

(continued from Volunteer Opportunities inside)

Wake Audubon? Got a knack for writing, editing or Web site design? This is the committee for you! Email Linda to sign up at linda\_rudd@ncsu.edu.

**Education and Outreach Committee**

Chair: Randy Senzig

This new committee will work on long-term goals of promoting education and outreach among schoolchildren, community groups and others in Wake County who may benefit from learning more about birds and wildlife. As a teacher, Randy is uniquely qualified for this committee! Email him at isenzig@nc.rr.com.

**Fundraising Committee**

Chair: Kendrick Weeks

One of the most important functions of any nonprofit organization is ensuring enough funds to continue its good works. Help Wake Audubon with creative and fiscally-sound ideas for maintaining our operating budget while funding new projects. Email Kendrick at kendrickweeks@earthlink.net.

**Wake Audubon Officers 2006**

President: Chrissy Pearson  
Vice-president: Jeff Beane  
Treasurer: Dave Heeter  
Secretary: Linda Rudd

**Mission Statement:** "To foster knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of nature; to encourage responsible environmental stewardship; to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity."

**Wake Audubon Membership**

(includes membership to National Audubon)

Send this coupon and a check for \$20 annual dues to: **Wake Audubon Membership, P.O. Box 12452, Raleigh, NC 27605.**

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Are you interested in serving on one of our committees?

- fundraising       education/outreach
- membership       Anderson Point
- newsletter/PR     conservation

Would you like to receive emails about volunteer opportunities?     yes     no, thanks

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February 2006



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**IBA Program Comes to Wake Audubon**

**F**rom the national to the local levels, Audubon members share the desire to conserve habitat and resources essential for the birds and other wildlife we love. As an Audubon member, you have numerous ways to contribute to important conservation efforts. Perhaps you've read recently about one such effort, known by the initials "IBA." So what's an IBA, anyway?

An IBA, or Important Bird Area, is a tract of land that provides essential habitat for at least one species of bird. IBAs can be recognized as many kinds of land: sites for breeding, wintering grounds, or essential stopovers for migrating birds. Generally IBAs have some unique landscape features that set them apart from surrounding landscapes and may be public lands or private property, protected or unprotected from development.

To be designated an IBA, a tract of land must meet several criteria. The site must support species that are of conservation concern, have restricted ranges, are vulnerable because of concentration in only one kind of habitat, or occur at high density (such as waterfowl at breeding or wintering grounds).

Protecting IBAs has become a global concern, and the worldwide conservation community is participating in a variety of programs to identify and protect IBAs. The National Audubon Society is one of several organizations active in IBA programs. Some 1,700 sites in 750 countries

in multifaceted directions to conserve IBAs, all coordinated by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative in North America. For IBAs located on public lands, conservation may be accomplished by open-space acquisition and/or by improvement of management practices already in place to protect birds and their habitats. Preserving private lands can be more challenging, and creative partnerships such as easements and landowner education result in win-win situations for both birds and landowners.

So, what can you do to help protect IBAs? Sign up to help Wake Audubon, for one. Our Wake Audubon chapter elected to sponsor an IBA during 2006 — the Lumber River Bottomlands in Robeson and Craven Counties. A portion of the Lumber River is designated a National Wild and Scenic River and the area provides habitat for migrating songbirds and waterfowl. Our speaker this month, Curtis Smalling of N.C. Audubon, will tell us more about what's involved with adopting an IBA.

Then in March a Wake Audubon sponsored field trip will explore the Lumber River's rich and diverse area by canoe. Once again Curtis will join us and will point out particular areas of concern for the area as an IBA. Please join us for an experience that is sure to be fun and educational! Check your March issue of *Wingbeats* to find out more details.

~Linda Rudd



These organizations are working

**Inside:**  
Looking for a place to volunteer in 2006? We need you! Check out our committee needs on page 3.

**I'd like to help Wake Audubon continue its work in my community!**

Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

- in memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish my donation to remain anonymous

Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Wake Audubon is a 501(3)(c) organization.

Make checks out to Wake Audubon and mail to: Wake Audubon, P.O. Box 12452, Raleigh, NC 27605.

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## Wake Audubon Calendar

Join us for these fun and informative upcoming events.

**Special Event! Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. Rediscovering the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker** with special guest speaker **Bobby Harrison**, one of the three people to first rediscover this rare species once believed to be extinct. Seating is limited, so call soon for tickets at 733-7450 x307. Tickets are \$10 for Audubon members, \$12 for non-members. Event will be held in the first floor auditorium of the Museum of Natural Sciences.

**Monthly Meeting — Feb. 14 Sharing Your Passion for Birds: Audubon North Carolina's Adopt-an-IBA Program** — Curtis Smalling, Audubon NC's Mountain Area Biologist and Adopt-an-IBA Coordinator, will discuss Important Bird Areas in North Carolina, and ways individuals and groups like Wake Audubon can get involved.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the A-level conference room of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and is open to the public.

**Bird Walk on the Buckeye Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m.** Join us for a morning walk along the Buckeye Trail. Meet at the parking area of the Buckeye Trail on Crabtree Blvd. between Raleigh Blvd. and Capital Blvd. Contact Bob Winstead for more information at birderbob1@aol.com or 845-5006.

**Field Trip: Woodcock Walk Saturday, Feb. 18** — For the 26th year in a row, John Connors will lead a woodcock walk, if birds can be found and conditions are right. The best time to spot the birds is from around 5 p.m. until just after sunset, but contact John for specific details on where and when to meet. Contact him at 755-0253 (home) or 733-7450 x 602 (work), or by email at John.Connors@ncmail.net.

**Great Backyard Bird Count February 17 - 20, 2006** Record your sightings and help further science. Visit [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) for more information.

### Feathered Facts



**Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)** — *This gorgeous duck was driven to near-extinction due to habitat loss and hunting pressures in the early 1900s. But in the 1910s, hunters and biologists teamed up to reverse this trend, and today the Wood Duck is one of our more numerous ducks. This is one of many species that prefers "forested wetlands," still a threatened habitat. In late winter, birds are in pairs, and by March will be searching for the right cavity in which to lay 6 to 15 eggs. All hatch on the same day; a day later, the young must climb to the entrance and jump. Once on the ground, the female will lead them to water. Males are considered by many to be the most beautiful duck of all — indeed, "Aix sponsa" is loosely translated as "a waterfowl in wedding dress." But for runner-up honors, look for the related Mandarin Duck, an Asian species, the next time you are at a zoo or waterfowl center.* ~ John Gerwin

## President's Message

### Help Our 2006 Projects Succeed

**A** month into the new year, how are those resolutions coming? Wake Audubon made its own set of resolutions, so to speak, in the form of specific goals for our chapter in 2006. We worked on them during our October Board retreat and finalized our plans over the intervening months. Now, with 2006 well under way and the proceeds from a successful fundraiser in the bank, we Board members feel more energized than ever to get to work! Now we just have to hope that you, the Wake Audubon friends and members, will help us with these important projects.

So how can you help? First, take a look at the list of committees to the right of this column. One of our goals for 2006 was to establish working committees that will pursue some of the more pressing needs of the chapter. We want to encourage the membership to participate in the governing of these projects through committee participation, and the Board wants to share the decision making process with others who can serve on these committees. If you are interested in a particular area of Wake Audubon's work or a special project, joining a committee would be a great way to start helping.

If committees aren't your style, plenty of other opportunities exist for you to help. At least two large projects face our chapter this year, and these projects will only succeed if we have donations of time, talent, brains and muscles. Got one or more of those? Then help us out!

This month's meeting features Curtis Smalling of North Carolina Audubon talking about adopting Important Bird Areas, or IBAs. Wake Audubon's adoption of the IBA around Lumber River is project number one. We'll need folks willing to count and record bird sightings there in concert with the IBA monitoring program.

Project number two involves putting some finishing touches on our enhancements of the habitat at our adopted Raleigh city park, Anderson Point. We have ongoing needs for general maintenance such as weed pulling and gardening, but we'll also install new signs this year explaining the wildlife meadows, bat boxes and other features made possible by Wake Audubon.

Of course we have numerous smaller projects that continue through the year that could benefit from new volunteers: writing our monthly newsletter; voicing opinions on local, state, and national environmental issues; seeking grant monies for specific projects; maintaining our membership database; twice-annual bird counts; and much more. Please consider joining us for one or more of these worthwhile projects! We have great plans, but we will only get as far as you will take us.

Thank you for your help!

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Committee Members Needed** Help Wake Audubon work towards our goals for 2006 by joining us in our work as a volunteer. We could really use your help, as several projects are coming up that need man- (and woman!) power. You don't need any particular skills to volunteer, just enthusiasm and dedication. Though if you do possess talents you would like to share, such as writing, web site design, special event coordination, etc., be sure to let us know!

Committees that need help include:

### Anderson Point Committee

*Chair: Melody Scott*

This group will coordinate our relationship with Raleigh Parks and Recreation and our work as the adoptive agency of Anderson Point Park. Upcoming projects that need work include ongoing maintenance of the wildlife meadows, design and installation of a vernal pool and bat boxes, and a long-term goal of installing an educational visitor's kiosk.

Email Melody to sign up at [msscott@environmentaldefense.org](mailto:msscott@environmentaldefense.org).

### Membership, Volunteer Coordination

*Co-chairs: Lena Gallitano, Beth Hawkins* Volunteers with this committee are primarily needed to help coordinate volunteer work days (such as event planning, weed pulling, etc.) and to maintain membership enrollment databases and mailing lists. Email Lena to sign up at [lena\\_gallitano@ncsu.edu](mailto:lena_gallitano@ncsu.edu).

### Conservation Committee

*Chair: John Connors*

Individuals interested in promoting land and species conservation are needed to work on this new committee. A leading goal of this group will be to pursue plans to protect the Greenview Pond area, as well as habitat improvement at other habitat sites. Email John to sign up at [john\\_connors@ncmail.net](mailto:john_connors@ncmail.net).

### Publicity and Newsletter Committee

*Co-chairs: Chrissy Pearson, Linda Rudd* Interested in getting the word out about

(continued on back page)

### Act Locally

#### Tips for Energy Conservation Around Home

High energy bills got you down? Here are a few tips to help improve energy efficiency and promote energy conservation in your home.

**Insulate.** Add insulation between walls, in attic, and in crawlspace. Seal leaks and cracks around air ducts, windows, and doors. Insulate the hot water heater. Even closing your blinds can add an insulating layer between your windows and outside. Keep fire-place damper closed when not in use.

**Use free energy.** In the winter when the sun is shining on a window, open the blinds and allow free solar energy to flood your room. In the summer, keep the blinds closed against the sun

to keep rooms cooler. Install a sky light or solar panels.

**Replace standard light bulbs** with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL). Replacing 25 percent of high-use lights with CFLs can save up to 50 percent of your lighting energy bills. Plus CFLs last up to 10 times longer than standard light bulbs.

**Adjust the thermostat** down in the winter during the day, and turn it down even more at night or when not at home. (In the summer, keep thermostat set higher.) Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees, and use less hot water. Every degree makes a difference.