

# New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter



Volume 35, Number 5: November-December 2010

## Newsletter Going Electronic

by Norm Budnitz ([nbudnitz@gmail.com](mailto:nbudnitz@gmail.com))

The NHAS Board recently decided to follow the lead of some of our fellow environmental organizations and go electronic with our Newsletter. This is a decision that has been a long time coming, but there were a number of factors that finally swayed us to take this step. We will continue to send out hard copy editions for Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb, but our Mar/Apr and future editions will only be available via the web. Here are some of the issues that led us to make this move:

1. Designing, printing, sorting, and mailing the newsletter is, far and away, our largest single expense each year—more than \$6,000. By saving this money, we will be able to provide more support to worthy environmental, educational, conservation, and outreach programs. Though we are currently fiscally solvent, we are definitely constrained by these newsletter costs.
2. We believe that posting the newsletter electronically via our website is the “green” thing to do. Twelve hundred paper copies each issue, plus the energy used to print and deliver them, is environmentally expensive.
3. Members who prefer a hard copy may print one out from our website.
4. We will continue to have occasional hard-copy mailings for events like our Bird Seed Sale and Wild-A-Thon.
5. Access to the Newsletter will be via our newly redesigned website, which is now more user-friendly. We hope to attract more people to the website for current, up-to-date information on our activities as an organization (nature walks, festivals, fund-raisers, classes, and so forth).



Stay tuned for more information about this change as we move forward.



## November Program Information

For our November 4 meeting, Dan Blank, former Head Dolphin Trainer for SeaWorld and Curator at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, will speak on the topic of: Dolphins, Whales, and other Marine Mammals in Captivity. Zoos and Aquaria are often at the center of debate regarding wild animals in captivity. Marine mammals in captivity, especially dolphins, stir emotions and escalate the debate even further. Dan will be discussing the care and training of captive dolphins, as well as research, conservation

and education about all marine mammals. Please join us for a look at this most interesting and important topic and as always non-members are welcome to attend.

**Where:** NC Botanical Gardens, <http://ncbg.unc.edu/>

**When:** 7:00 p.m. Thursday November 4, 2010

## DECEMBER IS CHRISTMAS COUNT MONTH.

Want to learn more about birds and help citizen science and have fun at the same time?  
Then, sign up to help with a Christmas Count!  
For more information, see page 3.

# Feeder Watch

by Tom Driscoll

With this article, "Feeder Watch" kicks off its fourth year of discussing feeder birds. Although I discuss the birds you can see at your feeders, I am hoping to receive reports and questions about the birds you are seeing. This will make the articles more interesting. If you have ideas about what to write, want to report the birds you are seeing, or have questions about the birds you are seeing, please send me an e-mail at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com).

You should be receiving this newsletter in mid-October. The leaves are starting to fall which will make the birds easier to spot! At my feeders, the nesting, year-round resident birds, such as Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhees, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown-headed Nuthatch, are feeding less. They have raised their broods and now have to eat and feed less. Some of the youngsters have been forced to find other areas, so as not to compete for food with their parents.

Our hummingbirds have left and maybe yours have too, but don't take down your feeders yet. Every year in the triangle, we have some "western" hummingbirds, such as Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, that spend the winter here. If you notice hummingbirds around your flowers or feeders after October, then clean the feeders and refill them. If your winter hummingbirds remain, then please contact me. More than likely, these hummers are from the west.

Your winter migrants, such as Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, should be arriving in late-October and November. Eastern Towhees, a colorful black and orange year-round resident, eat seeds as well, but usually on the ground. Sometimes, I put millet on the ground for towhees and some of our winter sparrows.

We have several species, including Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, that regularly dine at suet feeders. Other woodpeckers, including the Pileated Woodpecker, and other residents, such as Eastern Bluebirds and Brown Thrashers may also eat suet. Some residents, such as American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds, eat berries from the Holly Bushes, Dogwood, and juniper trees in your yard.

You may not be the only one watching the birds at your feeders. Hawks, such as Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, feed on small birds and may also be "feeding" at your feeders. Have you seen any smallish hawks? Enjoy your birds and I look forward to hearing from you!



## Please Update Our E-Mail Address List

In order for us to send out e-mail notifications for on-line viewing or downloading of our Newsletter when we go fully electronic, we need help from you. There are three ways you can get notifications:

1. We will be setting up an announcement-only e-mail list service. This service will *only* be used for announcing publication of the Newsletter and a few other events (Bird Seed Sale and Wild-A-Thon) – perhaps a dozen messages per year. Here's what to do:
  - a. If you are a member of the National Audubon Society (most members of NHAS are members of NAS):
    - Go to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).
    - Click on "Member Center" in the upper right corner of the screen.
    - Fill out one of the options to go to your member profile. Click "Submit."
    - Near the top of the page, just above your profile, there is a link to update your information.
  - b. If you are not a member of NAS:
    - Send your e-mail address to Norm Budnitz: [nbudnitz@gmail.com](mailto:nbudnitz@gmail.com).
    - Please use this option **ONLY** if you are not a member of National, since Norm will have to handle these updates personally.
2. Go to our website [www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org) and on the left side of the page, click on the Facebook link. Our Newsletter will be available through our Facebook page.
3. Go to our website [www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org) and on the left side of the page, click on the Yahoo! Groups link. If you join the NHAS Yahoo! Group, you will receive occasional e-mail messages about topics of interest to our members, including Newsletter publication announcements. You may also post messages to the group.



# Local Area Christmas Bird Counts

Each year, the National Audubon Society sponsors Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) across the country and around the world. Your New Hope Audubon Society has been a local sponsor of one of these counts in the Jordan Lake area since 1977. These counts are open to participation by all birders, regardless of their skill levels. Less experienced birders may be teamed with more experienced people at first, so that they can learn the ropes. Feeder watchers within the count circles are also welcome. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the appropriate organizer(s) in the list below. For more information on the Jordan Lake CBC, please visit our website at: <http://www.newhopeaudubon.org/count.html>. Here you can find a map of our count circle, contact information, blank checklist forms, and cumulative data since 1977.

**12/18/2010 - Raleigh CBC**

**12/19/2010 - Durham CBC**

**12/26/2010 - Chapel Hill CBC**

**1/2/2011 - Jordan Lake CBC**

**1/4/2011 - Kerr Lake CBC**

**1/5/2011 - Falls Lake CBC**

## CHAPEL HILL

Sunday, 26 December 2010

Contact: Will Cook, [cwcook@duke.edu](mailto:cwcook@duke.edu)  
(919) 477-9395

Web: <http://chbc.carolinanature.com/>

## DURHAM

Sunday, 19 December 2010

Contact: Mike Schultz, [ross.gull@frontier.com](mailto:ross.gull@frontier.com)  
(919) 490-6761

Web: <http://www.duke.edu/~jspippen/birds/durhamcbc.htm>

## FALLS LAKE

Wednesday, 5 January 2011

Contact: Brian Bockhahn, [birdranger248@gmail.com](mailto:birdranger248@gmail.com)  
(919) 676-1027

Web: <http://www.bwwells.org/CBC/>

## JORDAN LAKE

Sunday, 2 January 2011

Contact: Carol Williamson, [cncbrdr@yahoo.com](mailto:cncbrdr@yahoo.com)  
(919) 383-2364

Web: <http://www.newhopeaudubon.org/count.html>

## KERR LAKE

Tuesday, 4 January 2011

Contact: Brian Bockhahn, [birdranger248@gmail.com](mailto:birdranger248@gmail.com)  
(919) 676-1027

Web: <http://www.bwwells.org/CBC/>

## RALEIGH/WAKE COUNTY

Saturday, 18 December 2010

Contact: John Connors, [John.Connors@ncmail.net](mailto:John.Connors@ncmail.net)  
(919) 755-0253 (h)

## Chapel Hill Bird Club Field Trips - Other Birding Opportunities

In addition to the NHAS field trips listed elsewhere in this newsletter, the Chapel Hill Bird Club also offers Saturday Field Trips led by Doug Shadwick (942-0479). These trips depart from the Glen Lennox Shopping Center parking lot off HWY 54 in Chapel Hill promptly at 7:30 a.m. most Saturday mornings. All skills are welcome. Trips are usually over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking.

## New Hope Audubon Society Activities Calendar

Thursday Nov 4 **Membership Meeting** at North Carolina Botanical Gardens. 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Dan Blank, former Head Dolphin Trainer for SeaWorld and Curator at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, will speak on the topic of: Dolphins, Whales, and other Marine Mammals in Captivity

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

Sunday Nov. 7th. Tom Driscoll will lead a **Bird Walk** to a to be determined destination in the Triangle. Meet at the Mardi Gras parking lot (Farrington Rd. at Hwy. 54 in Chapel Hill) at 1 p.m. We will look for recent winter arrivals. Bring sturdy shoes and water and snacks (if you want them). Please contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com) if you intend to attend this trip.

Saturday Nov. 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.

Thursday, Dec 2 **Membership Meeting at NC Botanical Gardens**. 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Mark Berman on "Wildlands Network & Continent Scale Conservation in Eastern NC.

Saturday, Dec 4 **Stream Watch** with John Kent 9:00 a.m.

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

Non-profit Org. US Postage PAID Permit No. 231 Chapel Hill, NC
--

## New Hope Audubon Society 2010-2011 Officers

OFFICE	NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
President.....	Norm Budnitz.....		nbudnitz@gmail.com
Vice-President.....	Robert "Bo" Howes.....	370-3202.....	rchowes007@hotmail.com
Secretary.....	Pat Reid.....	542-2433.....	photopr@yahoo.com
Treasurer.....	Maxine Foster.....	294-8878.....	mafoster02@gmail.com
Director.....	Robin Moran.....	383-3514.....	robomo@earthlink.net
Director.....	John Kent.....	933-5650.....	
Director.....	Steve Foster.....		sfoster239@gmail.com
Conservation Chair.....	Vacant		
Education Chair.....	Kate Finlayson.....	545-0737.....	katefin@yahoo.com
Field Trip Chair.....	Linda Gaines.....	968-9787.....	lggaines.95@alum.mines.edu
Hospitality Chair.....	Martha Girolami.....	362-5759.....	mgiorlami@mac.com
Membership Chair.....	Tom Driscoll.....	932-7966.....	spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com
Program Chair.....	Steve Foster.....		sfoster239@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor.....	Pat Reid.....	542-2433.....	photopr@yahoo.com
Webmaster.....	David Curtin.....	919-245-3475.....	dfcurtin@mail.fpg.unc.edu
Adopt-a-Highway.....	Tom Driscoll.....	932-7966.....	spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com
Bird Seed Sale.....	Judy Murray.....	942-2985.....	jmurray@unc.edu
Eagle Count.....	Martha Girolami.....	362-5759.....	mgiorlami@mac.com
Eagle Platform.....	Robert "Bo" Howes.....	370-3202.....	rchowes007@hotmail.com
Important Bird Areas: Eno River Chair.....	Tom Driscoll.....	932-7966.....	spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com
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