

# New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter



Volume 36, Number 1: January-February 2011

## This Is It!

*by Norm Budnitz, President*

**Our last regularly scheduled, hard copy newsletter.** Hold it in your hands. Savor it. Get the full tactile experience. There may be occasional printed newsletters in the future, but we don't know for sure. From here on out, our regular bi-monthly newsletters will be published only in electronic format. For instructions on signing up for email notification, please see the accompanying article. Future newsletters will be available for viewing and/or printing on our website at:

**[www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org)**

***We will put the money we save to good use, supporting worthy environmental, educational, conservation, and outreach programs.***

## Sign Up for Electronic Newsletter Notification DO IT NOW!

Starting with our next edition we are going electronic with our newsletter, and we don't want you to miss an issue. In order for us to send out email notifications for on-line viewing or downloading of our Newsletter, we need your help. There are three easy ways for you to get notifications:

- 1. Go to our website <[www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org)> and on the left side of the page, click on the Google Groups link: "Join NHAS's Announcement Only Group."**

This is a no-reply email list to be used only for making announcements about the publication of our on-line newsletter, our Bird Seed Sale, our Wild-a-Thon, and other occasional NHAS announcements. Expect to receive no more than 8-10 email messages a year. Only authorized NHAS personnel may post messages to this list.

- 2. 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: "Join NHAS's Discussion Group."**

This is an email discussion list. Anyone who subscribes to this list may post messages to the list and will receive all postings made by other subscribers. This list is for discussion of conservation and environmental issues and NHAS announcements about field trips, monthly meetings, the publication of our on-line newsletter, and other events.

- 3. 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.**



**DO IT NOW!**

# New Hope Audubon Society in 2011

As we reflect on all the good work we've done in 2010 to further our mission, such as completion of the Eagle Viewing Platform, the Migratory Bird Day at the Eno River State Park, hosting the Audubon North Carolina Annual Meeting, our improved website, and other outreach and educational activities, I am even more excited about all the varied activities we have planned in 2011! Our mission is to promote the conservation and enjoyment of birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems through public education, field research, advocacy, direct citizen action, and contributions to other non-profit organizations with similar goals. As such, we are the voice for the voiceless and the representatives for plants and animals that can't represent themselves.

Some of the exciting events we plan for the upcoming year are:

- Birdwatching Course
- Boy Scout Day to be held in conjunction with Earth Day
- Bluebird Day at a community in North Durham
- More field trips, including trips to see reptiles and amphibians, butterflies, and dragonflies
- Continued outreach and environmental advocacy at local festivals
- Other educational and advocacy work such as Stream Watch, continuing to sponsor Eagle Scout candidates, Bird Counts, and Adopt-a-Highway

As you can see, we will have activities for everyone – including you! We hope to see you at one of our activities soon. As always, you can find out more information at our website – [www.newhopeaudubon.org](http://www.newhopeaudubon.org) or our facebook page. See you in 2011!

## Results of the 2010 Bird Seed Sale

by Judy Murray, Chair

Many thanks to all of you who purchased bird seed and coffee this year enabling us to pursue our educational goals. The seed sale turned out to be better than I had expected. We cleared about \$3,400.00. Some members posted notices, approached friends, co-workers and neighbors with sale forms and as a result generated multiple orders. Many thanks for the extra effort from all of you, especially Robin Moran who turned in over \$900.00 worth of orders from friends and co-workers! Also, I want to thank those members who helped on the pick-up day loading cars and delivering seed—Tom Driscoll, Bo Howes, John Kent, Karen King and Judith and David Smith. Last but not least a HUGH “Thank You” to Cynthia Fox of The Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center for her continued support of New Hope Audubon.



## Bluebird Houses

Want an inexpensive Holiday gift that will definitely get used, keep giving, and remind the recipients of you? Then order a New Hope Audubon Society Bluebird Box. They are only \$15 and I can deliver them to you. The entrance hole is sized for a bluebird; there is metal facing around the hole to prevent squirrels from chewing their way in, and an easy open front for ease in cleaning. And, they are made of pine so they will last! If you're interested, then please contact me, Tom Driscoll, at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com) for yours today.

## Adopt A Highway

We have adopted Stagecoach Road in southeastern Durham County; it connects Highway 751 and Fearington Road. We will meet on March 5, 2011 at the parking lot closest to Highway 751 at 8:00 a.m. Please bring work gloves and warm clothing. Pick up tools and trash bags will be provided. It usually takes 2 hours to clean up the road. Please contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com) if you have questions or need more information.

## Field Trips

**Jan. 9, 1:00 p.m. at Mardi Gras Bowling Alley.** Location to be determined. We will look for winter migrants. Bring sturdy shoes. Hiking will be easy to moderate. Bring water if desired. The trip should last no more than 3 hours.

**Feb.6, 8:00 a.m. at Mardi Gras Bowling Alley.** We will go to Kerr Lake and look for winter migrants. This has been a good place to find loons for the past few years. Bring sturdy shoes and warm clothing. Also, bring some lunch. Hiking will be easy to moderate. We should return by 3 p.m.

**For more information and to be notified of impromptu field trips, contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com).**

# An Introduction to Birds and Birding

The New Hope Audubon Society is offering a course in birds and birding. The course will include 4 classroom sessions (90 minutes each) and 1 field trip after the classes are completed.

**TIMES:** The 4 classroom sessions will start at 7:30 P.M.

**CLASSROOM DATES:** Wednesdays—February 16, February 23, March 2, and March 9, 2011.

**FIELD TRIP DATE:** A choice of dates will be presented at our first class session.

**PLACE:** The Sunroom, Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill NC 27514

**PRICE:** \$50.00 per person.

**LIMIT:** 30 participants, maximum—first come, first served.

This course is aimed at bird watchers of all skill levels, so if you are not sure whether that bird at your feeder is a chickadee or a nuthatch or if you already know how to tell Ruby-crowned from Golden-crowned Kinglets, these classes will have something for you.

Topics will include: bird identification, tools of the trade (field guides, binoculars), classification, physiology, behavior, and much more. One session will include the opportunity to view museum specimens of birds 'up close and personally.'

To reserve your space, fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to 'New Hope Audubon Society':

**New Hope Audubon Society—Birding Course**  
**PO Box 2693 • Chapel Hill NC 27515**

Name (or names for multiple participants): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bald Eagle Count

by Martha Girolami, Chair

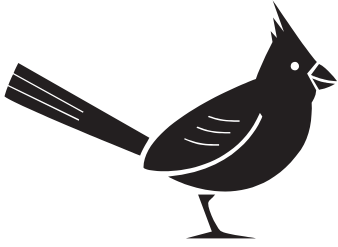
The NHAS Bald Eagle Count was held at Lake Jordan on October 10, 2010 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. There was a mixture of sun and fog, no wind and temperatures around 50 degrees. Five teams counted 6 adult, 17 immature and 5 undetermined eagles for a total of 28 eagles.

The next NHAS Bald Eagle count will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 7 to 8:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining a count team please contact Martha Girolami at 919-362-5759.

# Feeder Watch

by Tom Driscoll

You should be receiving this newsletter in mid-December. The leaves are mostly gone from the trees now, most insects are dormant, the days are much shorter, and the temperatures are colder. All these factors make birds feed intensively at feeders. Also, our winter visitors, migrants from the north, are here now, so there are new birds here to complement our year-round residents. Have you seen the winter visitors yet? The migrants in my yard are Dark-eyed (formerly Slate-colored) Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Have you seen these birds?



Our year-round residents that frequent feeders include Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Can you recognize these birds? Of course, the Northern Cardinal is the state bird and the male is very red. These birds are chiefly seed eaters, so you can see them at your seed feeders. Eastern Towhees, a colorful black and orange and white-spotted bird, eat seeds as well, but usually on the ground. Sometimes, I put millet on the ground for towhees and some of our winter

visitors. Do you put up suet? If so, then you may see woodpeckers. We have several species, including Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers (also woodpeckers) that regularly dine at suet feeders. Other birds and other residents, such as Eastern Bluebirds and Brown Thrashers may also eat suet. I also have seen Brown Creepers and Hermit Thrushes coming to my suet feeders. Some resident birds, such as American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds, eat berries from the Holly Bushes and juniper trees in your yard. You may not be the only one watching the birds at your feeders. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks feed on small birds and may also be "feeding" at your feeders. If you don't recognize these birds or the bird names, then may I suggest you buy one of the bird guides that are available in many stores.

Some readers have complained about squirrels eating all of their bird food. If you have been feeding birds for any length of time, then you know that squirrels are very clever thieves. Some of the feeders I use include a platform feeder, suet feeders on trees and poles, plastic tube feeders, and hummingbird feeders. I usually feed the birds a mix of millet, sunflower seeds, and safflower seeds. I sometimes put millet on the ground for the sparrows, juncos, and towhees that prefer feeding on the ground. I also provide nyger seed for the finches. The suet I use is hot pepper that the squirrels won't eat. To prevent squirrels from climbing the poles, I place baffles that deter them. I also use Slinkys (the toy) that will also deter squirrels. I have to place the feeders far enough from the roof and trees so the squirrels can't jump on them. Those are my strategies for squirrel "proofing" my feeders. I would be interested in hearing what strategies you employ. Please email me at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com) with any comments. Happy Holidays!



## New Hope Audubon Society Activities Calendar

Thursday, Jan 6, **Membership Meeting** at NC Botanical Gardens. 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Virginia Travis on "Birds and Kayaking on Jordan Lake".

Saturday, Jan 8, **Stream Watch** with John Kent 9:00 a.m.

Saturday Jan. 8, **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, Jan. 9, 1:00 p.m. **Field Trip led by Tom Driscoll**. Meet at Mardi Gras Bowling Alley. Location to be determined. We will look for winter migrants. Bring sturdy shoes. Hiking will be easy to moderate. Bring water if desired. The trip should last no more than 3 hours.

Thursday, Feb 3, **Membership Meeting** at NC Botanical Gardens. 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Haven Wiley on "What we have learned from the MiniBreeding Bird Survey."

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

Sunday, Feb.13, **Field Trip led by Tom Driscoll**. 8:00 a.m. Meet at Mardi Gras Bowling Alley. We will go to Kerr Lake and look for winter migrants. This has been a good place to find loons for the past few years. Bring sturdy shoes and warm clothing. Also, bring some lunch. Hiking will be easy to moderate. We should return by 3 p.m.

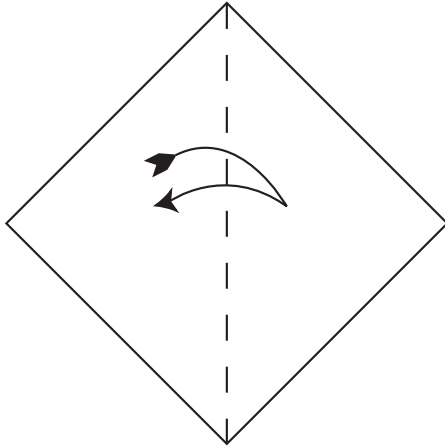
# An Origami Swan

Try this for fun. Use an 8-inch square of paper. You can make one by trimming a piece of printer paper. The diagrams show a piece of paper colored on one side and white on the other, just for clarity. May your swan swim in peace and harmony.  
(If you actually want it to swim, try using aluminum foil!)

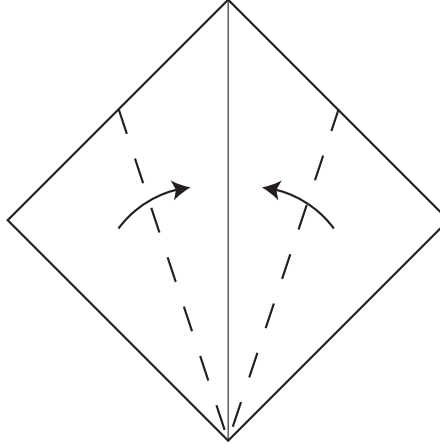
## SWAN

a traditional model diagrammed by Norman Budnitz

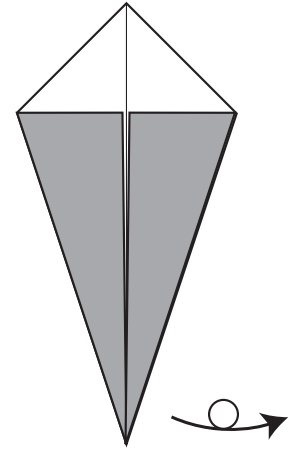
valley fold	---
mountain fold	----
crease line	---



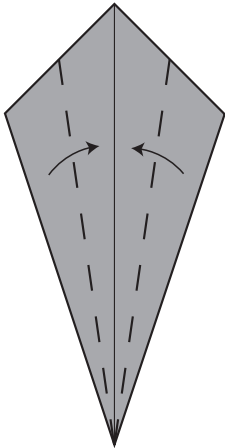
1. With the paper white side up, valley fold and unfold along a diagonal.



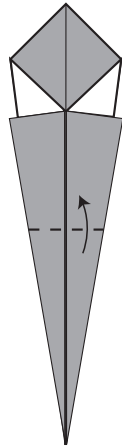
2. Make two valley folds to the central crease.



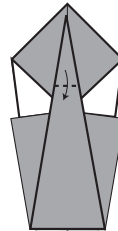
3. Turn the paper over.



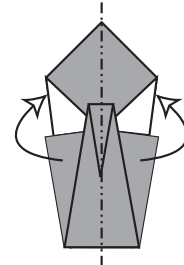
4. Valley fold the edges to the middle.



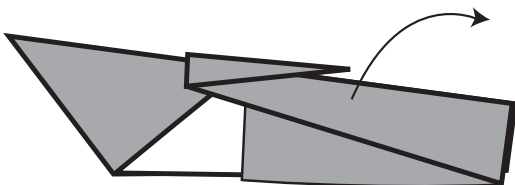
5. Valley fold the bottom point up to near the top.



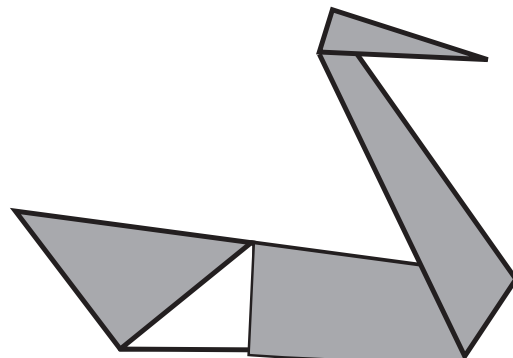
6. Valley fold the point back down. How far? Use your judgement to make the head the size you like.



7. Now mountain fold the whole model in half through all the layers.



8. Pull up the neck and head and pinch them into their final positions.



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

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Education Chair.....	Kate Finlayson.....	545-0737.....	katefin@yahoo.com
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Mini Breeding Bird			
Stream Watch.....	John Kent.....	933-5650.....	jkent@tmug.org
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