

New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter



Volume 35, Number 3: May-June 2010

WILDATHON 2010

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the 2010 New Hope Audubon Society Wildathon, our annual fund raising activity, begins in mid-April and runs through June 1. You can help us continue our nature advocacy and environmental work for Chatham, Durham, and Orange Counties. Although almost all of our advocacy work is conducted by volunteers, we have recently provided funds to purchase the Hope Creek Corridor in Durham County and helped fund the construction of the North Carolina Botanical Gardens new buildings. Providing these funds, coupled with a decrease in funds from the National Audubon Society, have left us with few funds to continue our advocacy and environmental protection efforts.

There is a letter attached to this newsletter that outlines how you can participate and/or provide donations. 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!

Slate of Officers for 2010-2011

The following is a slate of officers that will be voted on at the May membership meeting.

Thanks to the nomination committee for their hard work.

President: Norm Budnitz • Vice President: Bo Howes • Secretary: Pat Reid • Treasurer: Maxine Foster
Director: Robin Moran • Director: John Kent • Director: Steve Foster

Dear New Hope Auduboners,

Your board has been having an ongoing discussion about that which you have in your hands, i.e. the newsletter. Many of our sister and brother Audubon Societies have changed to an all electronic format, others have continued to publish a paper newsletter and only send a paper newsletter to those who request a copy. Still others have decided that a paper newsletter is the only way to go.

There are many positives to continue to publish a paper newsletter. It arrives in your mail box and beckons you to read, you can take it outside and sit in the garden and try to find Tom Driscoll's backyard bird of the month. The paper newsletter is also expensive to publish, creates more waste for our recycling program or (perish the thought) some of you may even be throwing it away with your regular household waste. Some of you may be unwilling to read a newsletter online. Some of you may prefer to read the newsletter online.

So now is your chance to give us your opinion. Please shoot me an email rhowes007@hotmail.com or give me a call at (919) 370-3202 and let me know how you feel about this topic. We appreciate your thoughts on this topic.

Bo Howes

Audubon Society Highway Clean Up - March 14, 2010

by Kasey Sorrell



It was a Saturday morning; once again, we journeyed through Stagecoach Road. But this time, luckily, it was not raining. Surely this time, was the worst time. We specifically cleaned up near the waterfowl driveway, a hunter and fisherman area. Actually, while walking up I said to my mom “Mom, look at all of those cans in a pile!” Sadly, I had the recycling bag. “Yeah, it looks like someone dumped out their cooler, and you have the recycling bag.” She smiled. Well, I had the “grabber” because I was doing recycling but I did not want to waste my time trying to pick up every single can with the “grabber.” So I bent down and started to pick up the cans with gloves, of course. Later in the process after I picked up about five cans, I thought “*This would be great information in an article if I counted all of the cans.*” Well, I counted all of the cans. With a sigh of relief I yelled to my mom (who had just found a skull of a deer) “Mom! There are eighty-six cans here!!” With a short reply she yelled back “You counted?!” She slowly walked over to the scent of the beer with the deer skull in her hand. “Let’s put this up somewhere, where all the hunter and fishermen can see it, kind of like an omen.” In hopes it would deter further dumping. “Sure...” I replied. The next thing we sighted was a half flesh, half bone body of an opossum. “Gross.” I said disgustingly. The week before the highway clean up, my mother and I did some cleaning at the Eno River, which just had many inches of rain so many trees and debris gathered, and shifted down the river. My mom and I spotted LOTS of bottles, cans etc, a crushed soccer ball, socks, and a few pairs of flip flops. I risked my life... kind of... climbing on the pile of debris. We managed to get two bags of recycling and a bag of trash. We walked a little way and dug a picnic table out of the woods and noticed a turtle nearby. Climbing on the debris felt awesome. It feels good to know that you’re helping animals, people, and the environment. Even the smallest helping hand would make a big difference.



Feeder Watch

by Tom Driscoll

Feeder Watch reports 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 about the birds you are seeing, please send me an email at btdriscoll@bellsouth.net.

You should be receiving this newsletter in mid-April. Flowers and trees are blooming and the temperatures are rising. Our winter visitors, like the Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos and the White-throated Sparrows, will be leaving soon and our summer visitors are already arriving. You may not be seeing the females, such as the bluebirds and cardinals as much because they are no their nests.

It’s time to get out your hummingbird feeders (they are for sale at stores like the Wild Bird Center in Chapel Hill), clean them, and prepare your sugar water. Remember, four parts water to one part sugar. Put them up and you may see our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

You may notice that birds are pairing up and not flocking together as much. During April, our resident birds will be nesting (as I write this article, we have House Finches, Carolina Chickadees, and Eastern Bluebirds with eggs) and they may be eating less food. As their eggs hatch and the chicks fledge however, they will be visiting your feeders more often. Do you have Downy or Red-bellied Woodpeckers? If so, they prefer suet. You can buy suet and suet feeders at the store mentioned above.

You may be seeing migrants, such as orioles (orange and black), grosbeaks, or tanagers (red like cardinals, but without a crest), for a day or two during late April and early May. These are mostly migratory birds that are passing through, although some tanagers nest in the area. If so, then putting out pieces of oranges or small containers of jelly may attract these birds. The Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (black and white with pink breasts) will be coming through soon as well and they prefer sunflower seeds.

Make sure your bluebird boxes are up. The bluebirds will nest two or three times each year, so if you would like to purchase a bluebird house please contact me. The New Hope Audubon Society sells them for \$15 and I will deliver them for free! Note that other birds, such as Tufted Titmice and Carolina Chickadees, will use these boxes as well.

If you are not sure what birds you are seeing, email me with descriptions or, even better, buy a bird guide and learn to identify your feeder birds. 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. See you at the next membership meeting or field trip!

May 2010 New Hope Audubon Society Membership Meeting Presentations

Our membership meetings are held at the “new building” at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens (on the north side very near the parking lots) on the first Thursday of every month; in this case May 6, 2010. The gardens are on Highway 15-501 at the intersection of Old Mason Farm Road. The parking lot is finished, so there is easy parking very close to the new building. The meetings start at 7 p.m. 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 welcome! See you at the next meeting!



Walker Golder, who works with Audubon North Carolina, will discuss the “Flora and Fauna of the NC Audubon Coastal Sanctuaries”. We look forward to his presentation!

Steve Foster will be taking over as the Programs Chairperson for the 2010-2011 season. If you know of a good speaker or have an idea about a good nature or environmental topic, then please contact Steve at sfoster239@gmail.com. Have a good summer!

New Hope Audubon Society Activities Calendar

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

Saturday May 1 **Stream Watch** with John Kent. 9:00 a.m.

Thursday May 6 **Membership Meeting** at NC Botanical Gardens. 7:00 p.m. The speaker is Walker Golder on “Flora and Fauna of the NC Audubon Coastal Sanctuaries”

Saturday May 15, **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 May 16 Tom Driscoll will lead a field trip to look for look for nesting birds in the piedmont. Meet at the Mardi Gras bowling alley at 7:00 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and bug repellent. Long pants recommended. Please email Tom at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com if you intend to go on the trip.

Saturday May 29, **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 June 13 Tom Driscoll will lead a field trip to look for look for nesting birds in the piedmont. Meet at the Mardi Gras bowling alley at 7:00am. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and bug repellent. Long pants recommended. Please email Tom at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com if you intend to go on the trip.

Saturday June 5 **Stream Watch** with John Kent. 9:00 a.m.

Saturday July 3 **Stream Watch** with John Kent. 8:00 a.m.

Saturday August 7 **Stream Watch** with John Kent. 8:00 a.m.



Eagle Count by Martha Girolami

The dates for the remaining three Lake Jordan Bald Eagle Count Sundays in 2010 are April 11, July 11 and October 10. About five teams count at different sites around Lake Jordan from 7-8:30 a.m. rain or shine. Please contact Martha Girolami if you would like to join a count team. Phone 919-362-5759.

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New Hope Audubon Society 2009-2010 Officers

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Eagle Platform	Robert "Bo" Howes	370-3202	rchowes007@hotmail.com
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Important Bird Areas: Jordan Lake Chair	Robert "Bo" Howes	370-3202	rchowes007@hotmail.com
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Stream Watch	John Kent	933-5650	jkent@tmug.org
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