



# Wingbeats

## Spring 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to be Wake Audubon Society's new president. Wake Audubon accomplished a lot under Becky Desjardins' leadership, and I would like to review for you some of our 2010 accomplishments.

Our outreach efforts included providing displays and information at the News and Observer Bird House Competition, Song Bird Celebration at Blue Jay Point, and Bugfest at the Museum of Natural Sciences. These events give Wake Audubon an opportunity to share our message with a large number of people.

Our Bird of the Year was the loggerhead shrike, and we hope that our t-shirt sales and poetry contest increased people's awareness of this bird.

We had the highest attendance ever at our monthly meetings, averaging 47 per meeting. In our efforts to engage with new audiences, we nurtured the Young Naturalists Club. The YNC is open to those between the ages of 12 and 18 and has 24 members. They have monthly field trips and meetings and are an enthusiastic group of future Audubon leaders. Activities of the Young Naturalists were (and will continue to be) sponsored by a grant secured by one of our board members.

We have continued honoring our commitment to Raleigh's Anderson Point Park by leading monthly walks and talks on everything from birds to butterflies.

We also continued to work on our adopted section of Crabtree Creek, holding two clean-ups last year. Our section of the creek is a challenge, but we have some great volunteers who don't mind spending a Saturday getting wet and dirty for a good cause.

We tried new ways of communicating with our members as we had to discontinue newsletter mailing due to the cost. Postcards and emails became our primary means of informing our members about talks, walks, and field trips. We also added blogs to our website and continued to attract new Wake County residents through our online Meetup.com group.

We will continue with the projects mentioned above in the coming year. We are adding the online newsletter and hope for continued success and innovation in fulfilling Wake Audubon's mission.

*Gerry*

Our Mission: 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 Earth's biological diversity.



## FEATHERED FACTS

- Chimney swifts' feet are designed for clinging to vertical surfaces. They cannot perch, walk, or hop.
- In 1682 a swift was founding nesting in a chimney for the first time at a colonist's cabin in Maine.
- Many swifts roost together in a single chimney or airshaft during the nonbreeding season.

## BIRD OF THE YEAR Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Wake Audubon's 2011 Bird of the Year is the chimney swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). But don't look for them yet.

During winter this bird abandons the skies of eastern North America to spend its days coursing the air above the Amazonian rainforest. But come early April the chimney swift will once again sweep through the skies above our neighborhoods, gleaning insects on the wing.

Swifts are in the Apodidae family, which roughly translates to "without feet." Of course swifts do have feet, but the capabilities of their feet are limited.

The genus *Chaetura* are known as the "spine-tailed" swifts, which

describes how the *rachis*, or shaft of the tail feather, extends beyond the vane or plume of the feather, forming little pointed tips upon which the resting swift can brace itself while clinging to its perch.

Before the arrival of European colonists, chimney swifts nested and roosted in large hollow trees. This event forever changed the relationship between this species and people.

Over the course of this year we'll introduce you to more of the natural history and lore that swirls around this intriguing species.

*John Connors*

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## CREATURE FEATURE Singing Mice

Our March meeting will feature a talk about singing mice by Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Associate Professor of Biology at UNC-Greensboro. When we first heard of her work on singing mice, we were so intrigued with the idea of mouse song that we invited her to talk to Wake Audubon so we all could learn more.

Biologists define songs as patterns of sounds defined by pitch,

loudness, or duration that occur in predictable sequences. It turns out that many animal species besides birds vocalize. Most of us know that whales sing. But mice? They squeak, sure, but sing?

Many species of mouse vocalize in the ultrasonic range, so we can't hear them and neither can some of their predators. Some species vocalize at frequencies that we can hear. In

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some species of mouse, both male and female mice sing. Male mice sing in response to female scent. Scientists can place a drop of female mouse urine on a cotton swab and when the male mouse smells it, he sings. Some species are well known for singing. An example is the singing short-tailed mouse, *Scotinomys teguina*, a resident of Central America. In this species, both sexes sing at sound frequencies that we can hear. They also have quite long and complex songs. These mice stand on their hind legs and raise their heads high when they sing. Really. Check out the references to the right



of this article. The songs last up to ten seconds. Why do they sing? Reproduction is usually mentioned as an important driver — maybe great singers get to reproduce. Establishing territories has also been suggested. Also, keeping track of where others of the same species are located. Scientists are studying the phenomenon and are usually getting funding by drawing links to language learning in humans.

The earliest article I found on singing mice was published in 1917 in *The American Naturalist*. R.W. Hegner described a house mouse brought to him by someone in his community of Ann Arbor, Mich. This mouse, and a few others he refers to, seemed to be unusual variants in that the behavior didn't continue in subsequent generations. He

described the singing as a rapid trill alternating between C and D with a quality similar to a flute. The song could be heard from 15 to 20 feet away!

According to *Time* magazine, a mouse (presumably a house mouse) named Minnie was purchased by the Chicago Zoological Park in 1936 and went on national radio with her song, described as more like a cricket's than a canary's. It seems that these mice just show up from time to time. Most recently, there was a report from the University of Osaka, Japan, that a singing mouse was produced in a lab studying evolution. Although

they hadn't set out to breed mice with this characteristic, this particular mouse behavior apparently bred true, and they now have a small colony of these mice. As with the wild mice, these mice may be used to study the genetic determinants of language development.

We will be hearing about the deer mouse at our March meeting. These mice are not as well known for singing, and their singing behavior is more difficult to study because they sing in the ultrasonic range. Special techniques are required to decipher their songs. Studying them in their natural habitat and in the dark is even harder. Come to Dr. Kalcounis-Rueppell's talk in March to see how she does it.

*Gerry Luginbuhl*

## Learn More:

- Alston's Brown Mouse. Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alston's\\_Brown\\_Mouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alston's_Brown_Mouse)
- <http://newsfeed.time.com/2010/12/22/singing-mouse-a-new-phenomenon-not-according-to-1936-time-article/>
- Vocal Stereotypy and Singing Behavior in Baiomyine Mice. Jacqueline R. Miller and Mark D. Engstrom. *Journal of Mammalogy* 88(6):1447-1465. 2007
- Whale Song. Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale\\_song](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale_song)

Wake Audubon Society meets 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 in the lot at Wilmington and Jones streets, one block from the museum. Directions are available on the museum's website at [www.naturalsciences.org/visinfo/index.html](http://www.naturalsciences.org/visinfo/index.html). All meetings are free and open to the public. Check for schedule changes and other events at [www.wakeaudubon.org](http://www.wakeaudubon.org).

## Calendar

March 5, 8 - 10 a.m.

### Marshes and Meadows

#### Yates Mill County Park

We'll take a short walk along boardwalk over lake and marsh, then walk and car birding in nearby meadows. Look for late-winter birds; early spring migrants; birds of marsh, woodland, and meadow. No dogs allowed at the park.

Leader: L. Erla Beegle (leader will have binoculars around her neck).

Meet in parking lot, 4620 Lake Wheeler Rd, Raleigh.

March 8, 7:30 p.m.

### Monthly Meeting: Singing Mice: Why do Wild Deer Mice Produce Ultrasound?

Deer mice produce an array of ultrasonic vocalizations.

Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Associate Professor of Biology at UNC-G, will discuss technical challenges to studying ultrasound in the dark — a method that has allowed us to understand these behaviors — and the technology and discoveries associated with ultrasound production in free-living mice.

Location: NC Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St, Raleigh.

## TRIP REPORT

### Raleigh Christmas Bird Count

This year's CBC took place on Saturday, December 18, a cool, calm, cloudy day with temperatures hovering in the mid 30s and the threat of sleet and snow in the forecast. December had been unseasonably cold and most small ponds were frozen, leaving only the larger bodies of water open. Perfect conditions for a bird count!

The Raleigh CBC was begun in 1937 and has operated since then with the Farmer's Market on Lake Wheeler Road as its center. The count area encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle centered at that point. This year we had 15 groups counting at different sites within the circle, with more than 50 participants, as well as 1 feeder watcher. Our totals include 97 species of birds, which is one shy of the highest total seen since the mid-1990s.

The Raleigh CBC peaked in species diversity during the late 1970s, when we often surpassed 100 species. In 1979 we reached 111 species, but have trended downward since. Why? Landfills with gulls and vultures have moved from the circle, waterweeds in lakes that attract ducks have been removed, and farmland has been developed. So this year's 97 species is heartening indeed!

Highlights from the count include: Common loon at Lake Wheeler; horned grebe at lakes Wheeler and Benson; a pair of snow geese at Mid-

Pines Farms; a diversity of ducks drawn out of the marshes to the open waters including green-winged teal, black duck, northern pintail and common goldeneye at Lake Benson; four bald eagle—one each at lakes Raleigh, Benson, and Johnson and Buckeye Trail; northern harrier at Prairie Ridge; five American woodcock at PR and Schenck Forest; fish crow at Buckeye Trail; red-breasted nuthatch at feeders; house wren at Lake Johnson; American pipit at Mid-Pines; loggerhead shrike and blue-headed vireo at a few sites; white-crowned sparrow at Mid-Pines; seven Baltimore oriole at feeders; purple finch and pine siskin at a few sites. A summer tanager was seen at a feeder during count week but did not show up on count day. Notable misses: black vulture, northern bobwhite, Wilson's snipe and rusty blackbird.

Special thanks to site leaders Clyde Smith, Vernon Janke, John Gerwin, Julie Angerman-Stewart, Jim Mulholland, Dave Lenat, Halbert Carmichael, Karen Bearden, Jeff Beane, Mark Johns, Ted Simons, Ed Corey, Gerry Luginbuhl, Sterling Southern; Sue Harvey for watching her feeder for the tanager; to all who participated; and to Rebeccah Cope at Yates Mill Pond for hosting our Noonday Countdown.

*John Connors*

## FLEDGLING LEDGE

### Suet Recipe

Suet is a high-energy food for birds that you can make with your kids. A suet cage feeder is a great way to attract birds that are clinger-feeders to your yard or deck. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees will thank you.

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1 cup lard (NOT shortening)
- 2 cups quick cook oats
- 1 cup white flour
- 2 cups cornmeal

Melt the lard in a microwave or on the stove over low heat. Add peanut butter and continue melting. Remove from heat. Stir/whisk in the remaining ingredients. Add fruit and seeds if desired. Instead of chunky peanut butter, you can use smooth peanut butter and chop peanuts in a food processor.

Pour into containers of similar size and shape to your suet cage. If you don't have a cage (or even if you do), shape the suet into balls around strings of twine long enough to hang from a branch or hook. Refrigerate or freeze. If you want it thicker/drier/stiffer, add a little more flour.

You can double or triple the recipe and pour it into a square or rectangular baking pan. Cut to appropriate shapes and sizes when nearly cool. Wrap in plastic or sandwich bags and store in refrigerator or freezer.

*John Gerwin*

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## TRIP REPORT

### Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

Wake Audubon's Alligator River Adventure field trip was held jointly with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Nov. 20-21, 2010.

Trip leaders were Jerry Reynolds and Jeff Beane. Also participating were Erla Beegle, Jeanne Blumberg, Leah Dey, Chris Hagwood, Stacie

Hagwood, Dan Harvey, Sue Harvey, Gloria Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Mike Johnson, Susan Johnson, and Linda Reznikiewicz.

We left at shortly after 7:00 a.m. Saturday and stopped for a hike and early lunch at the Pocosin Lakes visitor center in Columbia. The group surprised Jerry with a birthday

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## Calendar

**March 12, 9 - 11 a.m.**

### Birdwalk at Anderson Point

Have you ever wondered what plants to plant to attract hummingbirds and other birdy friends? What type of seed attracts which birds? How to outwit squirrels? Join us for a short talk on these subjects and then a nice spring walk through the park to visit the resident birds. Bring your binoculars! All ages.

Leader: John Little,  
jllittle1940@gmail.com.

Meet in parking lot, 20  
Anderson Point Dr, Raleigh.

**March 26, 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.**

### Bird Banding Demo

Weather permitting, we will be capturing and banding songbirds. We will explain and demonstrate the process. Bring your cameras for some good close-up shots of birds in the hand. Space is limited. Children are welcome, but children younger than 16 must register with an adult. Dress for weather and wet grass on paths.

Leader: John Gerwin  
(jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org)  
RSVP required: contact Cathy Fergen at 919-733-7450, ext. 671 or  
cathy.fergen@ncdenr.gov.  
Prairie Ridge Ecostation,  
4301 Reedy Creek Rd,  
Raleigh

## Calendar

### April 2, 9:00 a.m. - noon Stream Cleanup

As part of our commitment to the Adopt-a-Stream program, Wake Audubon will clean up our section of Crabtree Creek. **We need volunteers!** Trash bags will be provided, but if you have a canoe or a garden hoe, please bring them because they will be useful for collecting trash. If you can bring a canoe, please let Erik know ahead of time. Wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty and or wet.

Leader: Erik Thomas,  
erthomas@ncsu.edu.

Meet at the gravel parking lot on Crabtree Blvd, between Capital and Raleigh blvds.

### April 9, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Birdwalk at Anderson Point

Join us for a spring walk while we discuss everyone's favorite bird, the bluebird! Learn how to attract bluebirds to your yard and check out a bluebird specimen. We will also look for some cool migrants and some year-round residents. Bring your binoculars! All ages.

Leader: Angie DeLozier  
dblacres@embarqmail.com.

Meet in parking lot, 20 Anderson Point Dr, Raleigh.

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cake — the only cake I'd ever seen depicting a man with a snake hook.

Most of the remainder of the day was spent in ARNWR, scanning the refuge roads for birds and mammals. Virginia Tech bear biologist Andrew Trent joined us for part of the afternoon and discussed his work with bears, wildlife road-kill surveys, and wildlife underpasses at the refuge. Bears are almost a guarantee in this refuge at almost any time of year (as long as one is willing to put enough hours in), but November is not the best time to see them, and we struck out (except for abundant scat and tracks) despite our efforts and Andrew's expertise.

That evening, we were joined by Kim Wheeler, director of the Red Wolf Coalition, who presented some general information on red wolves and then took us on a special "howl." The captive colony of nine red wolves deep within the refuge enthusiastically answered our howls, but no truly wild wolves responded. After the howling, Erla couldn't resist a little owling; one distant barred owl rewarded her efforts.

We had an excellent dinner at Marc Basnight's Lone Cedar restaurant and spent the night at the Comfort Inn at Nag's Head.

Sunday morning brought excellent weather — sunny and unseasonably warm and calm. The ocean was like glass, and we saw many Atlantic bottlenose dolphins as well as red-throated loons and numerous other

birds from the hotel balconies. Erla found a fresh-dead common loon on the beach and brought it up to the deck so that all the guests could look at it while they ate breakfast.

We spent much of the morning at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, where we added many birds to our trip list. The highlight of the trip for me was several cave swallows, which I was able to count as a lifer bird (I had almost certainly seen the species before, but never well enough to feel sure about it). Watching a group of over 50 American white pelicans flying over our heads and feeding was another highlight. As is so often the case, Pea Island produced the usual "bird sensory overload" for those participants who had never been there before.

Early in the afternoon we headed back into Alligator River to try again for bears and whatever else we might see. Our trip very nearly ended up bearless, but just as we were heading out, with only moments remaining before we hit the highway for home, we spotted a radio-collared sow with three cubs, and were able to watch them for several minutes. This was a superb end to a successful trip.

We arrived back in Raleigh at around 7:00 p.m., with at least 93 vertebrate species (2 fishes, 2 amphibians, 6 reptiles, 77 birds, and 6 mammals) identified for the trip.

*Jeff Beane*

## NATURE NOTES

### Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)

Even in a state world-renowned for its salamander diversity, the spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) is a standout. Commonly reaching seven inches in total length and occasionally exceeding nine, this impressive amphibian's chunky body (black, blue-black, or dark gray, grading to paler gray on the sides and belly) and tail are boldly marked with an irregular row of brightly contrasting yellow spots along each side; these often tend to be more orange on the head. But while this showy creature is widely distributed in the mountains and piedmont of NC (coastal plain populations are few and scattered), and quite common in many areas, comparatively few North Carolinians have ever seen one.

The main reason for this is secrecy. Spotted salamanders belong to the family Ambystomatidae, collectively called "mole salamanders." Like most members of that family, they spend most of their adult lives underground in cool, damp burrows or root channels, shunning sunlight and venturing out only to breed. Like most amphibians, spotted salamanders require water for breeding. But unlike some, they depend upon ephemeral ponds—ones that dry up periodically. Their eggs and larvae can't tolerate fish or



the numerous other predators inhabiting permanent water.

As is the case with most secretive creatures, seeing a spotted salamander requires being in the right place at the right time. The right place is a large ephemeral woodland pool, and the right time is nighttime, usually during or just after the first substantial warm winter rain. In Wake County, this usually comes in January or

February, but it may be as late as April in the mountains. The exact timing is entirely weather-dependent. During drought years, adults may not move into their breeding ponds at all, or they may move into them only to

return to their burrows after weeks of waiting for rains that never come. But most years, the first substantial winter rains will see these animals making en masse nocturnal migrations to their breeding pools.

Though lacking the auditory component of their racker relatives—frogs and toads—large breeding aggregations of spotted salamanders can be equally spectacular. Males usually arrive first, depositing gelatinous sperm capsules—called spermatophores—on the pond bottom. A male coaxes a female into picking up his spermatophore with her cloacal lips. If not picked up immediately, spermatophores may remain viable

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## Calendar

May 10, 7:30 p.m.

**Monthly Meeting: Working with Birds and People in the Land of Volcanoes and Coffee**

Wake Audubon board member and museum bird curator John Gerwin will describe ongoing work with colleagues John Connors, Curtis Smalling, and Dave Davenport, banding birds and teaching nature appreciation at a Durham-owned coffee plantation in Nicaragua.

Location: NC Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St, Raleigh.

May 13 – 15

**Mountain Birding Weekend**

We will visit various sites along the Blue Ridge Parkway and around Boone and enjoy a great array of mountain birds. Hiking is easy to moderate. Weather is unpredictable. We will travel in the museum's tour bus and stay at a Holiday Inn Express in Boone.

Leaders: John Gerwin, [jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org](mailto:jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org), Jerry Reynolds, [jerry.reynolds@ncdenr.gov](mailto:jerry.reynolds@ncdenr.gov), Martha Fisk, [martha.fisk@ncdenr.gov](mailto:martha.fisk@ncdenr.gov)  
RSVP required: contact Debbie Huston at [debbie.huston@ncdenr.gov](mailto:debbie.huston@ncdenr.gov) or 919-733-7450 x 555.

## Calendar

**May 14**

### Spring Bird Count

Join us for Audubon's annual Spring Migration Count. Participants will hike around different sites in Wake County and identify as many species of bird as possible to obtain a "snapshot" of the spring migration. Beginners are welcome and will be paired with a more experienced birder. Binoculars are essential. Pre-registration is required. Contact John Connors to be assigned a team/location: [jconnors@wakeaudubon.org](mailto:jconnors@wakeaudubon.org).

**May 21**

### Bird Monitoring at the Lumber River IBA

Take a leisurely canoe birding trip from US 74 bridge to Princess Anne headquarters, or do a more focused count via the road at several points to be identified. Leaders: Sean Higgins, John Little; contact [Sean.Higgins@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Sean.Higgins@ncdenr.gov).

**June 11 - 12**

### Birding in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties

Join us for a weekend of birding, highlighted by a trip to Battery Island, managed by Audubon NC and an important nesting site for ibises, black skimmers, and other shore birds. Other birding spots include Southport, Brunswick Town, and the Green Swamp. Contact Gerry Luginbuhl at [gerryluginbuhl@gmail.com](mailto:gerryluginbuhl@gmail.com) to reserve a spot on this trip.

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for several days. A female, having secured a spermatophore, retains it in her cloaca to fertilize her eggs as they are laid. Eggs are usually deposited in clusters of about 100-350, encased in protective jelly and typically attached to submerged sticks or stems. A female may deposit more than one egg mass. The egg jelly absorbs water, and the mass soon swells to the size of a baseball or softball.

Though many amphibian eggs are deposited in a protective gelatinous matrix, no species in NC has such thick, firm jelly as the spotted salamander. Some masses have transparent jelly while others are milky and opaque. The reason for this is poorly understood.

Egg masses may also host a symbiotic green alga that helps camouflage the eggs as well as oxygenate them. While this relationship has long been known, it was recently been found to be more complex than previously thought. The algae are now known to reside inside the embryos' cells, probably giving them a solar-powered metabolic boost. This is the first known example of a photosynthetic organism actually living inside a vertebrate's cells.

Eggs hatch into feathery-gilled aquatic larvae in about a month, depending on water temperature. The larvae grow quickly, usually transforming in June or July. On rare occasions, faced with a short growing season or insufficient food resources, larvae may overwinter and transform

the following spring; this phenomenon has been documented in the NC mountains but not in the piedmont.

Many amphibians employ winter breeding and ephemeral pond breeding, and both are risky business. Advantages include eliminating competition from summer breeders and avoiding certain predators. Hard freezes and droughts are obvious threats, but too much water can be equally problematic. When ponds hold water for long periods, aquatic insects

move in, and amphibian larvae face a formidable maze of dragonfly naiads, predaceous diving beetles, giant water bugs, and water scorpions. Spotted salamander larvae may grow sufficiently large to



turn tables on some of these predators if they survive long enough. But throw in herons, kingfishers, newts, turtles, large frogs, water snakes, and the already-present larvae of fall-breeding marbled salamanders, and even a fishless pond can be a perilous place. A spotted salamander's ideal pond would be one that dries in late summer and refills in mid- to late-winter, eliminating many predators and competitors. Even then, it's usually a race against time to transform before summer heat dries the pond.

The few individuals surviving all these hazards long enough to transform into juveniles usually leave the ponds on rainy nights, dispersing into the uplands to begin their terrestrial lives. They are plain gray-

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brown at first, acquiring their spots gradually over the next few days or weeks. Some may set up residence nearby; others may end up a mile or more away, making for one long haul come breeding time. They grow rapidly, and some may be sexually mature by the next breeding season, while others may require an additional year.

Like many ephemeral pond breeders, spotted salamanders are relatively long-lived, easily surviving to 10 years, and potentially exceeding 20. Such potential longevity enables populations to survive several consecutive bad years if enough adults survive to produce an occasional bumper crop of offspring.

Spotted salamanders usually share their breeding ponds with other fall, winter, or early spring-breeding amphibians, including marbled salamanders, eastern newts, four-toed salamanders, American toads, spring peepers, upland chorus frogs, and pickerel frogs.

Like nearly all amphibians, adult spotted salamanders are carnivorous, eating whatever suitable-sized prey they can catch and swallow — primarily earthworms and large, soft-bodied insects such as crickets, wood roaches, and beetle larvae. The larvae are carnivorous as well, eating most any aquatic animal small

enough to gulp down, including each other. When it comes to defense, however, these slow-moving, almost absurdly shy and gentle amphibians rely only on hiding underground, and on their noxious skin secretions. Their bright colors, known as aposematic colors, are a warning to visually oriented predators to search elsewhere for a palatable meal. They don't bite, and are completely harmless to humans (though you shouldn't lick one or rub your eyes after handling them). Despite their bad-tasting skin, adults are eaten by some animals, including such clever predators as raccoons and crows, which learn to eviscerate them, eating only the nutritious liver and other internal organs.

Though still relatively common, spotted salamanders have suffered tremendous losses of both their breeding pools and their terrestrial woodland habitat, especially in rapidly deteriorating areas such as Wake County. If you know of a large ephemeral woodland pool near your home, check it carefully this winter for a glimpse of the silent, seldom-seen spectacle of the spotted salamander. You won't get another chance until next year.

*Jeff Beane*

## Calendar

**June 14, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Monthly Meeting: The Gulf Oil Spill: A Pelagic Perspective**

Dave Lee, former museum bird curator and director of The Tortoise Reserve, will recount his research trips to the Gulf, a year-plus after the devastating BP/Deepwater Horizon spill.

Location: NC Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St, Raleigh.

**June 18, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

### **Birdwalk at Anderson Point**

Come on a walkabout to look for parent birds feeding their young. We will also be on the lookout for Anderson Point's summer residents like indigo bunting, summer tanager and blue grosbeak. Bring your binoculars! All ages. No fee.

Leader: Gerry Luginbuhl, gerryluginbuhl@gmail.com.

Meet in parking lot, 20 Anderson Point Dr, Raleigh.

**Please thank our sponsor**

