



<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Published Quarterly by: Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 (302) 653-6872

The President's Corner
by Janet Manchester

Are you concerned about the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System? Do you have ideas about how the System should be managed to meet the challenges of global warming, changing demographics, increasing energy demands, and many other stresses that it will face?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned and has been working with Refuge Friends and other partners to develop a new strategic vision and direction for the Refuge System.

Core Teams have been working since mid-July to address five key topics that will be part of the new strategy. A series of meetings and Webinars have been held, and reactions and ideas from Refuge Friends are being sought, all in preparation for a Vision Conference to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, in mid-July of 2011.

To learn about the vision process, view the Core Teams' outlines, and provide your own ideas and reactions, go online to www.americaswildlife.org.

While you are online, you might also be interested in checking out the FWS's final strategic plan on climate change. It can be found at www.fws.gov/home/climatechange/index/html.



is published quarterly by "Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. (FOBH)", a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FOBH provides financial and developmental support for environmental education programs at the refuge and in communities throughout the region.

Our readers are encouraged to share comments, provide articles for publication and/or suggestions regarding the refuge as well as notifying us of address changes .

Please direct communications to:

Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977

Phone: (302) 653-6872

Fax: (302) 653-0684

email: fobhmembership@idv.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Taking Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge to the Community

Refuge staff would like to thank Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. president, Janet Manchester, for scheduling and organizing Bombay Hook's presence in community activities. Janet reviewed community activities in New Castle and Kent counties, signed up to participate, and organized volunteers to staff Bombay Hook's table. This provided an opportunity for people to learn about the refuge and find out about recreational opportunities available at the refuge.

Some of the community events included: Ag Days at the University of Delaware, Dover Days, Fall Festival at Killens Pond and Blackbird Creek, and Duck Creek Festival in Smyrna. In addition to Janet, thanks go to all the volunteers that staffed the tables, they include: Nancy and Alan Morrison, Denise and Joe Spence, Karen and Mark Dever, PJ Hamm, Frank and Phyllis Rawling, Pat McElwee, and Frank Smith.

If you know of community events that Bombay Hook should participate in, or, if you are interested in staffing a table, contact Tina Watson at 302-653-6872.

Bird Notes By Frank Rawling The Nesting Season

June

The season opened with the sighting of an **Orchard Oriole** at Bear Swamp. This was followed by sightings of **Wood Ducks** at both Shearneck and Bear Swamp. On the 4th an estimated 116 **Glossy Ibis** were at Shearneck. Both immature and adult **Bald Eagles** were seen on the Refuge the next day. On the 7th a **Red-tailed Hawk** was at Finis Pool and a **Green Heron** was seen along the Shearneck Dike. Both **American Avocets** and **Black-necked Stilts** were seen at Raymond Pool that day. **Black-crowned Night Herons** were observed on the 10th as well as **Great Blue, Great,** and **Snowy Egrets**. A **Blue Grosbeak** was also seen on the 10th. On the 13th a group from the MD Ornithological Society found both a **Common Moorhen** and a **Boat-tailed Grackle** at Shearneck. At the Visitor Center on the 13th three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found. The same observer also saw a **Prothonotary Warbler** at the usual place at Finis Pool. There were 30 **Great Egrets** at Shearneck on the 15th as 10 **Black-necked Stilts**. Two **Indigo Buntings** and 5 **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen at the Allee House on the 15th. In addition there were 2 **Green Herons** at Finis Pool. A **Bobwhite** was seen near the corn crib on the 16th. On the 24th 3 **Ospreys** were seen at Raymond Pool. Also during the month observations were recorded of **Black-crowned Night Herons** both at Bear Swamp and Shearneck.

July

Observations of an **American Avocet** at Raymond Pool, **Black-necked Stilts**, **Short-billed Dowitcher** and **Least Sandpiper** at Shearneck kicked off the month. On the 3rd a **Ruff** was seen at Taylor's Gut on Route 9 just north of the Refuge. On the Refuge that day a **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at Bear Swamp. On the 6th a **Black Ruff** was observed in Raymond Pool. Was it the same one seen at Taylor's Gut? A flyover at Raymond Pool was a **Gull-billed Tern**. A neat observation on the bayside of Raymond Pool was a **Clapper Rail** with 7 chicks. Another **Ruff**

was seen at Raymond Pool, this time a **White Ruff**, on the 8th. A **Caspian Tern** was seen on the 9th at Raymond Pool and at Sheariness a family grouping of **Black-necked Stilts** was seen. A flock of 6 **Northern Bobwhites** were seen along the road to the Allee House on the 10th. Also on the 10th a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen near the Visitor Center. The next day a **Summer Tanager** was seen at Finis Pool and a large flock of about 40 **Black-crowned Night Herons** was at Bear Swamp Pool. Eight **Wood Ducks**



Summer Tanagers

were seen at Sheariness on the 11th. Two adult **Green Herons** with a fledgling were observed at Raymond Pool. Also on the 11th a **Least Bittern** was found at Sheariness and 8 **Glossy Ibis** were seen at Raymond along with 4 **Black Skimmers**. Three **Great Crested Flycatchers** were picked up along Finis Road. On the 16th there were 4 **Bobolinks** along Sheariness Dike. The 17th saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at the Visitor Center and about 20 **Bobolinks** along Sheariness Dike. Two **Least terns** were noticed at Sheariness Pool and some 90 **American Avocets** on the bayside on the 18th. That day a **Willow Flycatcher** was calling along the Boardwalk Trail. The same day 9 **Wild Turkeys** were found along Finis Road. Some 100+ **Bank Swallows** were found roosting at Sheariness on the 19th. Other Swallows seen were **Barn, Tree, and Northern Rough-winged**. On the 19th a **Black-headed Gull** was seen at Sheariness. The 27th saw a **Hudsonian Godwit** in residence at Sheariness. On the 29th a **Wilson's Phalarope** was seen at Bear Swamp as well as a **Reeve** (female **Ruff**). Four immature **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were spotted at Bear Swamp. The month closed with sightings of **Curlew Sandpiper** and **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** on the bayside of Sheariness and a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Sheariness.

August

A **Peregrine Falcon** at the north end of Raymond Pool began the month. The **Hudsonian Godwit** was still in residence at Sheariness on the 1st. Also seen on the 1st was a flock of 200+ **Glossy Ibis** at Sheariness and Raymond Pool. There were also 8 **Least Sandpipers** seen. **Indigo Buntings** were in abundance. Two **Little Blue Herons** were in Big Woods Pond on the 7th. Two **Connecticut Warblers** were found at Finis Pool. A **Tricolored heron** was picked up at Sheariness on the 8th as well as a **Least Tern** at Bear Swamp and a **Marbled Godwit** at Sheariness. Three **Tricolored Herons** were seen at Bear Swamp on the 10th. By the 13th there were 4 **Tricolored Herons** at Sheariness as well as 5 **Caspian Terns**. There was a flock of some 100 **Glossy Ibis** at Sheariness also. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Raymond on the 14th and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** along the Boardwalk Trail. On the 14th there were 6 **Marbled Godwits** at Sheariness. The next day a **Gull-billed Tern** was seen at Sheariness and also a **Black-headed Gull**. A nice find was a **Western Kingbird** along Whitehall Neck Road on the 17th and a **Black-Tern** at Sheariness. On the 21st both a **Little Gull** and a **Black-headed Gull** were seen at Sheariness. A **Brant** was found in Raymond on the 22nd along with a **Reeve**. There was also a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Sheariness that day. An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen along Route 9/Smyrna-Leipic Road just north of Whitehall Neck Road on the 26th and 27th. On the 28th **Sandwich Tern, Solitary Sandpiper, and Royal Tern** were seen on the Refuge. The same day 2 **Blue-winged Tern** were found on Sheariness. To close out the month and the season a **Baird's Sandpiper** was found at Bear Swamp on the 30th.



Connecticut Warblers

Cheers and Good Birding!

The Nation Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week

Michael Stroeh, Refuge Manager for Coastal Delaware NWR Complex, received framed copies of the bipartisan resolution introduced by U.S. Senator Ted Kaufman at Bombay Hook's Open House on October 17, 2010. The resolution designated the week beginning October 10, 2010 as "National Wildlife Refuge Week."

Michael Stroeh received 2 copies of the framed resolution, one for Bombay Hook and one for Prime Hook, from Lisa Hummon and Kevin Smith representing Ted Kaufman.



Reprinted from U.S. Senator Ted Kaufman's news release dated 9/24/10:

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Senate on Friday unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution introduced by U.S. Senator Ted Kaufman (D-DE) designating the week beginning October 10, 2010 as "National Wildlife Refuge Week."

President Theodore Roosevelt established the first National Wildlife Refuge in 1903. Since then, the Refuge System has grown to encompass 150 million acres, 552 refuges and 38 wetland management districts. The first National Wildlife Refuge Week was held in 1995.

The resolution celebrates over a century of conservation and highlights the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System to wildlife populations, as well as the enjoyment of hunters and anglers, birders, youth, and other recreationists.

"National wildlife refuges are critical to the goals of wildlife conservation to both keep common species common, and to protect and restore imperiled species," Kaufman said. "In my home state of Delaware, we are fortunate to have two national wildlife refuges: Bombay Hook and Prime Hook. The tens of thousands of acres of freshwater wetlands and tidal salt marshes these refuges protect are considered some of the best on the Atlantic Coast. And they are amazing places to visit and enjoy," Kaufman said.

Senate Resolution 644 also recognizes the economic benefits refuges bring to local economies as well as the critical role volunteer "Friends" groups play in the everyday operations of refuges.

Every year more than 39,000 volunteers and over 220 "Friends" organizations contribute nearly 1.4 million hours of their time to volunteer at refuges across the country. The recreational opportunities provided by refuges also generate significant revenue for local businesses and communities. Each year, refuges draw 41 million visitors, generating \$1.7 billion and 27,000 jobs for local economies. Refuges are also a good investment for the American people. For every \$1 appropriated, refuges generate \$4 in economic activity.

"I am proud to have sponsored this resolution to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week and honor refuges in Delaware and across the country. They are truly American treasures and critical parts of our natural heritage," Kaufman concluded.

The resolution was cosponsored by 24 other Senators including Senators Crapo, Cardin, Casey, Murray, Lincoln, Landrieu, Burriss, Alexander, Udall (CO), Bingaman, Kerry, Shaheen, Feinstein, Bennett (CO), Feingold, Cantwell, Corker, Reed, Udall (NM), Pryor, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Inouye and Levin.

Bringing Nature Home
By Linda Osiecki

On November 13, Doug Tallamy spoke on his book **Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Updated and Expanded.**



Dr. Tallamy is a professor and the chair of the Entomology and Wildlife Ecology department at the University of Delaware, where he has been studying insects and their role in the environment for over 20 years.

Dr. Tallamy had a great presentation about how, basically, plants are at the root of the food chain as a source of food and shelter for insects (and other animals). The insects are a food source for many bird species, especially for feeding nestlings, and other animals. Without plants that provide this food and habitat for insects, other species cannot be supported in an area.

Native plants are especially important in supporting a large variety of species. As an example, he showed lists for woody and herbaceous plants. Oaks (genus *Quercus*) were at the top of woody plants, supporting 534 species of butterflies and moths, based on studies. For herbaceous plants, at the top were goldenrod (genus *Solidago*) with 115 species, asters (genus *Aster*) with 112 species and sunflowers (genus *Helianthus*) with 73 species.

Dr. Tallamy encouraged people to include more native plants in the landscaping of their homes, reducing lawn areas. Native plants and trees bring beauty as well as

nature closer to our homes and help to provide more food and habitat for insects, birds and other animals.

Copies of the book **Bringing Nature Home** are available at the Visitor Center store.

More information, including the lists of native trees and plants, can be found at the web site for the book: <http://bringingnaturehome.net/>.

Thanks to Quentin Schlieder for hosting another great program.



The Refuge Store

For Christmas giving, we have some seasonal clothing, Marcia's gorgeous ornaments magnets and cards, along with extensive book selections for children and adults. The Refuge Store is open weekdays all year, except federal holidays.

Verna Price is missed at the Refuge Store. As founding member of Friends of Bombay Hook, Verna Price is remembered for her love of nature and her sense of humor. We needed a committee to accomplish all that she did for Friends of Bombay Hook and the Refuge Store. To introduce the core committee: I am Pat McElwee, a volunteer since 2005; Hannah McLennan has worked in the store for 2 years during fall and spring; and Karen Dever has worked with us since spring 2010. Displays, department reorganization, new items, and old favorites are being considered as we prepare for spring 2011.

Your opinions and suggestions are welcome.

Pat McElwee
Store Manager

New Bird Club!

Join us! The Bombay Hook Friends have a new bird club, free and open to all Friends' members and their families.

The bird club, which has no name yet, focuses on monthly field trips. Some trips will be on the refuge and others will be in the region. Your suggestions for good places to go or for a club name are encouraged.

Everyone, from beginner to veteran expert, is encouraged to participate. This is a great way to learn more about birds from other Friends' members. If you're an expert, this is a good opportunity to share your knowledge and talk with other birders.

Final dates and times will be determined later, but the tentative schedule is:

December

Christmas Bird Count a few days before Christmas (maybe after, too) Meta Little to lead. Location, date and time TBD

January

January 1, Indian River Inlet, Carol Palmer to lead. Time and meeting place TBD

February

Randy Murphy's home, abutting Blackbird State Forest. Date, time and directions TBD

March

1) Delaware City for ducks, supper afterward. Bruce Lantz to lead. Date, time and directions TBD

2) Woodcock Walk, late afternoon-evening Marcia to lead. Date, time TBD

April

Brecknock Park and Isaac Branch, Camden Hannah McLennan to lead. Date, time TBD

May

Marcia and Tom Poling's home. Date, time TBD

June

To be determined

Summer

Eastern Neck refuge, Randy Murphy to lead. Date, time and meeting place TBD

To be on the email list for final trip schedules and last minute updates, or for suggestions or other information, email Hannah McLennan at hmclennan@comcast.net or call her at 302/559-4848.

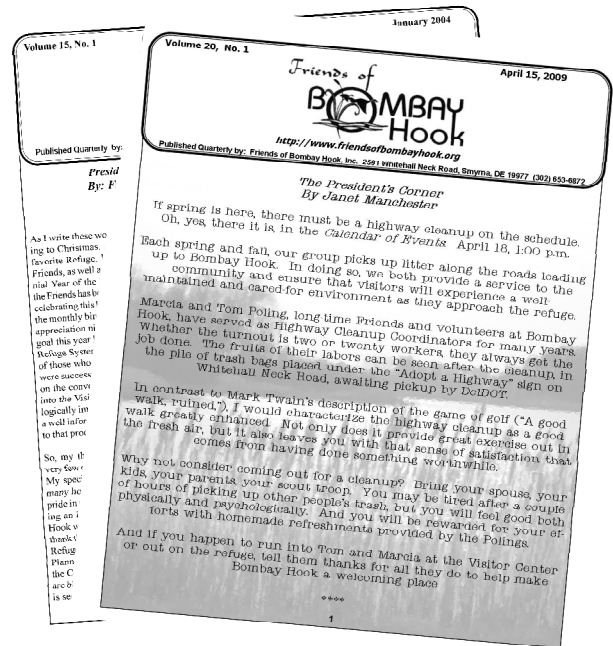
The Friends of Bombay Hook continues taking steps to save trees!!!

In our Friends of Bombay Hook newsletter (Vol. 20, No. 3) dated October 31st, 2009, we enclosed a questionnaire on whether or not you prefer the Friends of Bombay Hook newsletter to be sent electronically or continue to receive a printed copy. Currently, we received at least over 40 responses with nearly 25 respondents requesting electronic. We thank the ones who did respond to our questionnaire.

However, we definitely like to see more people respond to our questionnaire so that Friends will be able to do what many organizations are now doing to save the cost of printing, postage and returned newsletters simply by going electronic.

To receive your copy of the newsletter by mail or online, please respond to this mailing with your current contact information.

For notification of all upcoming Bombay Hook events, please visit our website at www.friendsofbombayhook.org.



This is my correct address on the newsletter

If the information on the newsletter address is incorrect, please make corrections below:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Please select your preference below:

- Please continue to send me the print version of the Friends newsletter
- I'd like to receive the online version of the Friends newsletter via e-mail (require e-mail address)
- I would not like either versions of the Friends newsletter

Please send your completed form to:

Friends of Bombay Hook
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977

Or email us at
fobhmembership@idv.net



2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977

NON PROFIT ORG.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #159
Dover, DE

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

Check website for changes and additions: bombayhook.fws.gov

December 26, 2010 - 6:45 am ***Bombay Hook Christmas Bird Count***

- Meet at the visitor center. Andy Ednie will coordinate the bird count, for more information call Andy, (302) 463-0113.

January 21, 2010 - ***Deer Hunting*** - The back part (Bear Swamp and Finis) of the refuge is closed for deer hunting all day.

March 5, 2010 - The Visitor Center will re-open on weekends.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!