluff mud, spartina grassed estuaries, the cradle for shrimp, crab and oysters, the sea food we all crave.

Barrier Islands are constantly on the move. Beautiful and pristine, they are a temptation to development.

“Barrier” and “Sea” are two designations given to ocean shore geological Islands. Each has a different origin. Each has a unique function in building and in protecting inner land forms along coastal areas.

All of this was graphically shown to us by hurricane Ian this past September.



Wadmalaw Island  
South Carolina  
**A Sea Island**

Wadmalaw Island as you see in the photo is protected by Kiawah and Seabrook Barrier Islands. The tidal Edisto River flows parallel between the Barrier and the Sea Island.

Google “Hickory Island, Florida following Ian” for before and after photos of these Barrier Islands

Over 700 Sea and Barrier Islands protect the coast lines of The Carolina's, Georgia, Florida, and Texas.