

New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter



Volume 35, Number 4: September-October 2010

Welcome from the President

by Norm Budnitz

As the incoming President of the New Hope Audubon Society, I find myself in the interesting position of being both the new and the old kid on the block. I joined NHAS in the 1970s at its founding when I was a graduate student in the Zoology Department at Duke University. Back then, we used to have our meetings on the Duke campus in the old AROD building. (I can't remember what AROD stood for—Army something something something.) Barbara Roth was the President and Founding Mother.

My activity as a member of NHAS has been an on again-off again thing. I have helped with the Bird Seed Sale for many years. I have participated in the Jordan Lake Spring and Christmas Bird Counts since they began in the late 70s, and I have been the compiler for those counts since 2000, when I took over from Barbara Roth. And I did a stint on the Board as Treasurer for awhile in the 80s.

Now, after not being very active in recent years, I find myself once again following in Barbara's footsteps. I hope I am up to the task, given my new career (after retiring from teaching) as a farmer, growing vegetables for the Durham Farmers' Market. Luckily, I'll have the help of the Board and, in particular, a couple of the past Presidents—Tom Driscoll and Bo Howes. I'll need their guidance as we prepare to set about our work for the upcoming year.

In these less than optimal economic times, we have some fund-raising challenges ahead of us. Though we are financially solvent, we are not flush with funds and may not be able to support some of the educational, outreach, and environmental programs to the extent that we have in past years. Those programs are who we are; they define us as an organization. So our first order of business this year will be to find ways to raise more money on the one hand, and save more money on the other. Some possibilities:

- Increased effort in raising money through the Bird Seed Sale. Revenues have dropped off a bit in recent years.
- Likewise for the Wild-a-thon.
- A subscription series of how-to classes in bird/wildlife-watching.
- A newly designed website, which we hope will be more accessible, more up-to-date, and more user friendly.
- More publicity in local media outlets to enhance our presence throughout the community.
- One money-saver we are considering is moving to an on-line newsletter to replace our current hard copy mailings. In a recent poll, your responses were evenly split on this issue. Designing, printing, and mailing are very expensive, and we would love to be able to put the funds to use in other endeavors if we can.

In these less than optimal economic times, we have some fundraising challenges ahead of us.

Help us out. Your Board and I would love to hear from you with other suggestions. Please feel free to contact any of us with your ideas.

Welcome to the new NHAS season. I'll see you at our monthly Membership Meetings (the first Thursdays of each month, September through May) and perhaps we'll bump into each other at our spanking new, spectacular Wildlife Observation Platform off Martha's Chapel Road on Jordan Lake in Chatham County.

Norm Budnitz
nbudnitz@gmail.com

Bird Seed Sale! Bird Friendly Coffee!

It's time for the annual New Hope Audubon Society Bird Seed Sale. We have decided to include bird-friendly shade-grown coffee again this year for those who can only lift their binoculars after they've hoisted a cup of caffeine.

First the basics... Enclosed in **this** issue of your newsletter is an ORDER FORM. Remember, the NHAS bird seed sale happens only **once** per year, so order enough seed to last through the entire winter. Remember, order enough coffee to help you face that snow with a smile on your face. Fill out the order form and send it **WITH A CHECK FOR THE FULL AMOUNT** to:



Judy Murray
New Hope Audubon Society Bird Seed Sale
406 Holly Lane
Chapel Hill NC 27517

Please have those order forms and checks in by **OCTOBER 8, 2010**.

Next, cut out the handy reminder from the Newsletter and put it on your refrigerator, reminding you to come to the Wild Bird Center (Eastgate Shopping Center, Chapel Hill) on **Saturday, October 23, 2010 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to PICK UP YOUR ORDER**. A cadre of volunteers will be on hand to help you load your seed & coffee into your car.

If you live in Ferrington Village, Carolina Meadows or Carol Woods, a smiling NHAS volunteer will **DELIVER** your order to your door. We also deliver to any elderly or handicapped person – please draw a map to your house and include it with your order form.

NHAS Lake Jordan Bald Eagle Count Reports for 2010

by Martha Girolami, Chair

ON JANUARY 10, 2010, seven observers at four sites counted 17 eagles – 8 adult and 9 immature.

ON APRIL 11, 2010, 8 observers at five sites counted 34 eagles – 13 adult and 21 immature.
Several sites were “whited” out by dense but beautiful fog.

On July 11, 2010, (some reports may not have been received yet), 4 observers at three sites counted 10 eagles – 6 adult and 3 immature and 1 indeterminate.

Our next count will be held from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 10, 2010.
Please call Martha Girolami if you would like to join a count team 919-362-5759.

Board Vacancies

We are looking for a couple of dedicated people to help us fill out our Board of Directors.

Conservation Chair: We need someone who is willing to keep informed on local, state, national, and even world environmental and conservation issues, advise the Board, and write occasional articles for our newsletter.

Education Chair: Our outgoing Chair, Kate Finlayson, can no longer attend our Board meetings due to schedule conflicts. Kate still wants to be a member of the Education Committee and do her wonderful work visiting classrooms and working with teachers. We need someone who can attend meetings, support Kate in her efforts, and expand our education efforts where appropriate.

Interested? Contact Norm Budnitz (nbudnitz@gmail.com).

New Hope Audubon Society Membership Meeting Presentations for 2010-2011

by Steve Foster, Chair

I am very pleased to announce the presentations for the New Hope Audubon Society membership meetings. We will be hearing and seeing presentations on everything from: "The 21st Century World Water Supply" and "Marine Mammals" to "Ticks" and "How and Why Birds are Named and Renamed, not just to mess up our life-list. It should be an exciting season and we look forward to seeing you there! Please note that the schedule for the entire "year" is elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you to keep the schedule on your refrigerator.

The first meeting in September is a pot luck dinner where everyone brings a dish to share. The meeting starts early at 6:30 pm and, instead of a formal presentation, we invite everyone to bring 10 or 15 slides or power point pictures to share. The photos or pictures should be about a nature or an environmental topic. It is always interesting to see what everyone has seen or where they have been! This year, our Membership meetings will be held at the Visitor Education 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 7 p.m. (please remember that the September meeting is an exception beginning at 6:30 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 in September!**



We are 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 sfoster239@gmail.com.

NHAS Speakers for 2010-2011

Date	Speaker	Topic	Contact Info
September 2, 2010	Members	Pot luck dinner and 15 Best Photos/ Slides	sfoster239@gmail.com
October 7, 2010	Fran DiGiano	Coping with Water Scarcity in the 21st Century	fran_digiano@unc.edu
November 4, 2010	Daniel Blank	So you wanted to know more about Dolphins	danblank@me.com
December 2, 2010	Mark Berman	Wildlands Network and Continental Scale Conservation in the Eastern U.S.	maberman7@gmail.com
January 6, 2011	Virginia Travis	Birds and Kayaking on Jordan Lake	ginger_travis@bellsouth.net
February 3, 2011	Haven Wiley	What we have learned from our Mini-Breeding Bird Surveys	rhwiley@email.unc.edu
March 3, 2011	Penny Padgett	Tick Talk: Everything you ever wanted to know about ticks, but were afraid to ask!	pypadgett@ehs.unc.edu
April 7, 2011	Doug Pratt	Bird Taxonomy: Why do they keep changing names and complicating my life-list	doug.pratt@ncdenr.gov
May 5, 2011	Surprise Guest	You don't want to miss this one!!	XXXXXX



This Park Is For The Birds!

Come to Eno River State Park Migratory Bird Day!

On September 18, 2010, the New Hope Audubon Society, in conjunction with the Eno River State Park, Eno River Association, and Audubon North Carolina will host the Eno River State Park Migratory Bird Festival. The Eno River bottomlands (which include the park) are an Important Bird Area (IBA) and one of two IBAs sponsored by the New Hope Audubon Society.

The IBA program is the focal point for the Audubon Society bird conservation work. It is a global effort to identify the most important places for bird populations and to focus conservation efforts on those sites. The IBA program is Audubon's lead conservation initiative because the most severe threats to bird populations are habitat-based. Bird conservation is really habitat conservation, helping to preserve everything from soil microbes to fungi, plants, and animals.

2010 has been dubbed 'Year of the Birds' for the North Carolina State Park System, and we welcome you to Take Flight with Your North Carolina State Parks! The Eno River State Park is a pristine area in Orange County with several habitats, including riparian and pine woodlands, that provide food and shelter for our resident birds and the migratory birds that pass through the area. The Eno River runs into Falls Lake which provides water to Raleigh and surrounding suburbs. Eno River State Park staff, who must balance preserving the park with public use, are strong environmental advocates for the Eno River and the surrounding lands. The park is at the end of Cole Mill Road in northwest Durham. The activities will be held at the last parking lot in the park. For more information on the park and directions, see <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/enri/main.php>.

The Eno River Association is a land trust organization that was been working since 1966 to conserve and protect the nature, culture, and history of the Eno River basin, particularly within the Eno River State Park Master Plan. For more information on the Eno River Association, see <http://www.enoriver.org/>.

The activities will start at 7 am with several bird walks. We will look for our resident birds and migratory birds. We have scheduled a lecture by Curtis Smalling of Audubon North Carolina on the importance of IBAs and point count training. We will have booths with some games and children's activities. We even have a "bird singalong" with park superintendent, Keith Neelson, which should prove both educational and fun! We also plan to end the activities in the noon with a dedication of the Important Bird Area. For more information, check out the New Hope Audubon Society website at www.newhopeaudubon.org or contact Tom Driscoll at spttdrshnk@yahoo.com.



Adopt-a-Highway Program

Tom Driscoll, Chair

Once per calendar quarter, we gather to pick up the trash on the road and the next two gatherings are scheduled for August 28, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. and November 13, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. Adopt-a-highway program is one of the many programs sponsored by your New Hope Audubon Society. In this case, we have "adopted" Stagecoach Road which is located in the southeastern corner of Durham County, near Chatham and Orange Counties. The road is bounded by Fearington Rd. and Highway 751.

However, we are in danger of discontinuing this program. Fewer and fewer in our Audubon Society are participating in picking up the trash, so we need more volunteers. If we do not get more than 6 participants, then we plan to discontinue our adopt-a-highway program. If you are interested in participating, then please show up at the parking lot along Stagecoach Road or contact me at spttdrshnk@yahoo.com. You'll have fun and make a positive contribution to our environment.

I have trash bags and orange day-glow vests for visibility. I also have "grabbers" that enable one to pick up the trash without too much bending over! Please bring gloves.

Note that I found a \$10 bill during one of our trash pickups. See you there!



Feeder Watch

by Tom Driscoll

It's the middle of August now and the birds are eating suet like it's going out of style. Almost all of the birds are eating suet, including Pine Warblers, American Robins, Brown Thrashers, and Eastern Bluebirds. Unfortunately, the Fish Crows and Common Grackles have also found my feeders and they are visiting often. Fish Crows traditionally visit during the summer and migrate to the coast during the winter; some are staying over the winter now. I wonder if it because we feed them?

Because our regular brand of peanut butter suet easily melts, we are using a "no melt" kind with hot pepper that appears to be just as tasty to the birds. Because squirrels don't like the hot pepper, we put one of our feeders on a tree. This allows easier access for some birds. We switched in 2007 and now this is the only suet we use.

We have had three broods of Eastern Bluebirds this year and we still have many juvenal birds, such as Eastern Towhees and Northern Cardinals. What juvenile birds are at your feeders? However, some of the young have moved on to look for their own territories.

Bird activity at your feeders may be limited to very early or late in the day, when the temperatures are cooler. However, the birds are active at the feeders now on a 100 degree Saturday afternoon. Most of your birds are singing less too. Although the temperatures are hot and the birds are less active, they are still eating quite a bit of my sunflower seeds as well. The regulars, such as chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, House Finches, and woodpeckers are still eating a lot here. Our hummingbirds are still here and defending the feeders. Did you notice that there didn't seem to be as many hummingbirds this year? Are they still feeding at your house?

Although I haven't noticed any birds on nests lately, some babies are still being fed and we can hear them whining for food. Have you noticed how different they look, compared to their parents? The juveniles are usually duller and they look somewhat like females (in some species). Juveniles of most species don't obtain adult plumage until their second year, although some hawks and eagles take four years to grow into adult plumage. Also, now and in the next two months, some of our backyard birds will be molting. That is, they will be shedding their old feathers and growing in new feathers. In some cases, the birds look unhealthy, and even bald, but they can still fly and forage for food. If you want to report interesting bird observations or have questions, please contact me at spttdrshnk@yahoo.com and I will answer your question in this column. Keep watching your feeders!



Bird Seed and Shade-Grown Coffee Sale Reminder

It's that time of year again. By now you have already seen the Bird Seed Sale order form enclosed in this newsletter. We hope that you will take a few minutes to fill out the form and order your year's supply of bird seed. And if you are a coffee drinker or have friends who enjoy a great cup of coffee, we are offering shade-grown coffees again this year. Be sure to send in your order before **Saturday, Oct. 8th** and include your check with the order. If you need your birdseed delivered to your home, please note that on the order form.

Below is a notice to cut out and post on your fridge to remind you to **pick up** your birdseed on **Oct. 23rd** at the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center. Any questions please call Judy Murray 942-2985.

Handy reminder to cut out and put on your refrigerator:

DON'T FORGET !!

Pick Up your New Hope Audubon Society BIRD SEED and COFFEE

SATURDAY, October 23, 2010 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WILD BIRD CENTER • EASTGATE SHOPPING CENTER



Making Your Windows Safe for Birds

*Article from
Great Backyard Bird Count
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
www.birdcount.org*

You hear a loud thud at your living room window. Looking up, you see a few tiny feathers stuck to the glass. Others drift slowly to the ground. One more bird has been struck down in a collision with a plate-glass window.

Bird-window crashes are an all-too-common phenomenon. These collisions usually involve small birds, such as finches, that fall unnoticed to the ground. Sometimes the birds are merely stunned and recover in a few moments. Often, however, they die. The number of birds killed by collisions with windows is staggering—estimates range as high as 100 million per year.

Does this mean that you should stop feeding birds? Not at all. It means that if you notice birds striking your windows, you should take steps to eliminate the problem.

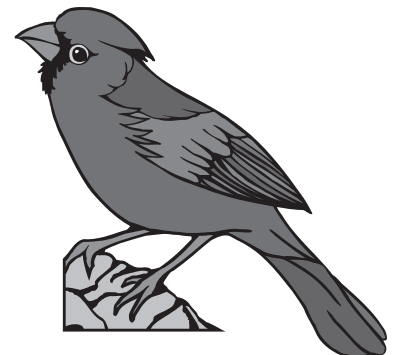
Some Solutions

- Move feeders to new locations. Usually bird strikes occur at just one or two windows. Moving feeders away from them may solve the problem entirely.
- Place feeders closer to the glass. If a feeder is just a foot or two from a window, panicked birds may still fly into it, but probably won't have enough momentum to injure themselves.
- Alter the windows' appearance. If you don't want to move your feeders, or if relocating them doesn't solve your problem, you'll need to alter the appearance of the offending windows. But to do this, you'll need to figure out why the collisions are occurring. Are birds confused because the window is reflecting the landscape behind it? Is the glass so transparent they think it isn't there? To find out, you'll need to get a bird's-eye view.

See-Through Glass

Go to your feeder and look at your window. Can you see through it? If so, the birds can, too. Is there a plant inside the house that might be attractive to birds? If so, try moving it. Is there another window on the opposite side of the house, creating the illusion of a fly-through passage? Try making your windows less transparent by changing the lighting inside the house—pull a shade or open or close a door.

You can also make glass less transparent by taping paper to the inside of the panes. This is unsightly, but it's a good temporary measure until you can find a better solution. Commercially available hawk silhouettes are effective at deterring window strikes, as long as you use several. They work not because they look like hawks, but because they break up the window's appearance. Another solution is to put up a commercially available decal that is a replica stabilimentum or white zig-zag from the center of an orbital spider's web. It is thought that spiders create the highly visible zig-zag so birds and large insects will avoid flying into and destroying their webs. Note: Do not attach objects directly to thermopane windows without consulting the manufacturer.



Reflective Windows

Windows that mirror the outside habitat present a different problem. If you see branches or sky reflected in the glass when you look at your windows, you'll understand why the birds are

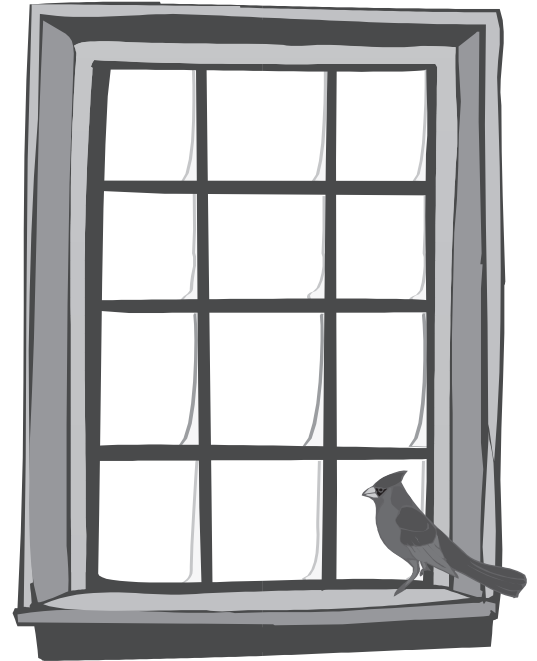
confused. Changing the lighting inside the house or fastening objects to the inside of the glass won't help. Instead, you'll need to alter the window's appearance by placing something on the outside. As a temporary measure, you can rub a bar of soap on the window (the streaks can be easily removed). Other solutions include attaching strips of paper or cardboard to the window, hanging ribbons, streamers, colored string, festive garlands, or even mobiles in front of it.

Screens and Netting

Another solution is to place some kind of screen or netting over the window. This won't obstruct the view; birds will continue to fly into the window. They should bounce off relatively unharmed. Fruit-tree netting, pulled tightly over a window should reduce or eliminate injured birds.

Treating Dazed Birds

Birds don't always die when they strike windows. Sometimes they fly away, apparently unharmed; other times they fall to the ground, stunned. If you find a dazed bird, take it inside where predators can't reach it and place it in a dark container such as a shoebox. The darkness will keep the bird quiet while it revives, which should occur within a few minutes unless it is seriously injured. Release the bird as soon as it appears awake and alert. You might not always see or hear birds striking your windows. Check the ground below your windows periodically. If you find dead birds, move your feeders or modify the windows. Birds face plenty of natural dangers. Let's not subject them to unnatural ones.



New Hope Audubon Society Activities Calendar

Saturday, August 28, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. **Adopt a Highway** with Tom Driscoll. Meet at Stagecoach Road.

Thursday, Sept 2, 2010: **General Membership Meeting** NC Botanical Gardens. Pot Luck Dinner with best 15 slides. Meet at 6:30pm

Saturday, Sept 11, 2010: **Stream Watch** with John Kent. Meet at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010: Tom Driscoll will lead a **Bird Walk** to a to be determined destination in the Triangle. Meet at the Mardi Gras bowling alley at 7am. Bring water and sturdy shoes. We willing walking on mostly level terrain. We may go to brunch or lunch afterwards.

Saturday Sept 24, 2010: **Bird Walk** at Duke Gardens with Cynthia Fox. Meet at Gardens parking lot at 7:55 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010: **Bird Walk** at Duke Gardens with Cynthia Fox. Meet at Gardens parking lot at 7:55 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010: Tom Driscoll will lead a **Bird Walk** to a to be determined destination in the Triangle. Meet at the Mardi Gras bowling alley at 7:00 a.m. Bring water and sturdy shoes. We willing walking on mostly level terrain. We may go to brunch or lunch afterwards.

Thursday Oct 7, 2010: **General Membership Meeting** at NC Botanical Gardens. Speaker is Fran DiGiano on "Coping with Water Scarcity in the 21st Century". Meet at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Oct 9, 2010: **Stream Watch** with John Kent. Meet at 9:00 a.m.

New Hope Audubon Society
Box 2693
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
www.newhopeaudubon.org

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New Hope Audubon Society 2010-2011 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
Mini Breeding Bird			
Stream Watch.....	John Kent.....	933-5650.....	jkent@tmug.org
Wildathon Chair.....	Tom Driscoll.....	932-7966.....	spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com