

# FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

*Newsletter*



Vol. 24, No. 1  
December 8, 2013

### ***Our Mission Statement:***

**The Friends of Bombay Hook is a not-for-profit corporation working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It supports and enhances educational and recreational programs at Bombay Hook, provides volunteer services and financial assistance and serves as a link between the refuge and the public.**

***The Visitor Center will close on the weekends beginning December 14, 2013 and will reopen March 1, 2014.***

***Due to the Federal Shutdown, the Fall Green Sale at the Refuge Store will run from November 15th thru Christmas.***

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Find us on Facebook!!



### ***The President's Corner*** *By Linda Osiecki*

When I was in elementary school, I remember getting out paper and a pencil to figure out how old I would be in the year 2000. It's hard to believe that 2014 is upon us.

New years are a time for new goals and ideas. Here are a few suggestions:

- + Keep track of your bird sightings at Bombay Hook for your own big year. Enter your sightings in the E-Bird Tracker so that others can know where the birds are. Bring a camera with you.
- + Consider how you can help out at the refuge by volunteering for a special event, at the Visitor Center, joining Garden Keepers, or for periodic maintenance and clean up.
- + Come to one of the refuge talks on wildlife, gardening with native plants, and other topics. Speakers have great information to share. Many have improved their home habitats for wildlife with ideas from gardening programs.
- + Encourage a friend to visit Bombay Hook. Getting a duck stamp will cover your friend's admission fee thru the end of June.

I hope that 2014 will be a great year for Bombay Hook and for each of you.

\*\*\*\*

# BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

*Summer Period June through August 2013*

Weather during the report period was in stark contrast to recent past years. Very dry conditions have prevailed during the past few years during the summer season, but heavy frequent rains made the months of June and July two of the wettest in recent memory. Over 20 inches of rainfall was recorded during those two months. Rainfall was much less during August and was slightly below normal with less than three inches recorded. Ground nesting birds such as Bobwhite and Turkey apparently coped with the wet conditions as several broods of these species were encountered.

The late summer southern shorebird migration was very evident within the impoundments and the tidal flats during July and August. A few of the local nesters, such as Black-necked Stilts, fledged young from their nests within the impoundments. Early waterfowl migrants were noted the end of August with the presence of Green- and Blue-winged Teal as well as a few Shovelers and Pintails. Wood Duck broods were quite evident in both Finis and Bear Swamp during this period.

Volunteer Joel Martin has maintained the refuge's Purple Martin colonies for many years and does an outstanding job. His annual report was submitted to the refuge staff summarizing the results of this year's Purple Martin nesting. This year's 92 Purple Martin pairs laid 493 eggs, 369 hatched, and 339 young birds were reported to have successfully fledged. Fledgling totals have been relatively stable during the last five years. Joel's efforts are a valuable contribution to Bombay Hook's efforts to support migratory bird populations.

## *Reported Sightings*

Following are a collection of selected bird observations reported from Bombay Hook NWR during the report period. Sources of information include bird observation sheets by refuge visitors, internet postings of refuge sightings such as *Birdline Delaware*, data collected by state and federal biologists, as well as personal observations and communications. I urge refuge visitors to post their observations on either the sheets or on the E-Bird Tracker in the Visitor Center. I have grouped the reported observations by week throughout the spring period. I have grouped the observations by land features (in bold type) when specific locations are included with the reports, such as pool name or field location.

**6/01-6/07 - Raymond Pool:** Seaside Sparrow, Red-necked Phalarope, White-rumped Sandpipers, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilt, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover; **Allee House:** Dickcissel; **Sheariness Pool:** Tri-colored Heron, Horned Grebe, Tundra Swan, Black Skimmer, Common Gallinule, Least Bittern, Coot, Pied-billed Grebe; **Bear Swamp:** Bobwhite; **Finis Pool:** Prothonotary Warbler.

**6/08-6/14 - Allee House:** Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrows; **Sheariness Pool:** Black Skimmers,

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](mailto:fobhmembership@idv.net)

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Caspian Tern; **Finis Pool:** Prothonotary Warbler; **Numerous Upland Areas:** Bobwhite; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Common Gallinules, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Semi-palmated Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilts (nesting), Tundra Swan, Ruddy Duck, Cliff Swallow.

**6/15-6/21** - **Allee House:** Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobwhite; **Bear Swamp:** Black-necked Stilt; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swan, Ruddy Duck; **Finis Pool:** Prothonotary Warbler, Barred Owl; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Common Gallinules, Black Skimmer, American Kestrel, Bald Eagles.

**6/22-6/28** - **Allee House:** Dickcissel; **Raymond Pool:** Seaside Sparrows, Reeve; **Sheariness Pool:** Ruddy Duck, Clapper Rail, Sora, Tundra Swan; **Bear Swamp:** Gallinule, Green Heron, Bobwhite.

**6/29-7/05** - **Allee House:** Dickcissel, Bobwhite, Grasshopper Sparrow; **Raymond Pool:** Bald Eagle; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swan; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Gallinule; **Finis Pool:** Prothonotary Warbler, Bobolink; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** American Avocets, Black-necked Stilt, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Ducks.



Dickcissel

**7/06-7/13** - **Allee House:** Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, Bobwhite; **Raymond Pool:** Stilt Sandpipers, Western Sandpiper, American Avocets, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal; **Sheariness Pool:** Least Bittern, Tundra Swan; **Bear Swamp:** Yellow-crowned Night Heron; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Pectoral Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Willet, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers.

**7/14-7/19** - **Allee House:** Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobwhite; **Raymond Pool:** Wilson's Phalarope, Bald Eagle, Stilt Sandpipers, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Semi-palmated Plover, Western Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Long-billed Dowitchers; **Sheariness Pool:** Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, Green Heron; **Bear Swamp:** Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Skimmer, Solitary Sandpipers, Common Gallinules, Cliff Swallow; **Whitehall Neck Road:** Pectoral Sandpiper.

**7/20-7/26** - **Allee House:** Dickcissel; **Raymond Pool:** American Avocets (200+), Stilt Sandpipers, Long and Short-billed Dowitchers, Western Sandpipers; **Sheariness Pool:** Least Bittern, Tundra Swan; **Bear Swamp:** Pectoral Sandpipers; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** White-rumped Sandpipers, American Bittern, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Bobolink.



Reeve

**7/27-8/02** - **Raymond Pool:** American Avocets (300), Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Stilt Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Bald Eagle, Osprey; **Sheariness Pool:** American Bittern, Tundra Swan, Ruddy Duck; **Bear Swamp:** Pectoral Sandpipers, Least Bitterns, Black- and Yellow-crowned Night Herons; **Refuge Entrance Road:** Bobolink; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Bank Swallows, Wild Turkey, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager.

**8/03-8/09** - **Allee House:** Grasshopper Sparrow; **Raymond Pool:** Wilson Phalarope, Marbled

(Continued on next page)

Godwit, American Avocets (386), Stilt Sandpipers (289), Black-bellied Plovers, Semi-palmated Plovers, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers; **Bear Swamp:** Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Gull-billed Tern; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Tundra Swan, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bitterns, American Bittern, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron.

**8/10-8/16 - Raymond Pool:** Stilt Sandpipers, American Avocets (300+), Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Glossy Ibis; **Shearneck Pool:** Tundra Swan, Ruddy Ducks, Least Bitterns, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Pied-billed Grebe; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Blue Vireo, Canada Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

**8/17-8/24 - Raymond Pool:** Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, American Avocets (400-900), Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt, Pectoral Sandpiper; **Shearneck Pool:** Caspian Tern; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Cooper's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Tundra and Mute Swans, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Ducks.

**8/25-8/31 - Raymond Pool:** American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plovers, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpipers; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Little Blue Herons, Glossy Ibis, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Osprey, Bobolink.

\*\*\*\*

**The Friends' Bird Club is open to all adults and teenagers. No dues or fees ---we just go birding! Everyone is welcome, from first-time beginners to veteran birders. Some people attend regularly; others can only attend once or twice a year. Please join us!**

**This fall, the Bird Club's schedule featured our first visits to Wye Island, the Sharp Farm near Odessa, Ted Harvey Wildlife Area, Little Creek Wildlife Area and a private tour at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.**

**The 2014 schedule includes the Indian River Inlet and nearby areas; Chincoteague; Ponders Tract - Redden Forest; Pocomoke River State Park; Bombay Hook; nighttime views of birds and other wildlife; and a summer trip to see baby Rails. For dates, please check the Friends of Bombay Hook website under "Things to Do".**



**Final details for each outing (directions, times and any last minute changes) are emailed to all who have signed up for information. (The email list is used only for the bird club.) To be added to the list, please email Hannah McLennan at [hmcclennan@comcast.net](mailto:hmcclennan@comcast.net)**

**Dress for the weather and wet paths. Bring your binoculars, water, and snacks. A birding field guide is very helpful. We hope to see you.**

# Refuge Store Report

## Fall Green Sale

*To celebrate ecology and saving money.*

The Refuge Store has just completed its best year ever. The months we had sales were the two highest income months in our history. So count on those sales being repeated. Since the government shutdown cut into time for the store to be open, along with the refuge closure, our November sale will be stretched out to start the middle of the month. The **Fall Green Sale will run from November 15th through Christmas**. We will have 25% off of practically everything in the store, except Marcia's regular ornaments and a few other new items. Members will also receive their usual 10% discount on top of that. Remember that the store is only open weekdays again starting the 14th of December. So, come shop early for your holiday gifting, especially if you need to shop on weekends.

Marcia Poling has created a beautiful ornament for this year available exclusively at the Refuge Store. We are intending to start a tradition of yearly ornaments from Marcia. The 2013 ornament is a Belted Kingfisher. We are also expanding Marcia's ornament line from only bird ornaments to other wildlife. Since one of the major priorities in the store is to only carry items which relate to things which may actually be found on the refuge, the additional ornaments will be of wildlife found at Bombay Hook.

Additional items added this season are:

- ✦ An additional variety of Christmas ornaments.
- ✦ Lens cleaning cloths.
- ✦ The cutest Santa ornament...he is a bird!
- ✦ Leaf decals for windows that only birds can see to protect them from crashes.
- ✦ Cardinal Coaster sets.
- ✦ Christmas thistle stockings.
- ✦ Advice from a Cardinal and others on Long Sleeve Tees (also on mugs).
- ✦ Bird-friendly coffees.
- ✦ Pajarro field bags.
- ✦ Autographed copies of Kevin Fleming's new book *The Beach*.



# Art Inspired by



**Tony Burton, Watercolor**



**Harold Van Dyck**



**Bob Culver, Bird Carvings**

**Thanks to the artists that p**



**Melanie Hummer, Photography**

# Nature Exhibit



Bird Carvings



Jack Cammarote, Bird Carvings

participated in the exhibit!



Ramona Maziarz, Pen and Ink



Brad Barrie, Photography



## ***National Family Volunteer Day***

November 23, 2013 was Family Volunteer Day. This day of service demonstrates and celebrates the power of families who volunteer together, supporting their neighborhoods, and communities. For 22 years, Family Volunteer Day has been held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to “kick-off” the holiday season with giving and service.



*Families volunteering and making a difference*

Family volunteering encourages the members of a family to volunteer as a unit. It can be done by the whole family together, by one parent and one child or teen, or with extended family. However families choose to volunteer, families engaged in service can help mobilize thousands of new volunteers and instill in the next generation a lifelong commitment to volunteering.



*Quentin Schlieder,  
Garden Keepers' Coordinator*

Quentin Schlieder, volunteer for the Garden Keepers at Bombay Hook, coordinated landscaping projects for the 14 people that showed up to give a helping hand. Thanks to the many people that volunteered on that day and throughout the year.





# Bombay Hook NWR



2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977  
(302) 653-6872  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay\\_Hook/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/)

## *2013-2014 Calendar of Events*

Bombay Hook Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. year round. **The Visitor Center will be closed on WEEKENDS from December 14, 2013 until March 1, 2014.** The Allee House is in need of repairs and is closed until further notice. Check the website for additions or changes. For more information about programs contact Tina Watson @ (302) 653-6872

Sunday, December 8, 2013 - *Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Trip* Eastern Neck National Wildlife Area. For details contact: [hmclennan@comcast.net](mailto:hmclennan@comcast.net).

Sunday, December 15, 2013

- *Christmas Bird Count* Contact Andy Ednie for details, email: [ednieap@verizon.net](mailto:ednieap@verizon.net) or (302) 792-9591 (VOICE).
- *Bird Identification Station (12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.)* 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 and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Check in at the Visitor Center for the exact location.

Wednesday, January 1, 2014 - *Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Trip (10:00 a.m.)* Indian River Inlet, Lewes, DE. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Wawa, Rt. 1, Lewes, DE. For

*(Continued on next page)*

## *Bombay Hook NWR 2013 Calendar of Events*

*(Continued from previous page)*

details contact: [hmclennan@comcast.net](mailto:hmclennan@comcast.net).

**Saturday, February 15, 2014 - *Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Trip* (All Day Trip)**  
Chincoteague, Eastern Shore of VA and nearby areas. For details contact:  
[hmclennan@comcast.net](mailto:hmclennan@comcast.net).

**Saturday, March 1, 2014 - *Volunteer Orientation* (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)** A meeting about volunteer opportunities will be held in the auditorium. The meeting will cover volunteer opportunities and upcoming activities, with the latter part of the session being a tour of the Refuge. Individuals are needed to staff the Visitor Center and operate the Refuge Store on weekends and weekdays from September through November. Volunteers are also needed to provide environmental education programs for school groups, conduct refuge tours, provide trail and landscaping maintenance, and help with highway clean-ups. Volunteers may be called upon for special wildlife projects throughout the year. Training is provided.

### **Refuge Closure dates 2013-2014 Hunting Season**

- The back section (Bear Swamp and Finis areas) of the Refuge closed:
  - \* December 14, 2013 **until 1:00 pm** for Young Waterfowler's program .
  - \* December 16 and 19, 2013 **all day** for shotgun.
  - \* January 6, 2014 **all day** for Wheelin' Sportsman.
  - \* January 24, 2013 **all day** for shotgun.
  
- The front section (Raymond and Sheariness Pool) of the Refuge closed:
  - \* December 18, 2013 **all day** for shotgun.

### **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.

## **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](http://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)



2591 Whitehall Neck Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 408  
Wilmington, DE 198

---

**Beginning in 2014, the Friends of Bombay Hook (FOBH) newsletter will be issued on the following dates:**

**March 1, May 1, September 1 and November 1.**

**Articles for the newsletter will be due on or before the following dates:**

**February 7, April 7, August 7 and October 7.**