

Slate of Officers for 2009 Announced

The Wake Audubon Board puts forth for approval the following slate of officers for 2009. Any further nominations should be submitted immediately as members will be asked to vote at the December meeting.

Board Members

Richard Brown	Becky Holmes
John Connors	John Little
Ed Corey	Gerry Luginbuhl
Angie DeLozier	David Small
Rachel Hardin	Erik Thomas
David Heeter	Kari Wouk
Sean Higgins	Paulette van de Zande

The chapter officers serve two-year terms:
President: Becky Desjardins
Vice President: Jeff Beane
Secretary: Linda Rudd
Treasurers: John Gerwin and Kathy Lagana

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Lumber River Important Bird Area

Weekend of Nov. 8-9

The final point count for the year at the Lumber River IBA will take place Nov. 8-9. We have had excellent turnouts by Wake Audubon members and have had successful outings on the previous counts in January, April, and June. If you plan to spend a night or two in the LRIBA, there is primitive camping (tents) at the Lumber River State Park Headquarters. Several of our people have camped there and found it fine. The rest of us have stayed overnight at the Days Inn in Lumberton immediately off I-95 Exit 20 at 3030 Roberts Ave. (910-738-6401. Please make your own reservations.) Still others have participated for one day—either Saturday or Sunday. Please let John Little know if you would to take part in this year’s final effort. Reach him at 919-781-0829 or jlittle17@nc.rr.com.



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www.wakeaudubon.org

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Wake Audubon thanks its sponsors who make this newsletter possible.

Wake Audubon Officers 2008

President: Gerry Luginbuhl
Vice-president: Jeff Beane
Treasurer: Dennis Ose
Secretary: Linda Rudd
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 the earth’s biological diversity.*

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

Wingbeats is published monthly by the Wake Audubon Society and is distributed to the membership of the society.

Newsletter material should be submitted to the editors in written form, either electronically or hard copy.

Wingbeats prefers original articles, but occasionally items from other sources may be reprinted or summarized.

Views and opinions expressed in *Wingbeats* represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the editor, the society, or its board of directors.

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Nov/Dec 2008

Wingbeats

Inside:

A very special President’s Message, the 109th Annual Bird Count, and some great field trips!

Virtual Birding: Birding on the Internet

Birding is a get-out-in-the-natural-world sport, but we can also enjoy “virtual birding”—birding on the Internet. I hear you cry, “What possible value could the Internet have when it comes to birding?” I can give you five great reasons to go virtual birding:

1. Connect with conservation groups. Audubon North Carolina’s site (www.ncaudubon.org) describes Important Bird Areas, the North Carolina Birding Trail, and Audubon’s policies on local, national, and global conservation issues. It also links you to the seven Audubon chapters in North Carolina, including our own (www.wakeaudubon.org). You can establish contact with another chapter, read newsletters, and find out about trips and events all across our state. Other conservation groups include the *Carolina Bird Club* (www.Carolinabirdclub.org), *The Nature Conservancy* (www.nature.org), and the *National Wildlife Federation* (www.nwf.org).

2. Learn about bird songs, behavior, and field marks. *What Bird* (www.whatbird.com) is a bird-identification website that includes a step-by-step guide to let you zero in on a bird species. Each bird species has its own page with an illustration, range map, list of field marks, and recording of the song and call. *What Bird* also has a forum where you can post questions about bird identification. *The Bird Zoo* (www.thebirdzoo.com) has hundreds of images of birds from around the world, categorized by bird family and region. It’s especially handy when you encounter an exotic bird or when you want to see several images of a particular species.

3. Read blogs about birding and conservation. “Blog” is short for “weblog,” or an online journal. There are millions of blogs out there, so how do you find good ones? *Nature Blog Network* (www.natureblognetwork.com) lists the most popular blogs on the Internet about birds, bugs, plants, herps, hiking, mollusks, mushrooms, ecosystems, and other natural topics. Try it out; it’s fascinating! The author of *The Drinking Bird* (www.thedrinkingbird.blogspot.com) is keeping a list of every bird species he sees in North Carolina in 2008. He writes about local conservation issues, and his website lists other birding blogs as well as other websites that deal with conservation and birding.

4. Watch birds on the Internet via webcams. Want to see a Red-tailed Hawk feeding her young or a young Osprey testing his wings before he leaves the nest? Web cameras (“webcams”) around the world focus on bird feeders and nests and transmit live via the Internet. Live cams run only during the proper season, and the web addresses often change, but there are many archived films available for you to watch anytime. Webcam collections include:

- <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nestcams>
- http://testcontent.ornith.cornell.edu/nestinginfo/nestboxcam/movies_home
- <http://mysite.verizon.net/vdziadosz/feeders.htm>

5. Spread the word about Audubon and birding to other groups. The Internet allows us to find groups that have similar interests to our own. *Meetup* (www.meetup.com) is a free site that you can use to meet people interested in hiking, conservation, and hundreds of other activities or hobbies. Local Meetup groups include the Triangle Environmental Network and the Triangle Hiking and Outdoor Group. Sign up for an activity, and take along your binoculars and an issue of *Wingbeats* (this newsletter). Maybe you can recruit a new Wake Audubon member!

Have a great time virtual birding!
~ Lynn Erla Beegle

Wake Audubon Calendar

Join us for these fun and informative events.

Monthly Meetings

Monet's Reprise: The Painted Bunting

Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
(Note date change from calendar.)

A Species of Special Concern, the colorful Painted Bunting reaches the northern limit of its breeding range in NC and faces threats here and abroad. The Museum of Natural Sciences' bird curator, John Gerwin, will discuss new efforts to study "le nonpareil" in NC, including a new citizen science project.

Endangered and Invasive Fishes: Can They Coexist?

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Tom Kwak, Unit Leader and Associate Professor at NCSU, will share results of his research on some of the amazing fishes living in North Carolina rivers. Cranky catfish, meek

minnows, and strange suckers will be featured.

The meetings will be held in the A-level conference room of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and are open to the public.

NC Herpetological Society Meeting Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1-2

The NC Herpetological Society will hold its 30th Anniversary Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1-2, in the David Clark Labs building on the campus of NCSU in Raleigh. The theme of this meeting will be "NCHS: Three Decades of Progress" and will feature a fun, nostalgic look at the society and its history. Anyone interested in reptiles or amphibians is welcome to attend. For more information contact Jeff Humphries (919-928-4071 or 864-506-4921; jeff.humphries@earthlink.net) or Jeff Beane (919-733-7450, ext. 754; jeff.beane@ncmail.net).

Feathered Facts

Prothonotary Warbler (PROW) – *Protonotaria citrea*



These birds are now primarily in mangrove swamps of Costa Rica, Panama, and northern Columbia. Early ornithologists described "swarms" of PROWs in swamps of Panama, where densities can be quite high. It is found less often north to the Yucatan peninsula and east to Trinidad and Tobago. In one study of 13 birds, the home range was about 2/3 acre (0.3 hectare). Only a few winter diet studies have been done. In the swamp areas, PROWs forage among the aerial roots of mangroves, at times in large groups, from which they glean mostly beetles and a variety of larvae. In Panama, some birds also consume fruit. It appears that some pairs remain "bonded" even during the non-breeding season. Some 50 percent to 70 percent of mangroves have been destroyed in Columbia in the past 20 years, due to coastal development, new highways, and agri- and aquaculture. ~John Gerwin

Wake Audubon's Bird of the Year is sponsored by Cure Nursery.

Special President's Message Please Plant Seeds for the Birds

Here we are, going into winter, and I'm talking about planting seeds? Yes. Seeds for Wake Audubon's birds. I'm asking **you** to make a **special donation** to Wake Audubon so that we can continue our great programs in the coming months.

As you know, the Audubon Society is not only about the birds, but also about all wildlife and the environment needed to support our own health. We get some support from the National Audubon Society. However, the National Audubon Society provides less financial support to the local chapters than it used to. That is why we at Wake Audubon must step up our efforts to raise funds for our chapter's projects. We are planning some fund-raising activities for next year, but we want to start by asking you for a special donation **now** to Wake Audubon.

What do we spend money on? Actually, you're looking at our biggest expense: our award-winning newsletter. Our newsletter keeps you informed about meetings and activities, teaches you about specific birds, and gives you ideas for ways you can make a difference. You've told us that you like the newsletter and want even more educational content, but between the printing and the mailing costs, it is Wake Audubon's largest expense. We scaled back this year to 10 issues. Next year we may have to scale back further. How far, we don't yet know; we are still working on the budget.

Many of you have already contributed your time and money to our projects at Anderson Point Park. The birds love the arbor and meadow, many bird families have made homes in the boxes, and signs will soon be up to explain how the park provides crucial habitat for wildlife. **Your donation now** will allow us to continue and expand our conservation efforts at Anderson Point and other parks.

Our Audubon Adventures program is an environmental education curriculum designed for grades three through five. This award-winning program was developed by professional environmental educators and helps students achieve proficiency in language arts, science, and environmental studies. With oil, mining, and timber corporations pushing their version of "environmental education" in our schools, the Audubon Adventures program is more valuable and necessary than ever, but it comes at a cost: Each kit includes supplies for a class of 32 students and costs \$50.

Other expenses include our educational meetings and speakers, adoption of Important Bird Areas, and support for other organizations' conservation efforts.

In short, **your donation now** in any amount will be put to good use for these and other important Wake Audubon programs.

On behalf of the birds and other wildlife, thank you!

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Leader's Choice Walks

Birding the Buckeye Trail

Saturday, Nov. 8 at 8:30 a.m.
Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot. Contact Gerry, the trip leader, for more information at 816-9967.

Lake Crabtree Walk

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Old Reedy Creek Road entrance, off of Weston Parkway in Cary. Contact Becky Desjardins, the trip leader, for more information at 606 5352 or Becky.Desjardins@ncmail.net.

Anderson Point Bird Walk

Winter Birds and What They Eat

Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Walk around the park and learn about Anderson Point Park's winter birds, as well as those that live here year-round. We will also discuss how we can help the birds make it through the winter months, when food sources tend to be more scarce. Meet in the parking lot. Contact Kari Wouk at 919-395-5630, or krwouk@yahoo.com.

Field Trips

Museum of Natural Sciences, Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Living Collections

Saturday, Nov. 8 at time TBD

Join Dan Dombrowski for a short (an hour or so), behind-the-scenes tour of Living Collections (i.e., live exhibit and program animals) at the museum. Contact Dan at 733-7450, ext. 511; dan.dombrowski@ncmail.net. Tour will be limited to 10 people.

109th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, Dec. 20

Mark your calendars now for Wake Audubon's 109th Annual Christmas Bird Count. Contact 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.

continued on back page...

Act Locally

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