

## Looking Ahead...

**Christmas Bird Count** — Mark your calendars now for **Wake Audubon's 108th Annual Christmas Bird Count**, scheduled this year for Saturday, Dec. 15. John Connors and John Gerwin are organizing the count again this year. Contact them at john.connors@ncmail.net or john.gerwin@ncmail.net if you are interested in participating, and they will assign you to a section to count within our counting circle. This year, be sure to join us as we conclude the day with a **pot-luck dinner** at Jim and Gerry Luginbuhl's house at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share and a pair of "indoor" shoes. Please contact the Luginbuhls at jluginbuhl@nc.rr.com for directions.

Do you have an idea for a Wake Audubon chapter program or field trip?

Please send your ideas to [info@wakeaudubon.org](mailto:info@wakeaudubon.org).

**Slate of Officers for 2008 Announced** — The Wake Audubon Board puts forth for approval the following slate of officers for 2008. Any further nominations should be submitted immediately as members will be asked to vote at the December meeting.

Richard Brown  
Angie DeLozier  
Rachel Hardin  
Sean Higgins  
Ted Simons  
Nikki Zidar

The chapter officers serve two-year terms and will be up for election again at the end of next year.

### Wake Audubon Officers 2007

President: Gerry Luginbuhl  
Vice-president: Jeff Beane  
Treasurer: Dennis Ose  
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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November 2007

Wingbeats

Printed on 70% recycled paper using soy inks. Please recycle.

### Inside:

This month is packed with events! Get out your calendar and turn the page for dates and details.

## Wake Audubon Table at BugFest! was a Great Success

**W**ake Audubon got buggy at the 11th annual Bugfest! sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. This is the largest event of its kind in the nation, and over 25,000 people attended this year. All four floors of the museum, Bicentennial Plaza, and the Capital grounds were packed with insect-oriented fun.



As always, the curiosity and eagerness of the children was infectious and we all had a great time. Visitors to our table loved the Mealworm Petting Zoo, and so many people wanted a mealworm necklace that we ran out of them! The new Wake Audubon "For the Birds" bracelets were also very popular with the crowd.

We met so many experienced and aspiring birders, we are sure to see some of them at our future meetings and events. There was a lot of interest in learning about local birds and places nearby to see wildlife. Several local group leaders asked about our willingness to give talks or lead educational walks around the area. We had a huge surge of visitors late in the afternoon, thanks to Kari's rousing

the crowd to "Break the mealworm eating record!" We had a large group of shouting and laughing kids, teenagers, and grownups goading each other on.

One man in a suit ate 10 mealworms at once! We finally just had to pack everything up, but we still had folks asking for necklaces and buying bracelets at 5:30 p.m.

We took in a total of \$179 in sales of mealworm jewelry, bracelets, t-shirts, and bags. These proceeds will be used to support projects at Anderson Point Park and elsewhere.



Thanks to all our volunteers for their energy and enthusiasm: Harriet Sato, Kari Wouk, Lena Gallitano, Lisa Paine, Marion Beres, Monica Iglecia, and Scott Bennet. And thank you to everyone who came by and enjoyed the day with us!

~ Beth Hawkins  
photos courtesy of Dave Small



## Wake Audubon Calendar

Join us for these fun and informative upcoming events.

### Monthly Meeting

#### Lost Heritage: Pioneering Naturalists of North Carolina on their Legacy Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Mark Simpson of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center will provide insight into the lives of some of North Carolina's earliest explorer-naturalists and their often remarkable efforts to document the region's natural history.

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

#### Late Fall/Early Winter Bird Walk

Saturday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m.

Join us at Anderson Point Park, Wake Audubon Society's Adopt-a-Park, for a leisurely walk to meet our winter residents! Meet leader Kari Wouk at the parking lot. From the I-440

Beltline east of Raleigh, take Business US 64 East (New Bern Avenue). Travel two miles and turn right on Roger's Lane. At the stop sign, turn right and in one mile turn left on Neuse View Drive. Go 0.2 miles to the stop sign at Anderson Point Drive, and turn right. The parking lot is on the left or go across the bridge into the park for parking. Contact Kari at 919-395-5630 or krwouk@yahoo.com for more details.

#### More events! See more listings to the right.

**Piedmont Wildlife Center's Celebrate Wildlife! Benefit Gala and Auction** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Bay 7 of the American Tobacco Historic District in downtown Durham. For more information, visit the Piedmont Wildlife Center at [www.piedmontwildlifecenter.org](http://www.piedmontwildlifecenter.org).

### Feathered Facts



**Tundra (Whistling) Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)** — This species breeds in the "high arctic" mostly along coastlines. A pair uses the same territory each year that it breeds and usually maintains its territory during nonbreeding or failed-breeding years. In a video study of five nests, females incubated about 70 percent of the time; males around 30 percent. Cygnets

can fly when they are about nine weeks old. Each year's young remain with their parents until their arrival back on the breeding grounds the following year. Families initiate spring migration together but parents arrive on the breeding grounds without young. Some 90,000 migrate to the East Coast, and in North Carolina, the Pungo/Mattamuskeet lakes are very important for the thousands that winter here. The Bewick's Swan of Europe, formerly considered a full species, is now considered a subspecies of Tundra. One Tundra Swan contained 25,216 body feathers; and another marked, wild bird survived 21 years.

~John Gerwin

## President's Message Reaching Out in the Community

This month I want to highlight the work of our great volunteer corps in the area of community outreach. This year we participated in many community events in an effort to enhance awareness of our organization and our concerns for the local, state and worldwide environment.

Our booth at Bugfest reached many families from Wake County and beyond. Given the large number of children drawn to Bugfest, we stressed educational programs and backyard wildlife watching for that group. We also increased awareness of Audubon Adventures, an environmental education program used by several teachers in the Wake County school system.

We also had many families visit our booth at La Fiesta del Pueblo. This was a fun weekend-long event with food, music, and lots of informational booths. Our booth featured birds that migrate to and from Central and South America, with a map showing migration pathways. We also featured shade-grown and locally roasted coffee to teach visitors about the environmental impact of their morning beverage choices. Another popular feature of our booth was the collection of birding guides for regions of Central and South America. Thanks to the one in Spanish, we were able to connect one little girl's name, Alondra, with a bird and show her a picture of the bird.

Songbird Celebration is a great annual event at Blue Jay Point Park on Falls Lake. We were there with "binocs" for kids (two toilet paper roll cylinders taped together), information on our birdwalks and other activities, and birdwalks on the park trails. We were also present at the Volunteer Fair at the Cameron Village Public Library. This event let us showcase our many programs for citizens interested in finding a volunteer activity that suited them. It also let us network with a host of other local nonprofit groups.

These are just some of the events we have participated in. Each event has its own audience and presents us with an opportunity to stress different aspects of who we are and what we do. We, of course, means our dedicated volunteers! We welcome new volunteers to help out with these events. If you would like to get out, have some fun, meet a lot of new people, and help Wake Audubon educate the community, then please volunteer to help out at one of our next events. You don't have to be an expert birder to make an impact. Your participation would be very much appreciated.

A big THANKS to all of the volunteers who have helped out at our outreach events.

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## more calendar items

### Field Trip

#### Birding Lake Mattamuskeet Friday - Sunday, Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

Join Becky Desjardins, Bird Collection Manager at the Museum of Natural Sciences and Wake Audubon Board member, on a trip to North Carolina's hotspot for waterfowl! We are going down during the prime time to see all sorts of wintering ducks, geese, and swans. In addition we should see raptors, Snipe, and wintering sparrows.

We will carpool down leaving from Raleigh at 3 p.m. Friday afternoon, bird all day Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Anyone who wants to come down later on Friday can catch up with us at the hotel or make arrangements to meet us the next day. Participants are encouraged to bring picnic lunches to eat in the field.

Double rooms have been reserved at **The Hotel Engelhard**. The rate is \$66/room and the hotel will provide breakfast. Participants should call the hotel and book one of the reserved rooms, which are being held under Wake Audubon. The phone number is 800-290-5311.

Be sure to not only reserve your room but also call Becky to reserve your space. For more information and to reserve a space on the trip call Becky Desjardins at (919) 606-5352.

### Special Event

#### Wings Over Water Nov. 6-11, 2007

Wings Over Water is a celebration of wildlife and wetlands in eastern N.C. The festival includes more than 50 workshops, field trips and seminars, taking place in the diversity of ocean beaches, rolling sand hills, shrub thickets, broad marsh areas, pocosins, blackwater swamps and tracts of maritime and inland northeastern North Carolina forests. From photography classes to owl prowls, kayak and birding trips, there is something for everyone!

For more information and to download a registration form, visit [www.wingsoverwater.org](http://www.wingsoverwater.org) or call the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce at (252) 441-8144.

### Act Locally

#### Winterize Your Home for Energy Conservation

With the weather cooling down, now's the time to take charge of your winter energy conservation. Here are some tips.

**Insulate:** Seal, insulate, or otherwise block cracks around your doors, windows, roof, attic door, crawlspace doors, and fireplace. Add insulation between walls, in the attic, and in the crawlspace. Seal leaks and cracks around air ducts, windows, and doors. Insulate the hot water heater. Close doors to unused rooms to avoid heating them as much. Close outside doors, storm doors,

and windows when not in use. Keep fireplace damper closed when not in use. Close your shades or blinds to add an insulating layer between your windows and the outside.

**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. Install a sky light or solar panels.

**Extra steps:** Turn down your thermostat (even just a few degrees saves energy) and wear a sweater. Clean/replace furnace filters regularly.