



<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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The President's Corner
By Frank Rawling

Try Volunteering

Have you ever tried volunteering your time to an organization? Perhaps you have with such organizations as a civic association or a community maintenance association. Perhaps you have volunteered at your church? Then again, perhaps you have not yet tried volunteering. Well, now is a good time to give it a try at your Refuge. There are all sorts of ways that you can help out and the Refuge staff would certainly appreciate your efforts. The Friends of Bombay Hook exists to help the Refuge in any way we can. The most visible is the Refuge Store. All the profits from the store are used to benefit the Refuge. Another visible activity is in helping to put on events. There are other ways that are not quite so visible, such as maintaining and monitoring the Purple Martin colony. You have probably noticed that the Refuge has quite a few blue-bird boxes. The boxes need someone to maintain them and monitor them. Also, it sure would be a big help if someone could volunteer to cut the grass around the Visitor Center and the Allee House. Staffing the store is always needed and is a great way to meet a lot of interesting people. Volunteers to help out with the education program would be greatly appreciated. If you can volunteer we would certainly like to hear from you.

Try volunteering. You will enjoy it and have the satisfaction that you will indeed be making a difference!

Bird Notes: Spring Migration
By Frank Rawling

March

The season opened with the sightings of **Northern Bobwhite**, **Bald Eagle**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Common Merganser** and **Northern Pintail**. On the 5th some 60 **Canvasbacks** were observed on the bayside of Sheariness. The same day a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen opposite Bear Swamp as well as a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** at Finis Pool and a **Hairy Woodpecker** and **Field Sparrows** at the Allee House. The 6th saw a **Horned Grebe** on the bayside of Sheariness, along with the aforementioned **Canvasbacks**, **Wilson's Snipe** on the Bear Swamp mudflats and a lone **Greater Scaup** on the bayside of Sheariness. Also on the 6th 6 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen in the Big Woods Pond. **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen at Bear Swamp on the 12th as well as a **Pied-billed Grebe**



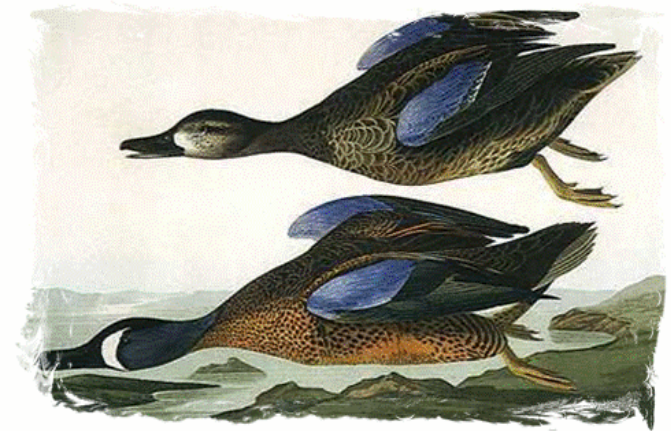
Field Sparrows

at Sheariness. Both species of **Yellowlegs** were seen at Bear Swamp as well as a **Killdeer** on the 13th. By the 18th large numbers of **Northern Shovelers** were in Raymond Pool and **Tundra Swans** were seen along the Whitehall Neck Road. A **Golden Eagle** was seen in the vicinity of Sheariness Pool on the 19th. Also on the 19th **American Coots** and **Bufflehead** as well as large numbers of **Green-winged Teal** were seen around the Refuge. The first sighting of **Wood Ducks** occurred on the 20th. **American Pipits** were seen along Finis Pool Road on the 20th. That same day 6 **Bald Eagles** were seen as well as a **Red-shouldered Hawk**. The 20th was a good day for birds of prey since there were a couple of **Great Horned Owls** that were heard. It seemed to be a good month for **Wilson's Snipe** with some 80 seen on the 21st. A **Horned Grebe** in breeding plumage was seen on the 25th across from Sheariness. The month closed out with sightings of **American**

Bittern and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** along the dike.

April

Migration picked up at the beginning of the month with the sighting of a **Lesser Scaup** at Raymond Pool followed the next day by a sighting of a **Common Moorhen** in Sheariness Pool. Also on the 2nd a **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen on the bayside of Raymond Pool as well as 4 **Glossy Ibis**. The first **American Avocet** of the season appeared on the 3rd. **Blue-winged Teal** were in residence at Bear Swamp on the 3rd and also in Sheariness and flocks of **Black-bellied Plovers** were seen along Whitehall Neck Road. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Bear Swamp. **Wild Turkeys** were seen near the Cottman Pool and along Finis Pool Road. **Black-crowned Night Herons** were seen at their usual spot at the north end of Bear



Blue-winged Teal

Swamp. On the 9th a hen **Pheasant** was seen at the Sheariness water control structure. A **Brown Thrasher** was also seen just north of the Big Woods Pond. On the 10th a **Tri-colored Heron** was seen at the north end of Bear Swamp as well as 2 **Brown Thrashers** at Raymond. A **Red-throated Loon** in winter plumage was seen at the south end of Sheariness. **Blue-winged Teal** was still on the refuge at mid-month. On the 18th a **Prairie Warbler** was seen along the Boardwalk Trail and a **Blue Grosbeak** was seen at the main gate. The next day a **Yellow Warbler** had joined the **Prairie Warbler** on the Boardwalk Trail. A **Merlin** was spotted from Raymond Tower. On the 21st a **Marbled Godwit** was on the bayside of Sheariness. The next day a **Prothonotary Warbler** was at the Finis Pool turnaround.

Two *Clapper Rails* were seen at Shearneck on the 22nd. Six *Marsh Wrens* were noted along the Boardwalk Trail which also had a *Black-and-white Warbler* on the 24th. A *Summer Tanager* was seen at the south end of Bear Swamp and an *American Redstart*. Bear Swamp hosted an *Orchard Oriole* on the 27th. A nice find on the Refuge was that of a *Pileated Woodpecker* along Parson Point Trail on the 29th as well as a *Scarlet Tanager* at Finis Woods. A pair of *Indigo Buntings* were seen near the entrance gate as was a *Yellow-breasted Chat*. A half dozen *Yellow Warblers* were seen at Bear Swamp on the 30th. The month came to a close with the sighting of a *Semipalmated Sandpiper* at the north end of Raymond Pool.

May

A female *Wood Duck* with 15 ducklings was seen at Finis on the 1st. Three *Common Moorhens* were also seen, 2 at Shearneck and one on the road to Bear Swamp. The same day a *Yellow-breasted Chat* was seen at Raymond Tower, and a *Blue-winged Warbler*, *American Redstart* and a *Northern Parula* in the woods opposite the Boardwalk Trail. Also at the Raymond Tower was a *Chestnut-sided Warbler*. *American Golden Plover* was also seen in one of the fields. On the 4th a juvenile *Ruff* was observed at Bear Swamp Pool. A group of 5 *Blue Grosbeaks* were seen on the Refuge on the 6th. On the 7th Finis Pool had a *Black-and-white Warbler* and an *American Redstart*. Bear Swamp hosted both a *Pectoral* and a *Spotted Sandpiper*. On the 8th Finis Woods housed 7 species of warblers including *Blackburnian* and *Northern Waterthrush* as well as a *Barred Owl* and 3 *Wood Pewees*. Two *Ruddy Turnstones* were seen near Shearneck Tower on the 8th. A *Wood Thrush*



Barred Owl

was in Finis Woods on the 9th. A *Horned Lark* was found along the entrance road on the 14th. On the 15th a birder found 2 *White-faced Ibis* mixed in with a flock of *Glossy Ibis* at Bear Swamp. Many *Dunlins*, *Semipalmated Sandpipers* and *Short-billed Dowitchers* were at the Refuge at mid-month. A female *Red Phalarope* was seen at Bear Swamp on the 17th and a *Willow Flycatcher* was on the Boardwalk Trail on the 18th. On the 21st *White-rumped Sandpipers* were seen at both Bear Swamp and Shearneck Pools. *Two Black Skimmers* were seen at Raymond Pool also on the 21st. *Baird's Sandpipers* were seen at Bear Swamp on the 22nd. Three *American Golden Plovers* were seen along Whitehall Neck Road on the 23rd. On the 24th *Wild Turkeys* were along the road to the Allee House and a pair of *Orange-crowned Warblers* were seen near Bear Swamp Tower. Both *Green Heron* and *Orchard Oriole* were seen at Shearneck on the 28th. There were 4 nesting *Black-necked Stilts* at Shearneck on the 29th.

Cheers and Good Birding!

Friends of
BOMBAY
 Hook
 Newsletter

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>

Visitors Center Store
By Hannah McLennan

The Store is aglow with exciting, new items and many additions to the old favorites. Most items are under \$20 and several are \$5 or less. Visitors will find many good things for themselves and for gifts. This fall, the highlights include:

① **Books**

Several new birding field guides, books about birds and birding hotspots, books about backyard birding, and the popular series of folding, water-resistant guides to mammals, birds and specific categories of birds such as waterfowl. The new Crossley field guide has been very popular. It would be a great gift for any birder's library.

Also featured are books about trees, shrubs, wildflowers, mammals, amphibians and insects.

CDs of bird songs and a birding DVD help increase bird identification skills. Many birders like to keep these CDs in their cars.

① **Clothing**

The T-shirt line has expanded to long sleeve styles and heavier short sleeved tees for fall and winter. Also, sweat shirts in pullover and cardigan styles. There are new designs and new colors by Marsha Holler, a popular designer, and from companies we have not carried before.

There are many new baseball caps and bucket hats, too.

① **Jewelry**

Take a look at the new Jabebo earrings made of recycled materials. Mostly in bird designs, these charming pairs feature interesting differences between right and left. Wait until you see what they are made from! (Hint: they are very light weight). Also back are the traditional pewter pins of birds, horseshoe crabs and turtles.



① **Children's items**

New, and selling quickly, are three sizes of plush toys. The smallest ones move along on their own with the pull of a tab. Youth-sized tees just arrived. And, of course, there are popular children's books, children's nature cards and bug magnifiers

① **Snacks**

Clif nature bars and fruit strips are new and only \$1 each.



① **Ornaments**

This fall, Marcia Poling added new design treatments to her fantastic bird ornaments. They are individually hand-painted and a favorite among collectors.

① **Other**

Nightlights are another new item. With about a dozen different bird designs to choose from, they are lighted on display in the store. They are unusual, distinctive and go with any interior décor.

Note cards, original **art prints** and **Bombay Hook magnets** are also in stock.

You asked for **bug spray**, and you were right! We tested a case of pocket-sized sprays which quickly sold out. Thank you for the good tip.

① **10% discount**

Members of the Friends of Bombay Hook receive a 10% discount off all merchandise. Be sure to show your card when you check out.

① **Volunteers**

Would you like to help Bombay Hook? Consider volunteering in the store. It's easy, fun, and you will have good training and other volunteers and staff to help you. Volunteers are needed weekly, biweekly or monthly. If you would like to learn more about what's involved, please call Tina Watson at Bombay Hook at (302) 653-6872.

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

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

Bombay Hook Visitor Center is open **Monday through Friday** from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm year round.

The Visitor Center is **open** on weekends until **December 4, 2011** from 9:00 am to 5:00pm.

The **Allee House is in need of repairs and is closed** until further notice.

The wildlife drive is open from sunrise to sunset everyday of the year weather permitting. Parts of the wildlife drive are closed for hunting 15 days of the year.

Family Explorer Kit Available - Check out the kit at the Visitor Center and explore the refuge. There are wildflower, tree, bird, amphibian and reptile, insect, and mammal guides to help you identify what you see on the 12-mile wildlife drive and 5 walking trails. Binoculars will help you get a close-up view of birds and magnification lenses will help view smaller specimens. A dip net is provided to explore the brackish pond on Boardwalk Trail and the freshwater pond at Finis. **Instructions are included on ethical exploration methods** and where and how to use the equipment. The next time you visit the refuge ask if the kit is available.

Saturday, October 15, 2011 - *Native Plants in America: Past, Present and Future* (3:00pm) Catherine Renzi is an active speaker at flower shows, native plant conferences, garden clubs, universities, and continuing education programs around the Middle Atlantic. As owner operator of Yellow Springs Farm in Chester Springs, PA she has employed her lifelong interest in art and nature to create a unique and beautiful working landscape and she can show you how you can too!

Sunday, October 23, 2011

- ***Bird Identification Station* (11:00 am - 5:00 pm)** Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes, binoculars, and field guides to help you identify waterfowl, raptors, and whatever else flies by.
- ***Tour of the Refuge* (11:00am - 12:30 pm and 1:30pm - 3:00pm)** Join volunteer, Ray Cullom, for a tour of the Refuge. Find out how the Refuge is managed for wildlife, visit different habitats, and walk a trail. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 6, 2011 - *Birding Tour :Waterfowl Birding Tour with John and Becky Hargrove* (1:00pm - 3:30pm) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy identifying ducks and geese in the impoundments and tidal salt marsh. Meet the Hargroves at the Visitor Center.

Friday through Sunday, November 11 - 13, 2011 - **FREE ENTRANCE FEE** The Refuge entrance fee will be waived for Veterans Day Weekend. Early November is a great time to observe the fall foliage colors, migrating waterfowl, and raptors. Take time out of your busy schedule to appreciate the wildlife and beautiful scenery of Bombay Hook.

Sunday, November 13, 2011 - *Birding Tour: Waterfowl Birding Tour with Joel Citron* (9:30am-1:00pm) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy identifying ducks and geese in the impoundments and tidal salt marsh. Meet Joel Citron at the Visitor Center.

(Continued on page 6)

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 5)

Saturday, November 19, 2011

- ***National Family Volunteer Day*** (10 am - 12noon) National Family Volunteer Day is a great opportunity for families and individuals to spend quality time making significant contributions to the Refuge while learning about natural gardens and gardening. Light refreshments will be served.
- ***Bird Identification Station*** (11:00 am - 6:00 pm) Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes, binoculars, and field guides to help you identify waterfowl, raptors, and whatever else flies by.
- ***Bombay Hook Sunset Tour*** (3:30 pm - 5:30 pm) Sunset at Bombay Hook can be spectacular with hundreds of geese and ducks coming into the impoundments looking for a safe place to spend the evening. Before sunset we will ride through the Refuge sighting birds, looking for deer, exploring habitats and finding out how the Refuge is managed for wildlife. At sunset we will watch waterfowl coming into the impoundments.

Sunday, November 27, 2011 - ***Bird Identification Station*** (11:00 am - 5:00 pm) Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes, binoculars, and field guides to help you identify waterfowl, raptors, and whatever else flies by.

Bombay Hook NWR's Closed Dates for Hunting 2011-2012 Season — Bird Watcher's List

The **back section of the Refuge (Bear Swamp and Finis)** will be closed the following dates:

- October 10, 12, and 14, 2011
- November 11, 12, and 16, 2011
- December 12 and 15, 2011
- January 20, 2012

The **front section of the Refuge (Raymond Pool and Shearneck Pool)** will be closed the following dates:

- November 14 and 18, 2011
- December 14, 2011

Enter from Dutch Neck Road

The back section will be closed until 1:00pm for the Young Waterfowler's Hunt on December 17, 2011 and one more date to be determined.

[Important Reminder to Refuge Visitors...](#)

To protect wildlife and their habitat and to provide the best opportunities in wildlife observation and photography, it is important not to disturb, injure, or damage plants and animals of the refuge. In fact, it is a prohibited act as stated in 50 CFR27.51. This disturbance includes flushing birds and other wildlife or using electronic calls (taping) to lure birds closer for observation or photography. Please remember to take only memories and photographs and leave only footprints.

Bird Club News

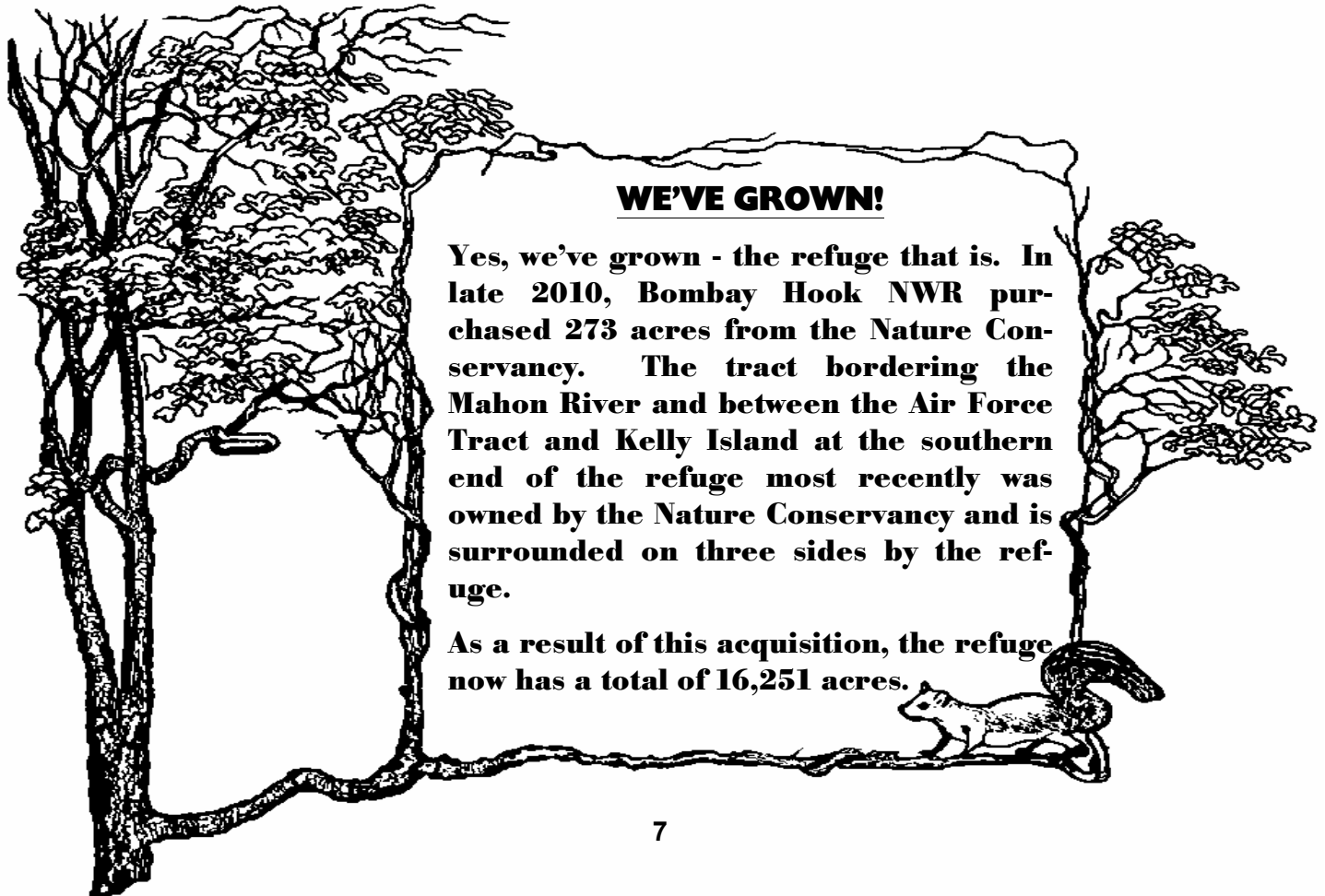
The Bird Club's field trips for this fall and next spring are posted on the Friends' website under "Activities and Attractions". The Club plans to go birding in New Castle County (including White Clay Creek), Sussex County (including Indian River Inlet), Kent County (including the Refuge's scheduled outings), Maryland and Virginia. In addition, Club members may announce last-minute bird walks that are not on the initial schedule.

There are no dues or fees for the Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Club as there are no programs to pay for. The Club is all about going birding! To join us, just let the Club know your email address (see below) to receive schedule details and last minute changes and additions.

The 2011 - 2012 plans include Lums Pond; Fresh Pond near Bethany Beach; the Christmas Bird Count at Bombay Hook; Indian River Inlet with Burton Island and Gordon's Pond; Conowingo Dam; Fowlers Beach; Ted Harvey Wildlife Area; Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge; Ponders Tract near Ellendale; Assateague Island; and our own Bombay Hook.

If you are brand new to birding, a veteran or somewhere in-between, please join us. We would love to have you with us.

To be added to the Club's email list, please email Hannah McLennan at maldenavenue@yahoo.com.



WE'VE GROWN!

Yes, we've grown - the refuge that is. In late 2010, Bombay Hook NWR purchased 273 acres from the Nature Conservancy. The tract bordering the Mahon River and between the Air Force Tract and Kelly Island at the southern end of the refuge most recently was owned by the Nature Conservancy and is surrounded on three sides by the refuge.

As a result of this acquisition, the refuge now has a total of 16,251 acres.

Birding in Delaware:
Evening Heron Survey in Delaware City

Since 2004, a Heron Survey has been conducted from the park area in Delaware City by Chris Bennett, Natural Resource Planner, for the State. The evening survey is conducted the last Wednesday of the month from February-August, each year. The count covers birds flying to the heronry at Fort Delaware State Park (island) and birds flying from the State Park toward Delaware City. The survey is conducted at a time when the birds leave their feeding areas and return to the heronry, approximately two hours before sunset to 30 minutes after sunset.

This past July, Chris and a group of volunteers, including several members of the Friend's Bird Club observed, identified and recorded 1748 Herons and Egrets. According to Chris, this was a record number of birds for the month of July and far surpasses any previous July total. The average July total is 894.

Species of Heron and Egret identified included: *Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, and Snowy Egret*. Other species observed include: several large flocks of *Semipalmated Sandpipers, Double Crested Cormorant, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Tree and Bank Swallow, Hummingbird* and several types of gulls.

Chris welcomes all volunteers who want to come out and assist in these surveys, regardless of the birder's level of expertise. Participating in these surveys provide volunteers with an opportunity to observe groups of heron and egret. The birds fly relatively slow and in many cases in large numbers. This type of repetitive observation allows birders to hone their identification skills.

The next count won't be until February 29, 2012 -- which seems like a long way off but will be here before you know it. If you think you might like to participate, you may want to put it on your calendar now so you don't forget.

Shorebird Identification Workshop
with Kevin Karlson

For the fourth year, the Friends of Bombay Hook sponsored Kevin Karlson, a professional wildlife photographer, photojournalist, and president of Jaeger Tours, a birding tour company, who conducted a day long shorebird identification workshop in August at Bombay Hook. He was joined by his wife and co-leader, Dale Rosselet. Dale is the vice president of education for the New Jersey Audubon Society.

Kevin shared an effective approach to shorebird identification that he has fine tuned over the past five years. His methodology is to use relative size, structure, behavior, and when possible, voice, as a reliable starting point for identification. These non-changeable field characteristics, when combined with the traditional features of feather patterns and plumage, provide a comprehensive picture or mental image of the bird being identified. This effective approach is outlined in the bestselling book that he co-authored, *The Shorebird Guide*.

The workshop consisted of two parts. First, a four hour outdoor field trip to the mudflats of Raymond Pool and Shearneck Pool to observe and identify the many shorebirds in both pools. Then after a lunch break, the group went to the Visitor Center for a two hour interactive lecture, complete with a power point presentation. There were 25 participants, including several from the Friends Bird Club.

Some of the shorebirds identified included: *Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, White-faced Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Avocet, Short-billed & Long-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, Lesser & Greater Yellowlegs, Great Blue Heron, Great White Egret, Snowy Egret, Willet*, and several species of Sandpiper including *Stilt Sandpiper*.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING FRIENDS???

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK is a cooperating association formed with the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is a private, non-profit corporation which was founded to promote conservation, environmental education, and better understanding of and appreciation for Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge.

Each year more than 3,000 students visit Bombay Hook. They use equipment to study habitats, watch videos about endangered species, and are taught from field guides - all provided by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

If you used an Auto Tour Brochure or the Bird or Mammal List, these too have been funded by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

Your Membership Dues will make it possible for Friends of Bombay Hook to continue its support of educational and recreational programs at Bombay Hook.

Proceeds from the Refuge Store in the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook also help support the Friends program and activities. Make this your place to buy field guides, books, T-shirts, Posters, and Souvenirs!

OUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 10% Discount on all items sold in the Refuge Store
- Subscription to the Friends Newsletter (published 4 times a year)
- Participation in special wildlife education programs and field trips
- Participation in the Birding Club
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting (held in June)
- Eligibility in the Dover Federal Credit Union (DFCU)
- Opportunity to meet others with similar interests in birds, other wildlife, wetlands, and the environment

And perhaps best of all, the chance to say, *"Thank you Bombay Hook, for all the great times I've had here!"*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Submit completed application at the Visitor Center
(payment by cash, check or credit card) or Mail (with check) to:

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

Or you can go to www.friendsofbombayhook.org/membership.html
and follow the instructions in applying or renewing your membership

Renewal New Member

Date: _____

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Newsletter Preference:

Print E-mail (require E-mail address)

Membership Plan (Check One)

	Annual
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18)*	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor***	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate**	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life***	\$200.00

*Junior membership: under age 18.

**Corporate sponsorship: includes link to FOBH website;
no voting privileges or store discount.

***Sponsor and Life memberships includes family.

Method of Payment

- Cash (payment at Visitor Center only)
 Check (payment by mail or at Visitor Center)
 Visa (payment at Visitor Center only)
 MasterCard (payment at Visitor Center only)



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Smyrna, DE 19977

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A REMINDER...

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available online @**

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friendsnews.html](http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/friendsnews.html)**

You can apply or renew memberships @

**[www.friendsofbombayhook.org/
membership.html](http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/membership.html)**