

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter



Vol. 25, No. 1
November 1, 2014

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.

Check out Fall events at the Refuge -- see "2014 Calendar of Events" on Pages 5 & 6.

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Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-8322

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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The President's Corner *By Linda Osiecki*

The colors of fall – a brilliant palette of rusts, yellows and browns – are part of nature's transition in the changing seasons. After

last year's snowy weather, many of us are wondering what this winter will bring.

Just as the flora and fauna of the Refuge reacts to changes, we too need to be willing to face the opportunities that changes bring.

Due to the new Friends policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge Store is changing and how people volunteer in the Visitor Center. It has been hard for people to face these changes and figure out how to deal with things, especially with the Store, but Karen and Mark Dever have worked hard along with help from others to reconfigure the Store. More changes will come in the future to make the business side of the store more efficient. All of this hard work will pay off as the Store continues to be an educational outreach to people with the products that are made available while continuing to be a source of funds for Friends.

Many faithfully volunteer to work on the Refuge programs, Visitor Center, trails, nests, etc. We will be trying to work with Refuge staff on what volunteer needs there are in Refuge operations, while also exploring new possibilities. There will be more opportunities to reach out to people in 2015, including with the release of the 29th America the Beautiful Quarter which will feature Bombay Hook for the state of Delaware (<http://usquarters.org/>). All of us need to have a willingness to try new things and to improve what we are already doing. We also need to be willing to dream about what could be accomplished.

Please start thinking of what active part you can have in volunteering for Bombay Hook. If you are interested in more training in environmental topics (such as native plants, birds, reptiles, and amphibians) to expand your knowledge and better equip you to answer people's questions, please send me an email at lstitch@hotmail.com.

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

SUMMER - July through August 2014

The report period was characterized by relatively cool temperatures with precipitation well-distributed for the entire two months. Growing conditions were excellent as there was virtually no prolonged dry spells. Water conditions within the three largest impoundments were very favorable for the hordes of shorebirds who stopped by on their southbound journey. Emergent wetland plants such as millet, panic grass, and nutsedge produce an abundance of food for arriving waterfowl during the upcoming months.

With large concentrations of shorebirds present in the impoundments, particularly Raymond, visitors were treated to an abundance of Peregrine Falcon sightings which were taking full advantage of the shorebirds during their hunting forays.

The uplands areas at Bombay Hook continue to serve as one of the best areas in the state where visitors can commonly see and hear Bobwhite Quail, which were formerly common throughout the state and whose populations have plummeted. Reasons for their decline are open to speculation, but loss of suitable habitat, impacts of pesticides, and disease are all factors considered as culprits. They continue to thrive at Bombay Hook to our delight.

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. Reported observations are grouped by date throughout the report period and by land features (in bold type) when specific locations are included with the reports, such as pool name or geographic locations.

7/01-7/04 - Shearneck Pool: Tundra Swan, Wood Ducks, White Ibis (immature), Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer; **Bear Swamp:** Wood Ducks, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron; **Finis Pool:** Wood Duck, Green Heron; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Bobwhite, Grasshopper Sparrows.

7/05-7/11 - Raymond Pool: Black-necked Stilt, Glossy Ibis, Black-crowned Night Heron; **Shearneck Pool:** Tundra Swan, Pectoral Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper; **Bear Swamp:** Spotted Sandpiper, Black-crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck (hen with brood of 6), Pectoral Sandpiper; **Finis Pool:** Black-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron; **Entrance Road:** Bobwhites; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Solitary Sandpiper, American Avocets, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Least Bittern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Turkey.

7/12-7/18 - Raymond Pool: Semi-palmated Plover, American Avocets; **Shearneck Pool:** Tundra Swan, Cattle Egret, Bald Eagles (10), Mute Swans (8), Black-necked Stilts, Stilt

Friends of
BOMBAY
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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) 653-8322
Fax: (302) 653-0684

email: fohmembership@idv.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Clapper Rails (w/young); **Visitor Center:** Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobwhite, Blue Grosbeak.

7/26-8/01 - Raymond Pool: Hudsonian Godwits (3), American Avocets (350), Upland Sandpiper, "Peeps" (thousands), White-rumped, Pectoral, and Western Sandpipers, Ring-necked Pheasant; **Sheariness Pool:** Stilt Sandpipers (45), Solitary Sandpiper, American Avocets, Glossy Ibis, Long-billed Dowitchers, Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, Black-necked Stilts; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers (thousands), Caspian Tern, Bonaparte's Gull, Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets.

8/02-8/08 - Raymond Pool: Black-crowned Night Heron, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Stilt Sandpiper, Little Blue Heron, Peregrine Falcon; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swans (2), Lesser Scaup, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Ruddy Duck; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Black - and Yellow-crowned Night Herons; **Near Allee House:** Sedge Wrens; **Salt Marsh:** American Avocets, Clapper Rail; **Visitor Center:** Dickcissel; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** American Avocets (500+), Black-bellied Plovers (75), Semi-palmated Plovers (500), Stilt Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilts, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Terns.

8/09-8/15 - Raymond Pool: Stilt Sandpiper, Western Sandpipers, Avocets (600+), Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, Glossy Ibis, Snowy Egret, Great Egret; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, White Ibis, Ruddy Duck, Tri-colored Heron, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets; **Bear Swamp:** Cattle Egret; **Near Allee House:** Sedge Wrens, Bobolinks, Little Blue Heron; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Semi-palmated Plovers (675), Black-bellied Plovers (50), Yellow Rail, White-rumped Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows.



Bank Swallow



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

8/16-8/22 - Raymond Pool: Little Blue Heron, White Ibis (immature), Black Tern, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern; **Sheariness Pool:** Avocet, American Bittern, White-rumped Sandpiper; **Bear Swamp:** Wilson's Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher; **Finis Pool:** Bobwhite, Green Heron, Olive-sided Flycatcher; **Near Allee House:** Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Black-bellied Plover, Spotted and Stilt Sandpipers.

8/23-8/31 - Raymond Pool: Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, Buff-Breasted Sandpipers, American Golden Plover; **Sheariness Pool:** Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Pintail, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Ducks, Marbled Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Peregrine Falcon, American Avocets, Yellowlegs, Wood Ducks, Sora, Stilt Sandpiper, Tundra Swan; **Bear Swamp:** Bobwhite, Least Bittern; **Finis Pool:** Barred Owls; **Near Allee**

House: Sedge Wren, Bobolinks; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Western Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe, Little Blue Heron, Blue Grosbeaks, Glossy Ibis, Bank Swallows.

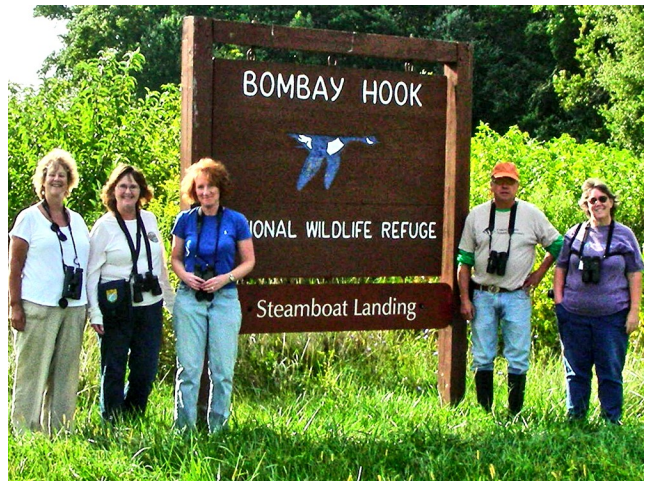


Friends Birding Field Trips

Interested in birds? Please plan to attend some of the Friends Bird Club's birding trips. Each month through May features at least one special field trip. Early November finds the group seeking various sparrow species, then back to Bombay Hook at the end of the month. On December 6, we will enjoy a private tour of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. This is a welcome repeat of last year's delightful day at Blackwater.

The new year will begin again with our New Year's Day outing at the Indian River Inlet, the nearby marina area and Silver Lake in Rehoboth Beach. If you only attend one outing a year, think about this one. It is lots of fun, a great way to start the year (and we also stop for lunch).

Another private tour is planned in February when we are invited to Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. This was one of our most popular trips last year and we are delighted to be invited again by one of their expert birding guides.



The spring migration brings more trips at Bombay Hook, White Clay Creek and others. Please join us!

Dates, times, meeting places and any last minute changes due to weather or other factors are emailed to the a special Bird Club list. To be added to this list and receive the details, please contact Hannah McLennan at hmclennan@comcast.net.

You do not have to be a member of the Friends to attend these outings. And there are no fees. 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!



2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-9345
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/

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 and on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The Wildlife Drive is open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.** *The Allee House is in need of repairs and is closed until further notice.* For more information about programs contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or check the website above for additions or changes.

Saturday, November 8, 2014

- ***Exploring the Bluebird Box Trail (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)*** The program will cover the plight of the Eastern Bluebird and how conservation activities can benefit the species. The group will walk a 1-1/2 mile section of the Refuge, exploring the Bluebird nest boxes and the different kinds of wildlife that use them. The program is a hands-on experience for both youth and adults. Bring a bag lunch and picnic at the Visitor Center pavilion after the program. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**
- ***Sunset Tour of the Refuge (3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)*** The tour will begin early enough to make a couple stops along the way. The group will walk a trail, discuss wildlife management practices, bird watch, and will end with the sunset over Shearneck Pool. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 9, 2014

- ***Birding Tour with Joel Citron (9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)*** Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail to identify song birds and stopping along the impoundments and salt marsh to identify ducks, geese, and raptors. Meet Joel at the Visitor Center.
- ***Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Trip*** Sparrow birding trip in central Delaware. For details contact: hmclennan@comcast.net.

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 - **FREE ENTRANCE FEE (½ hour before SUNRISE TO ½ hour after SUNSET)** The Refuge's \$4.00 entrance fee will be waived to honor Veterans. It's a great opportunity spend the day exploring or relaxing in nature. Bombay Hook is open from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset and invites individuals and families to tour the 12-mile wildlife drive and to walk 5 short walking trails. The Refuge provides a variety of habitats for wildlife. Early November is a great time to observe the fall foliage colors, migrating waterfowl, and raptors.

Saturday, November 15, 2014 - **Fall Family Exploration Series (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)** For ages 7-10 years old. Families will explore the Refuge and learn more about the habitats of Bombay Hook and the animals that live there. The group will walk trails, dip net in wetlands, use binoculars, learn about wildlife, and have FUN! **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**

(Continued on next page)

Bombay Hook NWR 2014 Calendar of Events (Continued from previous page)

Saturday, November 22, 2014

- **National Family Volunteer Day (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)** National Family Volunteer Day is a great opportunity for families and individuals to spend time making significant contributions to the Refuge while learning about natural gardens and landscaping techniques. Individuals will work in the landscape garden at the Visitor Center. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Bike Ride on the Refuge (12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m.)** Join Tina Watson for an eight-mile bike ride on the Refuge. The group will make several stops for bird identification and to discuss wildlife management techniques. Bicycle should have hybrid tires. Don't forget your helmet and check the air in your tires! Meet at the Visitor Center. **IMPORTANT:** Delaware State Law states, "a person under sixteen years of age shall not operate, ride upon, or ride as a passenger any bicycle, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets or exceeds the ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard."

Sunday, November 30, 2014 **Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Trip** Birding trip at Bombay Hook. For details contact: hmclennan@comcast.net.

Saturday, December 6, 2014 **Bombay Hook Friends' Bird Trip** Birding trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Cambridge, MD. For details contact: hmclennan@comcast.net.

**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
REFUGE CLOSED - Dates for 2014/2015 Hunting Season**

**Back Section of the Refuge Closed
Wildlife Drive closed from north end of Sheariness to Finis and Allee House.**

October 13, 15 & 17, 2014 - all day for Muzzleloader
November 14, 15 & 19, 2014 - all day for Shotgun
December 15 & 18, 2014 - all day for Shotgun
January 23, 2015 - all day for Shotgun

**Front Section of the Refuge Closed
Wildlife Drive closed from Visitor Center to Sheariness Parking Lot.
Enter the back part of the Refuge from Dutch Neck Road on Rt. 9 North.**

November 17 & 21, 2014 - all day for Shotgun
December 17, 2014 - all day for Shotgun

Back Section of the Refuge Closed for Youth Waterfowl Hunts

December 13 & 20, 2014 - until 1:00 p.m. for Youth Waterfowl Hunt

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
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

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A REMINDER.....

**The next release of the Friends of Bombay Hook
Newsletter is March 1, 2015.**

ALSO.....

**Check the website at
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/
for updates on Refuge events.**