

New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter

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P.O. Box 2693, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
<http://www.newhopeaudubon.org>



My Two Cents Worth

by Tom Driscoll

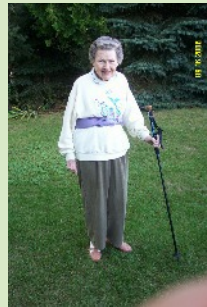
Although it has been a cold February, spring will be coming and with spring comes bird migration. One of our spring migrants is the Chimney Swift. The Chimney Swift is a familiar bird to most of us; it looks like a flying cigar with no tail. We often see these birds continuously flying all day while twittering. The Chimney Swift is so named for using chimneys for nesting and roosting. Chimney Swifts do not have feet and legs for perching. Instead they have short legs and “hooked” feet that only allow them to cling onto a vertical surface—for example, the inside of dead, hollow trees. Humans tend to remove such trees as potential hazards. As a result, Chimney Swifts have become almost completely dependent on chimneys.

NC Audubon will focus on the Chimney Swift as their “bird of the year”. To support this effort, the New Hope Audubon Society is repairing its chimney swift tower at Blackwood Farm County Park on NC 86 in Orange County. We are also planning to erect Chimney Swift towers at Sandy Creek Park and the Duke School on Erwin Rd. If you would like to get involved in or support these projects, then please contact Mark Kosiewski at beltedcowbird@gmail.com.

Barbara Roth, 1916-2016

By Norm Budnitz

Barbara Roth founded the New Hope Audubon Society (NHAS) in 1975. She was our



leader and an inspiration to many of us for decades, both as our President and as an advocate for conservation and environmental issues. Barbara passed away at age 99, on February 6, 2016.

Barbara was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, did her undergraduate work at Beloit College in that state and her masters and doctorate work at Northwestern University in Illinois. She eventually found her way to North Carolina, working for Burroughs Wellcome (now Glaxo, Smith, Kline) in Research Triangle Park. She also held an adjunct position at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.



Barbara Roth cont'd from pg 1

I met Barbara in the mid-1970s when I was a graduate student and she was laying the groundwork for the establishment of NHAS as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Barbara had been active in the Chapel Hill Bird Club, but wanted to be part of an organization that also played a role in education, advocacy, and activities related to conservation and environmental concerns in our area. She established NHAS as an organization that would work toward those goals.

As our first President, Barbara set up a Board of Directors, worked on our constitution and by-laws, brought in speakers for our monthly membership meetings, and led some of our early advocacy work on local environmental issues. She helped to establish our long-standing strong relationship with the North Carolina Botanical Garden at UNC. And Barbara felt that education needed to be an important component of our mission. She spear-headed periodic classes on birds, bird-watching, and bird identification.

In the early 1970s, the Army Corps of Engineers was in the process of constructing an earthen dam just downstream of the confluence of the New Hope and Haw Rivers as a mechanism for flood control on the Cape Fear River basin. That dam now impounds the water in what we call Jordan Lake. Barbara had the foresight to set up the Jordan Lake Christmas and Spring Bird Counts in 1977 as a way to assess the impact on the birds in the area. Forty-eight years later, NHAS is still sponsoring those counts annually, providing many birdwatchers with countless hours of fun and amassing an enormous amount of data. We owe Barbara our thanks for setting that project in motion.

Barbara retired in 1986, but continued to be an active member of NHAS. She came to meetings and took part in our bird counts into her 90s. Most of us who knew her remember her as a feisty leader who supported us in our love of birds, bird-watching, and nature—a woman who goaded us to take an active role in fighting for conservation and environmental issues. I personally, and I think all of us who care about birds, nature, and our environment, owe Barbara our honor, respect, and gratitude for her good works and leadership.

Thank you, Barbara, from all of us.



Feeder Watch

By Tom Driscoll



This has been a cold winter for us and our feeder birds. I am putting out much more suet than ever; birds that rarely come to the suet, such as the Hermit Thrushes and Yellow-rumped Warblers, were coming every day for a couple of weeks. The American Crows were also visiting my suet feeders very often and making the smaller birds wait. Have you noticed any new or different birds eating your suet?

I am putting out a lot of seed--Nyjer, millet, and sunflower seeds--as well. Although my birds are not eating the Nyjer, the Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and other migrants in addition to our resident birds, such as the Northern Cardinals, Tufted Titmice, and others, are eating a lot of seed. During the coldest weather, Song Sparrows, Common Grackles, and Red-winged Blackbirds were coming to the seed feeders as well. We also hosted one Fox Sparrow during the snow in late January. Several others reported seeing Red-winged Blackbirds at their feeders for the first time this winter. Did you have any new birds show up at your feeders during our snow storms?

Have you seen any of your birds molting into their breeding plumage? Some of mine, including the Eastern Bluebirds and the American Goldfinches, are just starting to change their plumage and by the end of March should start looking very colorful. Some of the birds are also starting to sing their courting songs, though some are not ready to start the process yet.

In addition to molting into breeding plumage, some birds are already checking out nesting cavities and sites. I have seen chickadees and bluebirds looking into the nest boxes in our yard. Do you have your nest boxes up yet and cleaned out? If you do not have nest boxes, then please contact me. The New Hope Audubon Society sells nest boxes for bluebirds and nuthatches for \$15. We deliver these boxes as well!

Although I discuss the birds I am seeing or 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 topics to discuss, want to report on the birds you are seeing, or have questions about the birds you are seeing, please send me an email at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com.



NHAS Membership Meeting Speakers for 2016

Our membership meetings are held in the Visitor Education Center at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens, 100 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, on the first Thursday of every month (except June, July, and August). Everyone, including non-members, is welcome! See you at a meeting soon!

Time/Date	Speaker	Topic
7:00 pm March 3, 2016	Stephanie Krueger North Carolina Zoo	Birds of the North Carolina Zoo Aviary
7:00 pm April 7, 2016	Derb Carter Southern Environmental Law Center	To be announced
7:00 pm May 5, 2016	Norm Budnitz New Hope Audubon Society	Birds—What are they? Who are they? What do they do?

Calendar of Activities

Thurs Mar 3, 7:00 - 8:30pm: “Birds of the North Carolina Zoo Aviary” Stephanie Krueger
NHAS Monthly Meeting at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

Sat Mar 5, 9:00am: Stream Watch with John Kent

John will lead the New Hope Creek Stream Watch monitoring. John leads a team that conducts monthly monitoring of the pollutants and microorganisms in the creek to gauge water quality. If interested in participating, then please contact John at jnkent25@gmail.com. Note, because start time and place may change based on regular crew availability, new folks interested should send John an email by Wednesday, 3/2/16.

Sat Apr 2, 9:00am: Stream Watch with John Kent

John will lead the New Hope Creek Stream Watch monitoring. John leads a team that conducts monthly monitoring of the pollutants and microorganisms in the creek to gauge water quality. If interested in participating, then please contact John at jnkent25@gmail.com. Note, because start time and place may change based on regular crew availability, new folks interested should send John an email by Wednesday, 3/30/16.

Thu Apr 7, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm: TBA - Derb Carter of Southern Environmental Law Center
NHAS Monthly Meeting at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.



NHAS Education Activities

By Mary George

One of the goals of the education committee this year was to offer our program for Youth called “Getting to Know Your Bird Neighbors” in each of the three counties served by New Hope Audubon Society, using a local library as the venue. Thus far, programs have been offered in Chapel Hill and Hillsborough (Orange County). Our next program will take place at the Chatham Public Library in Pittsboro (Chatham County) on Saturday, February 27, 2016, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Our current plan is to offer our program in Durham County at the Durham Public Library in early May, 2016.

In addition to our youth programs, the committee is planning a family bird walk for youth and their families in the spring; will be working with the NC Botanical Garden on their upcoming children’s program on birds; and will provide programs about birds in school classrooms upon request



NHAS display at
Chatham Community
Library



Making pine
cone bird feeders



Future birder



March and April, 2016, Field Trips

On March 19, 2016, Tom Driscoll will lead a field trip to Weymouth Woods State Park in Southern Pines, NC. We will look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows. Meet at the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center at 7:00 am or arrange to meet Tom somewhere on the way to Southern Pines. We will eat lunch afterwards in Aberdeen. If we have time and inclination, we may go to Sandhills Gamelands to look for birds as well. We will return between 2 and 3pm. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, and bring water/snacks. If you plan to attend or have questions, then please contact Tom at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com.

On April 9, 2016, Tom Driscoll will lead a bird walk to the Bynum bridge and vicinity. We will look for migrants. Meet at the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center at 7:00 am or arrange to meet Tom somewhere on the way to Bynum. The walk will be 3 hours or so. Please bring long pants, sturdy shoes, and water/snacks if you want. If you plan to attend or have questions, then please contact Tom at spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com.

March Bird Walks

These walks meet at the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center at 7:30 am. Destinations have not yet been determined. Check our on-line calendar for more details: www.newhopeaudubon.org/calendar.html

Wednesday March 2

Wednesday March 9

Sunday March 13

Sunday March 20

Saturday March 26



Time to Create Your Pollinator and Bird Friendly Garden

By Barbara Driscoll

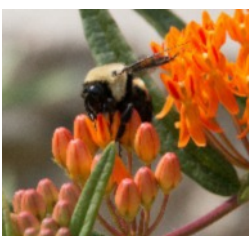
Spring is upon us, and it is the time when gardeners want to start working in their yards. Many of the plants that are beneficial to birds are also good for pollinators. Think about creating an ecosystem in your yard that will provide native insects and birds with food, shelter and water. The first key to success is to use native plants in your yard. The advantage of natives is they are already part of the native food web and therefore attract insects which feed birds, and in many cases also supply berries, nuts or seeds for birds too.

Tips for a pollinator garden:

- Choose a variety of plants that will bloom throughout the season – Some pollinators are only active in early spring, late summer or fall, while others are active all season.
- Use a mixture of nectar and host plants – Butterflies and moths lay eggs on or near host plants, so the emerging caterpillars can eat the leaves. Don't worry if the caterpillars eat your foliage, it will grow back. Some plants are good for nectar and host plants – milkweeds are the primary host plant for the Monarch butterfly but also provide nectar for all pollinators.
- Cluster plants of the same species – This makes it easier for pollinators and caterpillars to feed and graze.
- Include flowers of different colors – Different pollinators are attracted to different colors. Greater diversity of plants and colors = Greater diversity of pollinators.
- Use native grasses – Many pollinators rely on grasses for reproduction and food.

Tips that apply to both pollinator and bird friendly gardens:

- Don't use insecticides – even those labeled organic are often deadly to pollinators.
- Keep it messy – Many of our native bees are solitary and like to nest in the ground. Ground litter is also important for foraging birds, as there are many insects in the leaf litter. Leaf litter is also important for many larval stages of butterflies.
- Provide a source of water – Birds and pollinators both will use water sources.





Pollinator and Bird Friendly garden from pg 7

It is important to remember that birds need vegetative layers: canopy(trees), mid-story (shrubs and small trees) and ground layer (ground cover and perennials). Trees are also very important for pollinators and in the early spring **are** one of the primary sources of nectar. Some important trees for pollinators are: tulip trees (aka yellow poplar), pawpaw, all oak species, maples and sassafras. The blooms on some tree may be too small for us to discern, but are most welcome by the pollinators.

Some plants that are good for both pollinator and bird friendly gardens are:

- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) – Spicebush Swallowtail
- Oaks (*Quercus* spp) – multiple pollinators including species of hairstreaks and moths
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) – Zebra Swallowtail and fruit for birds
- Cone Flowers (*Echinacea* sp) – nectar and seed plant
- Viburnums (*Viburnum nudum*, sp) – nectar and berries
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) – nectar plant and favorite of hummingbirds
- Bee Balm (*Monarda* sp) – nectar plant and favorite of hummingbirds
- Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) – nectar and seeds
- Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) – nectar
- Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) – nectar and berries
- New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) – nectar
- Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) – nectar and seeds
- Swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) – nectar and seeds
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) – nectar and berries
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) – host plant for many butterflies, moths and provides berries

If you are interested in more information on creating a bird friendly habitat please go to our website:

<http://newhopeaudubon.org/birdFriendly.html>

For more information:

<http://ncbg.unc.edu/uploads/files/CreatingPollinatorGarden.pdf>



New Hope Audubon Officers for 2015-2016

President	Tom Driscoll		
Vice President	Bo Howes	Director	Mark Kosiewski
Treasurer	Vern Bothwell	Director	John Kent
Secretary	Pat Reid	Director	Jim George

Committee Chairs and Special Projects

Bird Friendly Habitat Certification -
Jim George, Barbara Driscoll

Important Bird Area, Jordan Lake -
Jennifer Fenwick

Important Bird Area Eno River -
Tom Driscoll

Bird Seed Sale - Mary George

Membership Chair - Anne Dayer

Christmas & Spring Bird Counts -
Norm Budnitz

Conservation Chair -Mark Kosiewski

Newsletter Editor - Pat Reid

Eagle Count - Steve McMurray

Program Chair: -Mark Kosiewski

Publicity Chair - Caroline Gilmore

Education Chair - Mary George

Stream Watch - John Kent

Field Trip Chair- David Anderson

Webmasters - Norm Budnitz, Jim
George