



Wake Audubon
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October 2009

Wingbeats

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Top Ten FAQs re LRIBA

Translation: Here are answers to the top 10 frequently asked questions about the Lumber River Important Bird Area.

- 1. What is an IBA?** IBA stands for "Important Bird Area." The Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas Program is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and to biodiversity. By working with Audubon chapters, landowners, public agencies, community groups, and other non-profits, Audubon endeavors to interest and activate a broad network of supporters to ensure that all IBAs are properly managed and conserved. Ninety-two areas in North Carolina are recognized as IBAs (<http://iba.audubon.org/iba/stateIndex.do?state=US-NC>). There are more than 2,500 IBAs in the United States.
- 2. Why do birds need IBAs?** We see a variety of wild birds in our neighborhoods and local parks, but we know that many birds need a network of sites that are large and relatively undisturbed. These are essential for sustaining naturally occurring populations of bird species, including the ones we typically see in the suburbs.
- 3. Is there an IBA near Wake Audubon?** Yes! Both Falls Lake and Jordan Lake are IBAs. And the Upper Neuse River Bottomlands IBA, between Goldsboro and Smithfield, is about an hour's drive from Raleigh.
- 4. Does Wake Audubon Society help out with any IBAs?** Yes! Wake Audubon entered into an agreement with Audubon North Carolina in 2004 to adopt the Lumber River IBA (LRIBA), about 2½ hours south of Raleigh.
- 5. Why didn't we adopt something closer to home?** The LRIBA has no other Audubon chapter near it with sufficient resources and volunteer power to gather data. The cypress-tupelo-gum swamps and bottomland hardwood forests of Lumber River are extensive, and very little information is available for bird species in the area

due to its denseness and the relatively low human population density. It is widely believed that the LRIBA provides excellent habitat for breeding and migrating songbirds, wood ducks, and waterfowl. But we need data to prove that!

- 6. How are IBAs managed and studied?** IBAs occur on private as well as government lands, so management depends on the owner. More than 90 percent of the LRIBA is privately owned. Studies are conducted by researchers and Audubon volunteers who set aside time to count and identify the birds and other wildlife in the IBA. The collectors must drive (or paddle) to specific spots, record all birds heard and seen in a certain period of time, then move to the next spot. It is fun but challenging and valuable work.
- 7. Who collects data for Audubon's LRIBA Project?** The primary data collectors in 2007, 2008, and 2009 were Richard Brown, Erik Thomas, and John Little, with help from several other volunteers. We conducted four weekend trips in 2008: one for each season. Without our devoted Audubon volunteers, the LRIBA Project would not be possible. Many thanks to John Gerwin, who helped to coordinate the volunteers!
- 8. What can I do to help the LRIBA Project?** We need **you** for the next series of counts in 2010. If you can hear and recognize bird calls, then we really need you! (You can practice identifying bird calls with various smart-phone applications, or go to www.allaboutbirds.org and study the calls.) For more information about volunteering, please contact Richard Brown at birderbrown@gmail.com, John Little at jlittle17@nc.rr.com, or John Gerwin at john.gerwin@ncdenr.gov and include "LRIBA" in the subject line.
- 9. What can I expect to see if I help with the LRIBA?** Volunteers have spotted anhingas; wood storks flying overhead; most of the waders such as little blue heron, green heron,

continued inside

Wake Audubon Shade-Grown Coffee and Bird Seed Order Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Whole-bean organic coffee in 12-ounce resealable bags

Type	Number of Bags	Price / Bag	Total Price
Colombia		\$11.00	\$
French Roast		\$11.00	\$
Guatemala		\$11.00	\$
Peru		\$11.00	\$
Fair Trade Bolivia		\$11.50	\$
Fair Trade Costa Rica		\$11.50	\$
Fair Trade Mexico		\$11.50	\$
Fair Trade Nicaragua		\$11.00	\$
Mountain Water Decaf Fair Trade Mexico		\$12.00	\$
CO2 Process Decaf Peru		\$12.00	\$

Seeds

Type	Number of Bags	Price / Bag	Total Price
Sunflower Hearts/Chips, 25 lb		\$47.00	\$
Sunflower Hearts/Chips, 50 lb		\$90.00	\$
Black Oil Sunflower Seeds, 25 lb		\$17.00	\$
Black Oil Sunflower Seeds, 50 lb		\$32.00	\$
Mid-Grade Seed Mix, 20 lb		\$22.00	\$
Mid-Grade Seed Mix, 40 lb		\$42.00	\$
Millet, 25 lb		\$15.00	\$

Prices include tax. Orders must be mailed or e-mailed by Oct. 30. E-mail to John Gerwin at jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org or mail to Wake Audubon, PO Box 12452, Raleigh 27605. Payment—by cash or check ONLY—is due at the time of pickup, Nov. 14, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Outdoor Bird Company, 7426 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh. Please make checks payable to Wake Audubon Society.

Wake Audubon is selling coffee beans and bird seed this fall to raise funds. This is a great opportunity for you to pick up some holiday gifts, and support Wake Audubon projects at the same time.

The coffee is shade-grown, "bird friendly," whole beans in resealable 12-ounce bags. The high-quality seeds are from Wake Audubon sponsor Outdoor Bird Company.

Hurry! Orders must be sent by October 30. Use the form here or the one on our website.

Wake Audubon Officers 2009

President: Becky Desjardins
Vice President: Jeff Beane
Treasurer: John Gerwin
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.*

Wingbeats is published quarterly 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 as 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 editors, the society, or its board of directors. Copyright 2009 by Wake Audubon Society. Material in this newsletter may be reprinted with permission of the editors.

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Wake Audubon Calendar

Join us for these fun and informative events.

Monthly Meetings

WA meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St., Raleigh. All meetings are free and open to the public. Free parking is available on Jones St., one block from the museum. Check www.naturalsciences.org/visinfo/index.html for directions.

The Lives of Spiders

October 13, 7:30 p.m.

Learn why spiders are more interesting than scary, as Jesse Perry, Director of Public Programs at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, uses slides and live specimens to outline the basic natural history of these interesting, ecologically important, and misunderstood creatures.

Audubon Adventures: Bringing Nature into the Classroom

November 10, 7:30 p.m.

For 20 years, Wake Audubon has sponsored Audubon Adventures at elementary schools, with more than 100 classrooms now participating. Two local teachers will talk about their experience with this award-winning environmental education program.

The Duck Stamp and Wildlife Habitat Conservation

December 8, 7:30 p.m.

Since 1934, the US Postal Service has produced a federal duck stamp for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Ducks Unlimited board member Lloyd Goode will provide an in-depth look at the federal Duck Stamp Program and its enormous wildlife conservation benefits.



Field Trips

Moonwalk and Owl Prowl at Blue Jay Point Park

October 4, 6:00 p.m.

Leader: Erla Beegle (beeglegeek@gmail.com)

The sun sets at 6:54 p.m. and the full moon rises at 6:50. Let's prowling for owls!

Halloween Herps in the Sandhills

October 25

Leader: Jeff Beane (Jeff.Beane@ncdenr.gov)

Limit 6 people so RSVP now!

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

December 5-6

Leaders John Gerwin, Gerry Luginbuhl
Space is limited; registration required:
John.Gerwin@ncdenr.gov, (919) 733-7450.

Moonwalk and Owl Prowl

December 2, 5:00 p.m.

Leader: Erla Beegle (beeglegeek@gmail.com)

The sun sets at 5:01 p.m., and the full moon rises at 5:19. Let's prowling for owls! Location to be announced.

Annual Christmas Bird Count

December 19

Leaders: John Connors (John.Connors@ncdenr.gov) and John Gerwin (John.Gerwin@ncdenr.gov)

See www.audubon.org/Bird/cbc/ for more information.

For updated details on these and other events, check our online calendar at www.wakeaudubon.org/calendar or join our Meetup group at www.meetup.com/Wake-Audubon-Meetup.

President's Message: Help Wanted

Wake Audubon is looking for volunteers. We have some positions open and could use your help, so why not try your hand at one of the following?

Manage a nest box. We frequently are the happy recipients of bird boxes for everything from owls and bats to bluebirds. We need someone to monitor these boxes for activity in the spring, clean them out in the fall, and make sure they are not falling apart. Most of the boxes are at Anderson Point Park and Horseshoe Farm.

Create and manage a Wake Audubon Facebook page (1 person). We would love to grow our web presence by creating a Facebook page! If you can post our calendar, photos, and other information on the page and update it a few times a month, we need you!

Contribute to *Wingbeats* newsletter. Do you ever have good ideas for an article? We need your input! Next year, *Wingbeats* will be published only online, which means we will have space for more articles. Sue Buechele, our editor, would be elated to receive an article or two ... or ten! She'll even help you write it if you come up with the idea. And if you're interested in serving on the newsletter committee, please let us know. We'd love to have you!

Help distribute our activities calendar. We print an annual calendar of events as well as our Bird of the Year poster and distribute them around Wake County to bird stores, outdoor outfitters, parks, and libraries. We need a responsible person or people who can keep track throughout the year of what locations have calendars and who needs more.

We need more flamingo help! If you have time to move a flock of boisterous birds (actually, they're very sweet and cooperative) from house to house during flamingo season, they promise not to bite! Despite their elongated necks, the birds can easily fit in a small car, so no special equipment is required.

Give a talk. It's not as scary as it sounds! We frequently receive requests to give bird talks to different audiences: nursing homes, libraries, etc. We have a "canned" presentation along with props you can bring. It's not hard to do, though it does require a little knowledge about common "feeder" birds that we can teach you.

We can always use help with both fundraising and marketing. If you have talent or knowledge in either of these fields, we need to hear from you!

Becky

This is the last issue of *Wingbeats* you'll get in your mailbox!

Wingbeats will be published **only** on our website, www.wakeaudubon.org, beginning in January. If you do not have Internet access and cannot read *Wingbeats* online, please send us a note at PO Box 12452, Raleigh, NC 27605.

please remember to
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great egret, and white ibis; and mississippi kite. More than 75 species of breeding birds have been detected on counts, with an average of about 18 individual birds per point. Volunteers have counted more than 1,200 individual birds for the roadside data alone; river data is still being compiled.

The most frequently encountered birds (percentage of locations where detected) were: blue-gray gnatcatcher (75%), prothonotary warbler (75%), common grackle (70%), northern parula (60%), northern cardinal (55%), carolina wren (42%), acadian flycatcher (38%), indigo bunting (35%), barn swallow (35%), eastern (tufted) titmouse (35%), great-crested flycatcher (32%), white-eyed vireo (30%), and the yellow-billed cuckoo (30%).

10. Where can I find out more about the Lumber River IBA?

- <http://www.wakeaudubon.org/lumberriver.htm> (watch for updates as we plan for 2010)
- <http://iba.audubon.org/iba/profileReport.do?siteId=347&navSite=search&pagerOffset=35&page=2>
- <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/nc/nc/NCIBA%202004/COAST.PDF> (p. 39)
- <http://iba.audubon.org/iba/siteSearch.do>
- http://www.audubon.org/chapter/nc/nc/nccas_ibas.html
- <http://149.168.1.196/nrid/viewPub.php?majorGroup=IRD&park=LURI> (Bird list for Lumber River State Park showing 124 species)

See you at a future LRIBA trip!

~ Erla Beegle

Feathered Facts: Bird of the Year

Purple Martin, *Progne subis* (PUMA)

The martins have now returned to the land from where they likely came, South America, thus completing their annual cycle. Now is a good time to clean out your boxes.

I was reading some older literature and found arrival dates, which I thought I would compare to today's web-based tracking dates:

- Old: New Orleans, February 1-9;
2009: southern Louisiana, mid-Jan to mid-Feb
- Old: Falls of the Ohio (Louisville), KY, March 15;
2009: Versailles, KY, March 19
- Old: St. Genevieve, MO, seldom before April 10-15;
2009: Perryville (just south), April 4 and Bloomsdale (just west), April 16
- Old: Philadelphia, April 10;
2009: Gettysburg, March 23 and April 27
- Old: Boston, April 25;
2009: Rehoboth (just south), April 22

The old data come from J.J. Audubon in the early 1800s. Thus, in the big picture, martin migration times don't seem to have changed much. It's also quite interesting to me that Audubon was able to acquire these data without the use of phones, cars, or computers. During his travels, Audubon of course paid attention to many details, and I leave you with the following observation: "Almost every country tavern has a Martin box on the upper part of its signboard; and I have observed that the handsomer the box, the better does the inn generally prove to be."

~ John Gerwin



Not a member yet? What are you waiting for?

We need you to help us maintain our organization's integrity, diversity, and success. Go to <http://www.wakeaudubon.org/join.htm>, print the membership form, and mail it in today!