

New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter



Volume 35, Number 2: March-April 2010

WILDATHON 2010

Want to make a difference in your community and have some fun at the same time? We need your support to continue the nature advocacy and environmental work we do for Chatham, Durham, and Orange Counties. The 2010 New Hope Audubon Society Wildathon, our annual fund raising activity, begins in mid-April and runs through June 1 and we NEED you to participate! There are 3 ways to participate:

- 1. Make a financial contribution.** Contributing is one of the best ways to protect important bird and wildlife habitat here in Chapel Hill (Mason Farm) and at the Coast (Audubon Coast Islands Sanctuary). We have provided funds for the purchase of the New Hope Creek corridor that is currently being developed as a park.
- 2. Lead a team and/or join a team.** The Wildathon is a day in April or May where teams go out to identify and, more importantly, count bird, plant, reptile and amphibian, insect, and/or other species. Usually, donors base their donations on the number of species counted. For example, donors may offer 25 cents for every bird you see in a day. I encourage you to form your own team or contact me if you would like to be on a team. You do not have to be experienced nature watcher or bird watcher to be on a team.
- 3. Help bring in donations.** Beyond making a donation yourself, participants can help raise money by soliciting donations on behalf of their team.



Your contribution is **tax deductible** and your participation will be **noted in our bi-monthly newsletter and on our website** (www.newhopeaudubon.org) if you choose. If you want a contribution or participation form, then please contact Tom Driscoll at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated!



Special Thanks to Karsten Rist

Dear New Hope Auduboners. As many of you know, our friend and treasurer Karsten Rist had a stroke in December. Karsten is home now and continues to recover. For the last several years Karsten has been a stalwart of our board and membership meetings. We all wish Karsten a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him soon.

Our New Treasurer

New Hope Audubon has a new treasurer. Maxine Foster graciously agreed to take over as our treasurer. By way of introduction, I asked Maxine to answer eight not so serious questions. Thanks to Maxine and here are her eight questions and answers.

- 1. What brought you to our area?** We have a son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren who live in Durham and wanted to be near them since we had no family in Columbus where we were previously living.
- 2. Where did you come from?** We came from Columbus, Ohio but are not Buckeye Fans!
- 3. What are your other interests?** Reading, exercising, quilting and spending time with new friends.
- 4. How big is your family?** We have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. My daughter and her husband and their two children live in Overland Park, Kansas. And lucky for us each of our children has a girl and boy.
- 5. What is your favorite bird?** I don't have a favorite bird!
- 6. In how many states have you lived?** I was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut. After I married, we moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, then moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Texas where we spent most of our nine years there 50 miles south of Houston in Lake Jackson, Texas. We then moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and then to Columbus, Ohio where we lived 25 years. Except for Philadelphia, I also taught in each of these states.
- 7. What is the most exotic place you have visited?** I would say there are two. We spent two weeks sailing around the Balearic Islands with friends in 50' sailboat. The other place is Belize where we sailed inside and outside the barrier reef and then did birding in the interior including a visit to Tikal.
- 8. How many quilts do you work on at one time?** At the moment I have 3 quilts that I am working on, doing a little on each one as I do other quilting projects. One of the quilts I am working on will go on the bed Steve, my husband, will be starting soon to make and another will go on the wall over the bed.

Climate Change: Several Reading Suggestions

by John Kent

Here are three items (two books and a free download report) worth reading on climate change, an important topic for folks who care about the fate of the natural world. Davis Reference at UNC suggested the first one to me. The second, not new but co-authored by Paul Crutzen, a Nobel laureate for his work on the ozone hole, was my starter book on the subject. It is BTW a nice book to look at as well as read. The third listed is the URL for an interim report, "The Copenhagen Diagnosis: Climate Science Report," done for the lead up to last December's international meeting on climate change in Copenhagen. Martha Girolami, our Chapter Eagle Count Coordinator and member of the Chatham Co Environmental Review Board, suggested it to those at last November's NHAS membership meeting.



1. Title: The weather makers : how man is changing the climate and what it means for life on Earth / Author(s): Flannery, Tim F. 1956- (Tim Fridtjof), Publication: New York : Atlantic Monthly Press, Edition: 1st American ed. Year: 2005 Description: xv, 357 p., [4] p. of plates : ill. (some col.), maps (some col.) ; 24 cm. ISBN: 0871139359; 9780871139351
2. Title: Atmosphere, climate, and change / Author(s): Gaedel, T. E. and Crutzen, Paul J.,; 1933- Publication: New York : Scientific American Library ; New York : Distributed by W.H. Freeman, Year: 1995 Description: ix, 196 p. : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 24 cm. Series: Scientific American Library series ;; no. 55; ISBN: 071675049X; 9780716750499
3. www.copenhagendiagnosis.org

Eagle Platform: On February 15, our new Eagle Observation platform was officially dedicated. Please look forward to our next newsletter for complete details and hopefully a picture or two. In the interim, visit our website for details. Suffice it say, New Hope Audubon is grateful to all of our partners and volunteers who contributed so much to make this a reality.

New Hope Audubon Society Membership Meeting Presentations for March and April 2010

Our March 4, 2010 presenter will be Penny Padgett from UNC will present a "Tick Talk: Everything you ever wanted to know about ticks, but were afraid to ask!" Want to know about the ticks you find on you? The season for ticks is coming, so this presentation will prepare you.

Our April 1, 2010 presentation will be "Lost heritage: the early attempts to publish a 'Birds of North Carolina'" by Marcus Simpson. Marcus is very knowledgeable about the birds of North Carolina and has written "Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains" which I take with me every time I go to the Appalachians. He is now updating this book, so we may learn when the new edition will be published!



As always, our membership meetings are held at the Totten Center at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens on the first Thursday of every month (except June, July, and August). The gardens are on Highway 15-501 at the intersection of Old Mason Farm Road on the southeast corner. The parking lot is on the southeast corner too. The meetings start at 7pm with refreshments, chatting with friends, and meeting visitors or new members. There is chapter business at 7:20 or so and the presentations start at approximately 7:45 and run through 9:00. **Everyone, even non-members, is always welcome! See you there!**

I am always looking for speakers or nature/environmental topics. If you have a good nature or environmental presentation or know of a good speaker or a topic that you would like to hear, then please contact me at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com. Thanks!

New Hope Audubon Society Activities Calendar

Thursday March 4 **General Membership Meeting** at NC Botanical Gardens 7:00 p.m. Speaker is Penny Padgett from UNC. She will present a "Tick Talk: Everything you ever wanted to know about ticks, but were afraid to ask!"

Saturday March 6 **Bird Walk at Duke Gardens** with Cynthia Fox. Meet at Gardens parking lot at 7:55 a.m.

Saturday March 6 **Stream Watch** with John Kent.. 9:00 a.m.

Saturday March 6 Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup 7:30 a.m. Meet at the second Stagecoach Road parking lot. Call Tom Driscoll for more information

Saturday March 20, **Bird Walk to Local Hot Spot** with Cynthia Fox, owner of Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center, Chapel Hill. Meet at the store at 7:55 a.m. and return to the store by 10:00 a.m. Carpools leave from the store.

Sunday March 21 Tom Driscoll will lead **bird walk** at a location to be determined. Meet at the Mardi Gras bowling alley parking lot at 7a.m. We will be out for approximately 3 hours. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and we do easy hiking, nothing strenuous. Please contact Tom Driscoll at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

Thursday April 1 **General Membership Meeting** at NC Botanical Gardens 7:00 p.m. "Lost heritage: the early attempts to publish a 'Birds of North Carolina'" by Marcus Simpson.

Saturday April 3 **Stream Watch** with John Kent.. 9:00 a.m.

Saturday April 10 **Bird Walk at Duke Gardens** with Cynthia Fox. Meet at Gardens parking lot at 7:55 a.m.

Sunday April 11 Tom Driscoll will lead **bird walk** at a location to be determined. Meet at the Mardi Gras bowling alley parking lot at 7a.m. We will be out for approximately 3 hours. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and we do easy hiking, nothing strenuous. Please contact Tom Driscoll at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

Saturday April 24, **Bird Walk to Local Hot Spot** with Cynthia Fox, owner of Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center, Chapel Hill. Meet at the store at 7:55 a.m. and return to the store by 10:00 a.m. Carpools leave from the store.

Saturday May 1 **Bird Walk at Duke Gardens** with Cynthia Fox. Meet at Gardens parking lot at 7:55 a.m.

Volunteers Needed

Leadership roles are still available in New Hope Audubon. We are looking for two dedicated individuals to take on the roles of Communications Chair and Conservation Chair. These two positions are vital to the mission of New Hope Audubon. Please contact Bo Howes (rchowes007@hotmail.com) for more information.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is hard at work lining up the slate of officers and board members for next year. Please give them your thoughts on who should lead us through 2010 and beyond! Feel free also to nominate yourself for your favorite leadership role.

Adopt-a-Highway



The next Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup is March 6, Saturday, at 7:30 a.m. Meet the second Stagecoach Road parking lot. Bring long pants and shirts. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Bags and pick up equipment are provided. We're usually through by 9:30 a.m.! Call or email Tom Driscoll for more information!

Eagle Count

by Martha Girolami, Chair

NHAS teams counted Bald Eagles at four sites around Lake Jordan on January 10, 2010. The count took place from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Conditions were dark at first and then sunny, breezy and cold, about 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The Lake was full. (With one site not reporting yet), there were reported 17 eagles – 8 adult and 9 immature or subadult.

We now have a new observer counting from the Lake Jordan dam. The April count will take place on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 7 to 8:30 a.m. Please contact Martha Girolami, if you would like to join a count team. mgirolami@mac.com



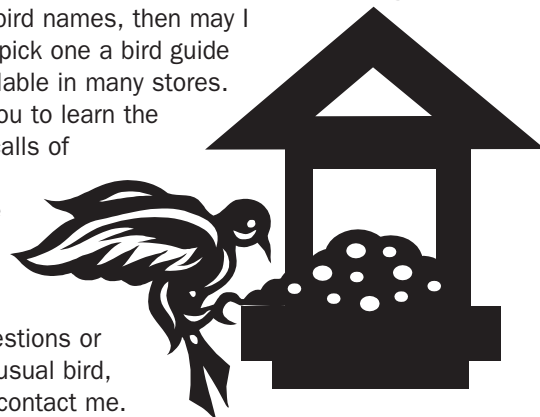
Feeder Watch

by Tom Driscoll

As I am writing this column, we have 6 inches of snow on the ground and there is some sleet and snow mixed in still falling. Birds are feeding greedily from my feeders. I got up

early to shovel off areas, so the ground feeding birds could get out seed. I put millet on the ground for them. I had about 50 birds this morning. I also put out three cakes of suet for birds, birds, such as Brown Thrashers, Pine Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, and Eastern Bluebirds that feed on suet in the winter. In addition to the birds mentioned above, I saw American Crows, Blue Jays, American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, White-throated Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Eastern Towhees, American Goldfinches, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown-headed Nuthatches, House Finches, and of course, many Northern Cardinals.

I haven't seen my Brown Thrashers lately. I also have not seen any Pine Siskins this year. You may remember that we had an invasion last year, with many feeder watchers reporting Pine Siskins. They often flock with goldfinches, so keep an eye out for them. We had a Yellow-throated Warbler, which is rare for this area in winter, feeding from the suet feeder for several weeks in late December and early January, but we haven't seen him lately. If you don't recognize these birds or the bird names, then may I suggest you pick one a bird guide that are available in many stores. I challenge you to learn the names and calls of your feeder birds! Please let me know if you do. If you have questions or notice an unusual bird, then please contact me.



I also noticed that the birds were drinking regularly from our little pond and water fall today, as well. It had not frozen over because I installed a small water pump to keep the water moving. Even in the coldest weather, birds need water. So, keep your bird water unfrozen and clean if you can. They will appreciate it.

The time has come to clean out your bluebird boxes and to ensure make sure your bluebird boxes are up securely. Clean out your bluebird houses by removing old nests and clean out with a weak bleach solution. If you don't have a Bluebird Box and would like to purchase one, the New Hope Audubon Society sells them for only \$15. Please contact me spttdrshnk@yahoo.com if you would like to purchase one. Free delivery!

Feeder Watch continues to report on birds you could be seeing at the bird feeders and/or in your back yard. If you have ideas about what to write, want to report on the birds you are seeing, or have questions, please send me an email.

North Carolina State Parks Declares 2010 “Year of the Birds”

From Audubon North Carolina, Chris Canfield, Executive Director



North Carolina’s state parks will pay tribute to its winged residents and visitors in 2010 by celebrating the “Year of the Birds,” according to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

Throughout the year, birds and bird-watching will be the focus of special education programs and activities in the state parks, many of them in partnership with Audubon North Carolina, which works with the state parks system on research and management projects involving bird habitats. The state parks system is also making available a special bandana of some of the signature birds found in the parks.

Whether they are wild turkeys in the mountains, bald eagles in the Piedmont or piping plovers on the coast, birds greatly

contribute to the nature experience in state parks. They’re also “indicator species,” reflecting the health of the natural resources and ecosystems on North Carolina’s publicly-held lands.

“Putting this special emphasis on birds in 2010 can give added depth and clarity to our interpretive programs and education efforts,” said Lewis Ledford, state parks director. “They’re a beloved part of the natural resource mosaic in our state parks.”

State parks are regularly involved in annual bird counts, and the parks are among Audubon’s Important Bird Areas, sites for research about the health of bird populations and habitats. Audubon North Carolina, the state parks and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission were also among partners that are establishing the North Carolina Birding Trail, which combines eco-tourism and natural resource protection.

“Birds and state parks share some of the most important habitats in our state,” said Chris Canfield, executive director of Audubon North Carolina. “They also share the distinction of providing a pathway for people to connect with nature. I’m excited by this focus for 2010 and hope all North Carolinians take advantage of it.”

In addition to preparing interpretive programs, state park rangers and natural resource biologists are actively involved in projects to protect and restore habitats for some of our rare and threatened birds, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and colonial nesting shorebirds. Park rangers and biologists also participate in multi-year bird tagging projects.

State park educational programs hope to appeal to North Carolina’s bird enthusiasts, as well as inspire new bird-watching families. A 2009 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report estimated one of every five Americans is a “bird-watcher,” defined as someone who took a trip of at least one mile for the primary purpose of observing birds, or someone who closely observed and tried to identify birds around their home. These enthusiasts contributed \$36 billion to the national economy in 2006, according to the report.

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