

# New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter

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



## Welcome 2012

*By Norm Budnitz, President*

Welcome to the 2012/2013 year of New Hope Audubon. Our Board of Directors recently held its annual planning meeting, in which we discussed possible activities we might get involved in for the coming year. Being a modest group, we sometimes underestimate just how much we actually accomplish. So at the beginning of our meeting this year, we decided to make a list of all the things we had done last year—big or small, time-consuming or quick, brand new or recurring annually.

Our chapter serves Chatham, Durham, and Orange counties. Below, you can see just how much we have accomplished. The counties where the activities took place or where they had their major impact are given in parentheses. Some activities could be listed in several categories, but chose I to list each one once, rather than pad the list.

### **Projects we worked on and/or supported financially**

- A bird blind for the Wonder Garden at the NC Botanical Garden (Orange)
- Installation of bird houses at Cornwallis Road Park in Durham by Duke School for Children (Durham)
- NC Natural Sciences Museum Chimney Swift tower (Wake)

### **Outreach**

- Eno River Festival (Durham, Orange)
- Bird house competition in Raleigh (Wake)
- Chapel Hill Garden Club (Orange)
- Migratory Bird Day Eno River State Park (Orange)

### **Special field trips**

- Blackwood Farm in Hillsborough (Orange)
- Eno River confluence property (Orange)
- Sandy Creek (Durham)

### **Education**

- Birds and Birding class (Chatham, Durham, Orange)





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- Cub Scout presentation (Durham, Orange)
- Boy Scout merit badge day (Chatham)
- School presentations (Durham)
- Finished paying off our pledge in support of the NC Botanical Garden new education center (Orange)

#### **Fundraising**

- Bird seed sale (Chatham, Durham, Orange): \$1325
- Wildathon (Chatham, Durham, Orange): \$1237
- Bird house sales (Chatham, Durham, Orange)
- Grants in support of improvements to the Wildlife Observation Site at the Jordan Lake Important Bird Area (Chatham)
  - TogetherGreen Volunteer Days (Toyota and National Audubon): \$500
  - Collaborative Funding (IBA and NC Audubon): \$166

#### **Advocacy**

- Helped stop Ayden Court development in Chapel Hill (Orange)
- Letter of support for the Triangle Land Conservancy when that group was attacked in an article in a local weekly newspaper (Chatham, Durham, Orange)

#### **Presentations**

- Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University (Durham)
  - Carol Woods Chapel Hill (Orange)
  - Carolina Meadows (Orange)
  - Twin Lakes Garden Club (in Virginia)
  - Liberty Public Library (in Virginia)
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- **Service**
  - Wildlife Observation Platform site, trail maintenance, trash pick-up, informational kiosk (Orange)
  - Website upgrade (Chatham, Durham, Orange)

#### **Recurring Programs**

- Stream Watch (Orange)
- Membership meetings (Chatham, Durham, Orange)
- Monthly field trips/bird walks (Chatham, Durham, Orange)
- Quarterly Bald Eagle counts (Chatham, Orange)
- Mini Breeding Bird Surveys (Chatham, Durham, Orange)
- Christmas and spring bird counts (Chatham)
- On-line newsletter (Chatham, Durham, Orange)



## Membership Programs For 2012 - 2013

Time/Date	Speaker	Topic
6:30 pm September 6, 2012	Members	Potluck Dinner with 10-12 photo/slides
7:00 pm October 4, 2012	Stan Lewis	Insect Photography
7:00 pm November 1, 2012	Brian Bockhahn Ranger at Falls Lake State Park	Beetles of North Carolina, or How to Identify Wildlife by Sounds
7:00 pm December 6, 2012	Andre Boustany Duke University	Electronic Tagging of Bluefin Tuna
7:00 pm January 3, 2013	Allen Hartley Hurlbert Researcher at UNC	Broad-Scale Patterns of Bird Diversity and Migration: Insights from Citizen Science
7:00 pm February 7, 2013	Johnny Wilson graduate student at NCSU	Mice Eating Albatrosses at Gough Island
7:00 pm March 7, 2013	Maria de Bruyn	Birds of Kruger National Park, South Africa; Etosha National Park, Namibia; and Nairobi National Park, Kenya
7:00 pm April 4, 2013	Jeff Beane NC Museum of Natural Sciences	Snakes of North Carolina
7:00 pm May 2, 2013	John Gerwin NC Museum of Natural Sciences	Birds of Nicaragua



## Calendar of Activities

Thursdays, Sept 6, **Membership Meeting** (Pot Luck) 6:30, NC Botanical Gardens, Please bring a dish to share and your own (or compostable) silverware, cups, and dishes to limit the amount of trash going to the landfill. Also, you are welcome to bring 10 or so slides or pictures of nature or the environment to share with the group.



Saturday , Sept 1, **Stream Watch** with John Kent ,8:00 am

Saturday, Sept 22, **Bird Walk** with Tom Driscoll, 7:00am,birdwatching at a site to be determined. We will meet at the Mardi Gras Bowling Alley parking lot at the intersection of Highway 54 and Fearrington Road at 7:00am. The hiking is easy. Please bring sturdy shoes, water, and snacks. We should be out for 2 to 3 hours. All bird watching skill levels are welcome. If you're interested in participating, then please contact Tom Driscoll at [spttddshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttddshnk@yahoo.com).

Saturday, Sept 29, **Migratory Bird Day**, 7:00am, Eno River State Park

Thursday, Oct 4, **Membership Meeting** 7:00pm, NC Botanical Gardens, The program will be "Insect Photography" by Stan Lewis.

Saturday, Oct 6, **Stream Watch** with John Kent 8:00 am

## Bluebird Houses For Sale

NHAS has bluebird houses for sale for \$15.00. Don't be without one. See our website at [www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org) to order.

These Bluebird houses have been carefully designed and constructed. Features include:

- Entrance hole diameter is just right for Bluebirds, too small for Starlings.
- Metal flashing around the entrance hole helps deter predators such as squirrels.
- Grooves on the inside of the door below the hole help the fledgling Bluebirds climb out of the nest.
- Hinged door makes it easy to clean out old nesting material.
- Written instructions included to help with proper placement and maintenance.
- Back board: 17" tall
- Box cross section: 6"wide x 6"deep.



## **FEEDER WATCH**

By Tom Driscoll

It's near the end of August and some birds are harder to see. You may have noticed that bird activity has decreased at your feeders and the birds seem most active very early or late in the day, when the temperatures are cooler. Except for finches, wrens, and catbirds, birds are generally singing less too. Although the temperatures are hot and the birds are less active, they are still eating a lot of bird seeds and suet at our house. The regulars, such as chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, House Finches, and woodpeckers are still eating a lot here. We are adding suet to feeders almost every day. We started putting a suet feeder on a tree because it is easier for some birds to access. Because squirrels can get to this feeder, we began using pepper-laced suet that deters squirrels and not birds. It works well. In addition, our hummingbirds are still here and defending the feeders. Are they still feeding at your house?

Another reason that bird activity has decreased is that some of the birds have finished raising their broods and have forced their offspring to leave. Except for our House Wrens, all the bird houses are empty. However, 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.

Migration is starting for some warblers and other birds. Be on the look out! Some of our birds will be migrating south in September, so look for them in your yard. However, most of the migrants are not feeder birds. If you want to report interesting bird observations or have questions, please contact me at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com). Keep watching your backyard birds!

### *Bird Seed Sale*

Don't Forget to order your bird seed now. Go to our website [www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org). to download an order form or order online.

**DON'T FORGET  
Pick up your New Hope Audubon Society BIRD SEED and COFFEE**

**10am – 2pm, SATURDAY, Nov. 3, 2012**

**WILD BIRD CENTER, EASTGATE SHOPPING CENTER, CHAPEL HILL**





## New Hope Audubon Officers for 2012-2013

Position	Name
<b>President</b>	Norm Budnitz
<b>Vice President</b>	Robert "Bo" Howes
<b>Secretary</b>	Pat Reid
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jill Paul
<b>Director</b>	Robin Moran
<b>Director</b>	John Kent
<b>Director</b>	Mark Kosiewski

### *Committee Chairs and Special Projects*

Committee	Name
Conservation Chair	Vacant
Education Chair	Vacant
Field Trip Chair	Vacant
Hospitality Chair	Jim & Mary George
Membership/Publicity Chair	Tom Driscoll
Program Chair	Tom Driscoll
Newsletter Editor	Pat Reid
Webmaster	Norm Budnitz
Christmas/Spring Bird Count Chair	Norm Budnitz
Bird Seed Sale	Judy Murray
Eagle Count	Martha Girolami
Wildlife Observation Platform Chair	Robert "Bo" Howes
Important Bird Areas: Eno River Chair	Tom Driscoll
Important Bird Areas: Jordan Lake Chair	Robert "Bo" Howes
Stream Watch	John Kent
Wildathon Chair	Vacant