President’s Message

I am very pleased and excited to be the new president of Wake Audubon. I look forward to a year filled with fun events, interesting lectures, amazing field trips, and lots and lots of Purple Martins.

I starting bird watching as a kid. My parents bribed my brother and me to look for birds rather than fight in the backseat of the car on long road trips. I studied geology at Guilford College in Greensboro but changed to ornithology thanks to an enthusiastic mentor in school and a series of engaging bird field jobs. For the past ten years I have worked at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, currently as Bird Collection Manager.

Please introduce yourself to me at a meeting or field trip. I’m admittedly bad with names (unless you are a bird), but I look forward to getting to know you. It’s going to be a great year!

Becky

Great Backyard Bird Count
February 13-16

The 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will take place February 15-18, 2009.

People of all ages and experience levels can count birds from wherever they are. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. Then enter your tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count website www.birdsource.org.

These reports create a real-time picture of where birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

For more information on how to participate, including identification tips, photos, bird sounds, maps, and information on more than 500 bird species, visit www.birdsource.org.

Wingbeats
January 2009

Change You Can Believe In

Greetings and Happy New Year. Your Wake Audubon Board made some New Year’s resolutions during our November and December board meetings. We think we’ve made “changes you can believe in.”

We have some new board members (and some really old ones but that’s another story) and some folks in new positions. Please welcome Becky Desjardins as our new president. I will be trying my hand as treasurer, but only because I share close quarters with a real accountant! With campaign finance reform in full swing, you’ll be pleased to know we kept our campaign expenses to the bare minimum (although Becky’s been rooting for the Navy football team a lot this fall, so I’m a little suspicious).

Note that many of your board members have new Wake Audubon e-mail addresses, which will consist of the member’s first initial and last name, followed by “@wakeaudubon.org.” So, for example, Becky’s is bdesjardins@wakeaudubon.org and mine is jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org. These are available on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact one of us. Remember, we are here to assist with/encourage your enjoyment of nature, so whether it be a question about membership, birds (sweet!), communications, snakes (eek!)—whatever—please contact one of us.

The costs to print and mail our newsletters have become overwhelming, so we will print only four quarterly newsletters in 2009: January, April, July, and October. We will be sending postcards with program listings for the intervening months. We will then go all-electronic in 2010. So it is imperative that you begin to provide us with e-mail addresses now. Some of our newsletter folks are looking into a printer-friendly format, so we can be ready at least by 2010 (we hope much sooner of course). Our plan is to send e-mail alerts to members when the current version is posted. Over the past few years, we have paid our printer to address and mail the newsletter, but this process has not worked to get the newsletter into your mailboxes in a timely fashion. We will now be having “mailing parties,” generally once a month. This will save us money and (we hope) expedite the process, plus it’s a fun way to spend an hour or two with other members. Please sign up with Linda Rudd (lrudd@wakeaudubon.org) if you are interested in helping occasionally.

We have begun sending e-mail reminders to members whose e-mail addresses we have. Again, if you’d like to receive communications, we need your e-mail address. Please send it to our e-mail guru, Kari Wouk, at kwouk@wakeaudubon.org. Kari and Richard Brown (hikerbrows@juno.com) are handling membership details.

Please visit the website for regular updates. Megan Demers has done a fabulous job of getting us caught up, and we’ll be adding more content that we hope will be useful. As we receive updates of changes, they will be posted to our website. If you have something to share with the members, let Megan or one of the board members know. Or just send a big “thanks” to mdemers@wakeaudubon.org. Or send her some fine chocolates to our PO box. Trust me, I’ll see that she gets them.
Wake Audubon Calendar
Join us for these fun and informative events.

Monthly Meetings
Wake Audubon members meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St., Raleigh. Free parking is available on Jones St., one block past the museum. Directions are available on the museum’s website at www.naturalsciences.org/visinfo/index.html. All meetings are free and open to the public. Check www.wakeaudubon.org for schedule changes and other events.

Using Cool Bugs in our Streams to Determine Water Quality
Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m.
It’s good to have bugs in your water! Trish MacPherson of the NC Division of Water Quality’s Biological Assessment Unit will explain how and why aquatic insects and other benthic macroinvertebrates are used to assess water quality.

Bobcats in Coastal NC
February 10, 7:30 p.m.
NCSU PhD student and research assistant Aimée Rockhill will provide background information on bobcats and an overview of her research in Bull Neck Swamp, a 6,000-acre wetland that serves as home to at least eight of these elusive cats.

Research, Inventory, and Monitoring in North Carolina State Parks
March 10, 7:30 p.m.
More than just recreational facilities, North Carolina’s state parks are natural resource reservoirs and rare species refugia. Join State Parks Inventory Biologist Ed Corey for an overview of biological inventory, monitoring, and research efforts on our parklands.

Anderson Point Bird Walks
January 10, 2009
Leader: Kari Wouk Free and open to the public. Binoculars will be provided as needed. Contact Kari at kwouk@wakeaudubon.org or 919-395-5630.

February 14, 2009
Leader: Kari Wouk Subject: Planning for Purple Martins and other Backyard Birds. Learn how to attract purple martins and other birds to your yard! Learn how to care for and maintain a colony of martins, a bluebird nest box, and other bird homes. You’ll also learn what to look for in a house. Sponsored by Wake Audubon Society. Ages 6 years and up. 9 a.m. – noon. Contact Kari at kwouk@wakeaudubon.org or 919-395-5630.

Field Trips
Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park, Scotland Neck, NC
Saturday, January 17
Leader: Becky Desjardins Meet at the entrance at 10:45 a.m. Sylvan Heights is a 65-acre avairy featuring internationally rare and endangered ducks, geese, and swans. We will have a guided tour at 11 a.m. This is the best time of year to tour the aviary as all the birds are in their spiffy breeding plumage.

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new wake audubon member susan buechele will try to fill chris's shoes on newsletter duty for which the rest of us are most grateful! if you have comments or ideas, please contact her at: editor@wakeaudubon.org.

we also want to send a big "thanks" to those of you who have responded to our request for a special donation. much of the money will be used to fund audubon adventure kits. we had an outstanding response in 2008 from wake county school to our offer to provide audubon adventure kits. the kits are designed to meet specific learning criteria required by the NC Board of Education, using some facet of the natural world to do so. the program's popularity caught us off-guard, but your support provided the final installment. teachers are singing the program's praises, and you can come hear from some of them at our November monthly meeting.

the board will be working on several other fundraising events during the year. I've heard of at least one rather entertaining idea, so stay tuned. We are planning an autumn sale of coffee, birdseed, and homemade feeders, just in time for the holidays. We hope to have details available in the April newsletter.

We will continue to participate in a number of festivals in the area. If you are interested in helping tend a shift at such an event, let Kari know. We hope to have more of you enjoying nature with us throughout 2009.

~ John Gerwin

please remember to thank our sponsor

Great Outdoor Provision Co.
Outdoor Clothing & Equipment
Chapel Hill, NC
www.greatoutdoorprovision.com

份额：鸟类之年的精彩时刻

February 14, 2009
Leader: John Connors A Valentine Treat! Come see the amazing courtship of the American Woodcock, which it performs in late winter at sunset and sunrise. This is an evening walk, so bring a flashlight and meet at 5 p.m. Trip location will be decided once a pair of birds has been discovered. For trip details, contact John at john.connors@ncmail.net or 919-733-7450, ext. 602.

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