

**“Bobby sat down on a log,
put his face in his hands and
began to sob, saying,
‘I saw an ivory-bill.
I saw an ivory-bill.’ ”**

*as reported by Tim Ghallager in the Big Woods
Conservation Partnership news release, April 28, 2005.*

In February 2004, Bobby Harrison became one of only three people to officially sight the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, thus rediscovering this Holy Grail of birding once believed to be extinct.

Now you have the opportunity to hear Bobby's story first hand.

Wake Audubon members, reserve your tickets now, seating is limited!

**Bobby Harrison on Rediscovering
the Ivory-billed Woodpecker**

7 p.m., February 4, 2006
Museum of Natural Sciences Auditorium
tickets \$10 for Wake Audubon members

Only 250 seats available for what is sure to be the year's most talked-about bird event. This is the only venue Bobby is visiting in North Carolina.

Visit www.naturalsciences.org/friends/friends.html to reserve your tickets, or call 733-7450 x307.

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)

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Are you interested in serving on one of our committees?

- fundraising
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- conservation

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

Chapter Code R-55 7XCH; Wake Audubon, Raleigh, NC Please allow 4-6 weeks for arrival of first issue of *Audubon* magazine.



January 2006

Wingbeats

Field Trip to Mattamuskeet Yields 92 Species, But No Geese or Swans

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2005, dawned clear and crisp, with temperatures hovering in the low 30s. We began the day by scraping ice off of our windshields, a real change from the past few weeks! We made our first stop at an impoundment area right at the parking area of the Lake Landing access. This, as it turns out, was our best stop the whole time.



A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was the first bird counted. Photo courtesy of Mike Dunn.

The very first bird we saw as we gathered in the parking lot was a sweet little Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, followed by a scolding House Wren, both seen well. Other highlights, in the pond, included a lovely Black-necked Stilt, several Glossy Ibis, an immature Little Blue Heron in the white phase, and good looks at lots of Common (Wilson's) Snipe, and an Osprey eating a fish. Several Bald Eagles were seen here (and later over the big lake). We then walked out on a couple dykes, and worked hard to get a Marsh Wren in view.

Back at the lot most of us got a good look at a slightly shy Orange-crowned Warbler. We had lunch at the headquarters picnic area and then checked out the big lake via Wildlife Drive. We got great looks at adult and immature Bald Eagles here, five total birds!

Waterfowl were scarce, in general, on the lake and in the impoundments. Singles each of Redhead and Canvasback were seen, and a few Gadwall. Our highlight here was a nice male Eurasian Widgeon. Although the bird was pretty far out, requiring a spotting scope to see well, the light was perfect and our crew had five top-of-the-line scopes on hand!

We heard more Marsh Wrens and a King Rail, and a possible Sora, but alas, could not coax any into view. We ended the tour with a trip along the causeway, but again, not many waterfowl were present. At the overlook, we were greeted by about 10 Palm warblers, and we did get a great look at an elegant Northern Pintail male. And on the other side of the road, a small flock of Forster's Terns were fishing, close enough for good views.

Six of us continued on Sunday morning, when we walked a road at the

west end of the lake, through some wonderful old mixed pine/hardwood habitat with a slough on one side. Here we got great looks and sounds of Pileated, Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied woodpeckers, along with flickers and sapsuckers. We had fleeting glimpses of Brown Creeper and a Baltimore Oriole. Notably absent were Fox Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, and Blue-headed Vireo.

Oddly, no Snow Geese were seen, at all. Perhaps all the warm weather this fall has slowed the waterfowl migration, and maybe even some of the songbirds.

We did have one other “participant” along — Clay Johnson from UNC-TV. He was there to film and interview us for an upcoming program that showcases birdwatching and Mattamuskeet. We hope we didn't say anything embarrassing!

All told we saw 92 total species and had a wonderful trip. Special thanks to the hospitable folks at the Englehard Hotel, who accommodated our diets and early mornings and made our stay most comfortable.

~John Gerwin

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Wake Audubon thanks its sponsors who make this newsletter possible.

Wake Audubon Calendar

Join us for these fun and informative upcoming events.

Monthly Meeting — Jan. 10
Birding in Panama — Join local birders Will Cook, Kent Fiala, Lena Gallitano, and Judy Murray for an exciting travelogue of their 2004 birding trip to Panama.

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.

Anderson Point Bird Walk
Saturday, Jan. 13

Join us for a Saturday morning walk at Wake Audubon's adopted park. Meet in the parking lot at Anderson Point Park. Take Business Highway 64E from the Beltline two miles. Turn right on Rogers Lane and right at the stop sign; the parking lot is at the end of Rogers Lane. Contact Melody for more information at 881-2601.

Field Trip: Birding Area Lakes and Ponds

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Explore local lakes and ponds with Wake Audubon as we search for overwintering

waterfowl and other winter birds. Call or email Gerry Luginbuhl for information on where to meet and what time.

Great Backyard Bird Count
February 17 - 20, 2006 —

Participating in this annual wintertime bird count is a great excuse for hanging out in your favorite birding spot and counting what you see.

Whether your backyard or a local park, lake or natural area, any place you can find birds is a good place to count. The Great Backyard Bird Count, a joint project of Audubon and Cornell University, is a great way to provide scientists with important information about species across the country. Last year, 50,000 checklists were submitted, over 600 species were seen, and more than 6 million individual birds were counted.

Counting is easy, so why not help out? Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc for more information.

Feathered Facts



Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)

Many birders seek out this diminutive ball of energy when visiting the southeast. Brown-headed Nuthatches weigh in at 10g, on average, but that small size doesn't stop them from bullying every species of seed- or suet-eating bird at my feeders! A species that does not migrate, a sedentary

and now-endangered population exists on Grand Bahama Island that is considered a separate species by some. In North Carolina, BHNU's prefer to forage in the tops of very tall pine trees, and birds have been seen using bark pieces as tools to pry away other loose bark flakes. For their cavity nest, they prefer short, broken snag trees. Most young fledge by mid-May, after which family groups stay together for months. At that point, they seem to rush through the pine tops, all the while chattering with a squeaky, rubber ducky voice, reminds me of my mother nagging her four distracted kids to get ready for school and out the door.

~ John Gerwin

President's Message

Many Thanks for Successful Auction

What a fantastic way to start the new year — \$8,600 richer than we were this time last year! Wake Audubon had a fantastically successful fundraising auction in November and raised several times more money than we budgeted for. Someone must have eaten their cabbage and black eyed peas for New Year's Day 2005, because the old superstition of wealth and good fortune certainly came true for our organization.

Of course, to give credit to a silly superstition involving vegetables would seriously sell short those who truly deserve the credit — the many of you, our members and supporters, who came together to make this auction happen. This may have been the largest team-effort event Wake Audubon has ever done, and you all were there for us every step of the way. From soliciting items for auction, to posting flyers, to providing your muscle that night during set up and clean up, Wake Audubon volunteers were behind every penny raised that evening. And we had fun and made new friends in the process!

On behalf of the entire organization, let me send my sincerest thanks to the very special people who helped make "Bids for the Birds" a great success — volunteers with their time and talents, businesses and individuals who donated items for auction, and all of

the ticket holders who joined us at the Museum that evening. Special thanks to Lena Gallitano, board member, former president and primary coordinator of this effort; John Gerwin and the Mockingbirds for providing wonderful live musical entertainment; and Party Showcase for donating all of the table linens (several hundred dollars worth,

making them one of our largest donors for the event).

Now the real fun begins — spending the money! Of course the Board is moving into this slowly and carefully. We have

several projects in the works for Wake Audubon in the coming year, and these will be featured prominently in the newsletter soon. We will be finishing up signage at our wildlife meadows at Anderson Point, adopting an Important Bird Area through North Carolina Audubon, and looking to preserve one of Southern Wake County's primary spots for observing overwintering waterfowl. All of this will take money, which we now have more of. It will also take time and your help — which we have been reassured that you are willing to share.

Thanks again to all of you for supporting your Wake Audubon chapter.

Happy birding and Happy New Year!

**We raised
an incredible \$8,600
during our auction!
Thank you!**

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News of Interest

Wake Audubon Thanks Contributors, Volunteers for Help During

"Bids for the Birds" — Our most sincere thanks go to the following individuals and businesses (and anyone we may have inadvertently left off the list, because there were hundreds who helped) for their donations of time, talents, products and services during our very first fundraising auction, "Bids for the Birds." The event was a great success, with more than \$8,600 raised! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

10,000 Villages	Diane Ashby	Keith Jensen	Paul McAdams
All Star Bicycle Shop	Diane Hardy	Kendrick Weeks	Paulette Van de Zande
Amy Sawyer	Dick McCarty	L. Erla Beegle	Peace Camera
Angela Yearby	Doris Pugh	Laurie Smaglick	Peacemaking
Angie & Bill DeLozier	Doug Van de Zande	Johnson	Phil Poovey & George McCoy
Ann Neely	E. Comas	Lena Gallitano	Readers Corner
Anne Hicks	El Rodeo	Liessa Bowen	Ron Thomas
Anne Marshall	Fleurtings Florist & Gifts	Liles Clothing Studio	Saks Fifth Avenue
Runyon	Flowerama	Linda Rudd	Sandy Van de Zande
Anne Terry	Frame Warehouse	Logan's Trading Post	Scoop-n-Doo
Antiques at Five Points	Frameworks	Louise Romanow	The Fresh Market
Audubon NC	Gallery C	Lucille Tegg	The Little Gym of N. Raleigh
Best Buy	Gio Argentati	Lydia's Gifts & More	The Mad Hatter
Better Tree Care Associates	Grandma Frog's Farm	Lynne Troy	The Peddler Steak House
Blue Moon Garden Design	Great Outdoor Provision Company	M. Hawley & "Duck"	Theresa Moran
Carolina Rollergirls	Hallie & Harry Wilson	Mary Meletiou	Tom Driscoll
Claire McCullough	Harriet Sato	Melody Scott	Tom Quay
Classic Coverings	Homewood Nursery	Mike Dunn	Venture's, Inc.
Clyde Jones	Janet Edgerton	Mike Tove	Victoria Cumbee
Connie Merriman	Jeff Beane	Mind Your Beeswax	Whole Foods
Consie Powell	John & Joan Little	NC Beautiful	Vernon Janke
Core Sound Kayaks	John Gerwin	Nicole's Studio & Art Gallery	Wild Bird Center
Dancing Moon	Joyce Sloanim	Outdoor Bird Company	Wild Birds Unlimited
Daphne Cruze	Joyce Whaley	Outer Banks Birdwatchers	Wine'n Things
Dave Davenport	Juan Pons	Oxford Gardens	Z Enterprises
Dave Heeter	Kathie Kalmowitz	Patrick Martin	
Derrik Van de Zande	Kathryn Haddad	Paul & Faye McArthur	
	Kathy Lagana		

Act Locally

Reduce Wasted Paper From Junk Mail: Opt Out!

Tired of all that junk mail cluttering up your mailbox? Ever wonder how many trees were sacrificed just to sell you some collectors' plates or a new credit card? If you get too much junk mail and hate to see all that wasted paper, you can do something about it. Opt out of mailed solicitations by contacting the Direct Marketing Association (DMA).

The DMA operates a "mail preference service" consumers can use to opt-out of mailed solicitations. After

putting your name on their list it takes about three months for you to see a decrease in junk mail.

You can opt-out of mail solicitations by writing the Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, N.Y., 10512. Include your name, home address and signature. This service is free. You can also opt out by filling out an on-line form at www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist; there is a \$5 fee for this service.