



2009 Slate of Officers Announced

The following is the proposed slate of SNHS Officers for next year:

President: Brady Beck*
Vice President: Michael McCloy
Secretary: Kerry Brust
Treasurer: Carol Bowman
Member-at-large: Alicia Jackson**

* For re-election

**For election (replacing Terry Sharpe)

As dictated by our by-laws, we will vote on this slate at our November meeting, which is the last regular meeting of the year.

Local Christmas Bird Count is not far off!

Sunday, December 21 will be the 35th annual Southern Pines Christmas Bird Count. Teams will cover the count circle for a day of avian censusing. A lunchtime gathering and preliminary count down will be held at Weymouth Woods at 1 p.m. As always, we need volunteers. No experience is necessary—just comfy shoes and a pair of binoculars. If you would like to volunteer or receive more information about the day's activities, please contact Susan Campbell at 949-3207 or susan@ncaves.com.

2008/2009 Meetings

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday, November 24 | War Of the Weeds – Invasive and exotic weeds. Join Dr. Randy, Invasive Species Prevention Specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey, for a look at some common invasive plants and why we should be concerned about them. |
| Monday, January 26 | Ft. Bragg Water Quality Folks – More information at a later date. |
| Monday, February 23 | A Ranger in the Land Down Under. Join Ranger Kim Hyre for a look at this amazing continent through the eyes of a ranger. |

Meeting Times: 7:00 p.m. - Fellowship and Socializing. 7:30 p.m. - Meeting and Program
 Program Location: Weymouth Woods Visitors' Center Auditorium.
 Phone 910-692-2167 for directions.

*** We normally meet on the 4th Monday of each month. ***

Upcoming Field Trips

IMPORTANT: *Call the field trip leader to register for a trip. Please call at least one day before the trip to ensure that the trip is still on schedule.*

- November 8** 5 a.m. **Huntington Beach State Park, SC.** You can never go wrong on a trip to Huntington Beach. It's one of the best birding spots in South Carolina. This is an all-day trip, and there is a \$5.00 admission fee to the Park. We will bird the jetty, so plan on a two-mile walk on the beach, round trip. If time permits we will bird the Oyster Shell Recycling beds and other nearby hot spots. Bring lunch, water and bug spray. We will meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot and will leave promptly at 5 a.m. Trip leader: Patrick Shaffner – 910-692-4981.
- November 29** 6:30 p.m. **Owl Prowl.** Meet at the Town and Country Shopping Center, behind Mt. Fuji. We will visit several sites to call up screech, barred and great horned owls. We will spend some time trying for saw whet owls too. Dress for the weather. Trip leader: Scott Hartley - 910.638.5225 or 910.692.2167.
- December 13** 7:00 a.m. **Woodlake.** This is our annual scouting trip for the Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Weymouth Woods for this half day trip. We hope to see a variety of ducks, raptors and land birds. Trip leader: Scott Hartley - 910.638.5225 or 910.692.2167.
- January 31** 5 a.m. **Birds & Bears at Pungo.** Once again we will make the long trip to the Pungo Lake to see the huge flocks of snow geese, tundra swans and other waterfowl. We will likely see many bald eagles and other raptors. Bear sign will be plentiful, and we hope to see one or more this year. Red wolves, fox and bobcat are possible. Meet at Wal-Mart. The drive one way is 3.5 hours. Bring food, water, and everything you need for your personal comfort. We will leave promptly at 5 a.m. Trip leader: Scott Hartley - 910.638.5225 or 910.692.2167.

Trip Leaders Needed

I receive a lot of trip ideas from members and what I need is members to lead these trips. You don't have to be an expert to lead a trip. You just need to be the willing to schedule, meet and do the logistics. I know many of you are much better at this than me! So please consider leading one of the following trips:

Jordan Lake

Falls Lake – Triangle Lakes for waterfowl.

Eno River State Park – Wildflower in spring, birding spring, hiking, anytime.

Uhwarrie National Forest

River Bend Park – Catawba County
Joyce Kilmer National Forest – I'll try to do this one in the spring.
Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center
Canoe/Kayak – Black River/Lumber River etc
Bay Lakes
Bog Turtle Search

If you have other field trip ideas or would be willing to lead one of these trips, please contact me at 910-692-2167 or 910-944-9337. Scott Hartley

Trip Reports

Digital Photography Workshop 16 August

Six people attended a morning photography workshop at Weymouth woods. We discussed in generalities the principles of exposure, composition, light, and photography equipment. Lots of good discussion was generated by the group. We plan on having more of these workshops with the next one being completely in the field. (Brady Beck)



Swift Night Out September 9

About 25 people gathered at Southern Pines Elementary to watch and estimate swift numbers roosting in the middle of the three chimneys at the school. The birds slowly gathered and the numbers grew to an impressive mini

hurricane like swirl which flew as a group in circles around the chimney. A cooper's hawk flew in towards us and the swifts, as a group, dove down at the Cooper's which landed in a nearby pine. The birds resumed their circling and by 8:05 p.m. started to enter the chimney. One bird evidently flew into a low power line and fell to the ground – apparently injured or stunned and could not fly. We captured it and made a call to a local rehabilitator who instructed us to hold in a box in a warm dark quiet place overnight and she would be able to take it in the next morning. Brady produced a small bug box to hold the swift. Scott agreed to keep it over night and take it to the rehabilitator the next day. Everyone got a great look at this bird, and we were all impressed with the long narrow wings and stiff tipped tail feathers. Meanwhile, the number of swifts had increased, and they were dropping into the chimney so quickly that, as usual, it defied our ability to count them. We estimated between 700 and 1,000. The next morning when Scott checked on the injured swift, it seemed much stronger and active. Scott took it to the school chimney and released it to see if it could fly on its own, and it flew away strongly and – well – swiftly. (Swift photo by Kim Hyre)



Ridge Junction & Mount Mitchell

September 13

Carol Bowman and I drove up to Ridge Junction on Friday, September 12. On the way we stopped at Riverbend Park in Catawba County, NC where we saw the following: Northern Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, American Crow, House Finch, Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Dark-eyed Junco, Killdeer,

Eastern Kingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Chipping Sparrow, House Sparrow, European Starling, Chimney Swift, Eastern Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Pileated Woodpecker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. This was my first visit to Riverbend Park. It is a 450-acre passive recreation park partially located on the Catawba River with 3.2 miles of streams and creeks located throughout the property, as well as a freshwater wetland and a ¾-acre pond. If you've never been there, it is well worth a trip.

From there Carol and I drove to Ridge Junction, hoping to get in some late afternoon birding. We were totally fogged in—could hardly see to drive! We did manage to find our hotel—The Switzerland Inn—where we joined three other SNHS members. Saturday morning we arrived at Ridge Junction about 7:30 a.m. and the birding was wonderful. Birds were coming up the valley and over our heads—sometimes too quickly or in too many locations at once to be able to ID them. We sure were glad when Scott Hartley arrived!!! There were seven of us in all—this was the weekend of the great gas shortage and some folks stayed home.

Here's our list from both Ridge Junction and Mount Mitchell: Gray Catbird, American Crow, Mourning Dove, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Dark-eyed Junco, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Common Nighthawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Wood-Pewee, American Redstart, Song Sparrow, Chimney Swift, Scarlet Tanager, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Wild Turkey, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Turkey Vulture, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Hairy woodpecker, Common Yellowthroat, and numerous other unidentified migrants. We kept trying to find a bird which was noisy but elusive—well, until Scott informed us it was a red squirrel. We were all delighted to hear a pack of coyotes working their way up the valley. Scott called out a couple of times in "coyote" and they answered him each time. They were quiet for a while, and the next time they called out, they seemed to be closer to us. Scott didn't answer them that time!

Carol and I again stayed overnight at the Inn and, despite the gas shortage, decided to bird Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC. On the way we saw about 20 Wild Turkeys in the middle of the road. Here's what we saw in Jackson Park: Carolina Chickadee, Gray Catbird, Mourning Dove, House Finch, Northern Flicker, Alder Flycatcher, American Goldfinch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood-Pewee, American Redstart, American Robin, Scarlet Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Towhee, Veery, Turkey Vulture, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Carolina Wren. (Linda Jones) (Photo by Carol Bowman)

SANDHILLS GAME LAND 11 OCTOBER 2008

Thirteen participants joined me for a day of fall botany in the western portion of the Sandhills Game Land. We concentrated on upland flats and slight depressions—areas which support high species diversity due to their loamy sand soil. We had a major highlight before even getting to US 1: a bobcat crossed Bethesda Road near the junction with Saunders Road!

Birds were scarce—just a couple of Kestrels, Mourning Doves, and a Red-tailed Hawk.

Asters and grasses were the day's stars, with autumn gentian, golden-asters, spotted bee balm, chaffhead, and goldenrods close behind. Not everything we saw was in bloom, but there was enough left to see their characteristic features.

* = alien species

Aster family

Ageratina aromatica - Aromatic Thoroughwort
Aster concolor - Eastern Silvery Aster
Aster dumosus - Ricebutton Aster
Aster grandiflorus - Scabrous or Rough Aster
Aster paludosus - Southern Swamp Aster
Aster patens - Skydrop Aster
Aster walteri - Walter's Aster
Carphephorus bellidifolius - Sandhill Chaffhead
Chrysopsis gossypina - Gossamer Goldenaster
Chrysopsis mariana - Maryland goldenaster
Cirsium repandum - Sandhill Thistle
Coreopsis linifolia - Savanna Tickseed
Eupatorium album - White Thoroughwort
Eupatorium compositifolium - Broad Dogfennel
Eupatorium dubium - Rough Joe-Pye-weed
Eupatorium glaucescens - Wedgeleaf Thoroughwort
Eupatorium linearifolium - Tapered Thoroughwort
Eupatorium rotundifolium - Roundleaf Thoroughwort
Euthamia tenuifolia (= *Solidago microcephala*) - Slender Flattop Goldenrod
Helianthus angustifolius - Narrowleaf Sunflower
Helianthus atrorubens - Purpledisk Sunflower
**Heterotheca latifolia* (= *H. subaxillaris* in part) - Roadside Camphorweed
Hieracium marianum - Maryland Hawkweed
Ionactis (*Aster*) *linariifolius* - Stiff or Spruce aster
Liatris cokeri - Coker's Blazing-star
Liatris squarrosa - Sharp-bracted Blazing-star
Pityopsis aspera - Sticky Goldenaster
Sericocarpus tortifolius (*Aster tortifolius*) - Twistleaf White-topped Aster
Silphium compositum - Rosinweed
Solidago gracillima - Graceful Goldenrod
Solidago odora - Fragrant Goldenrod
Solidago rugosa var. *celtidifolia* - Hackberry-leaved Goldenrod
Vernonia angustifolia - Narrowleaf Ironweed

Grass family

Andropogon gerardii - Big Bluestem
Andropogon glomeratus var. *glomeratus* - Broomsedge, Clustered Bluestem
Andropogon gyrans var. *gyrans* - Sheathed Bluestem
Andropogon ternarius - Silvery or Splitbeard bluestem
Andropogon virginicus - Oldfield Bluestem, Oldfield Broomsedge
Anthraenantia villosa - Green Silkyscale
Aristida lanosa - Woolly Three-awn
Aristida purpurascens - Indian Feather
Aristida stricta - Wiregrass
Aristida tuberculosa - Dune or Sandhill Three-awn
Arundinaria gigantea ssp. *tecta* - Switchcane
Calamovilfa brevipilis - Pinebarren Sandreed
Cenchrus longispinus - Field sandbur, Sandspur
Ctenium aromaticum - Toothache Grass
Dichanthelium (*Panicum*) *strigosum* var. *leucoblepharis* - Savanna Witchgrass
Digitaria (*Leptoloma*) *cognata* - Fall Witchgrass

Eragrostis hirsuta - Tumbleweed Lovegrass
Gymnopogon brevifolius - Littleleaf Skeletongrass
**Microstegium vimineum* (= *Eulalia* v.) - Asian Browntop
Muhlenbergia capillaris - Red or Upland Muhly, Hairgrass
**Panicum amarum* var. *amarulum* - Southern Seabeach Grass
Paspalum bifidum - Glaucous or Pitchfork Crowngrass
Paspalum praecox - Handsome Crowngrass
Schizachyrium (*Andropogon*) *scoparium* - Little Bluestem
Sorghastrum elliottii - Nodding Indiangrass
Sorghastrum nutans - Yellow Indiangrass
Sporobolus clandestinus - Hidden Dropseed
Sporobolus junceus - Sandhill Dropseed

Others

Acalypha rhomboidea - Rhombic Threeseed Mercury
Agalinis (*Gerardia*) *setacea* - Threadleaf Gerardia
Amsonia ciliata - Fringed Bluestar
Aronia arbutifolia - Red Chokeberry
Ceanothus americanus - New Jersey Tea
Clethra alnifolia var. *alnifolia* - Sweet Pepperbush
Cyperus plukenetii - Plukenet's Flatsedge
Desmodium ciliare - Littleleaf Tick-trefoil
Desmodium glabellum - Ovate Tick-trefoil (velcro)
Desmodium laevigatum - Smooth Tick-trefoil
Desmodium lineatum - Trailing Tick-trefoil
Desmodium nuttallii - Nuttall's Tick-trefoil (velcro)
Euphorbia ipecacuanhae - Carolina Ipecac
Froelichia floridana - Florida Cottonweed
Gentiana autumnalis - Autumn Gentian
Hypericum crux-andreae - St. Peter's Cross
Hypericum hypericoides - St. Andrew's Cross
Ilex glabra - Gallberry, Inkberry
Juncus trigonocarpus - Redpod Rush
Kalmia cuneata - White Wicky
Lachnocaulon anceps - Savanna Bogbutton
Lespedeza capitata - Silvery Bush-clover
Lespedeza hirta - Roundleaf bush-clover
Lespedeza repens - Creeping Bush-clover
Lycopodiella alopecuroides - Foxtail Clubmoss
Lyonia lucida - Fetterbush
Monarda punctata - Spotted Beebalm
Onosmodium virginianum - Virginia Marbleseed
Oxypolis ternata - Savanna Cowbane
**Polygonum longisetum* - Longbristle Smartweed
Rhexia alifanus - Savanna Meadow-beauty
Rhexia mariana var. *exalbida* - White Meadow-beauty
Rhus copallinum - Winged Sumac
Rhus michauxii - Michaux's Sumac
Rhynchosia reniformis - Dollarleaf, Kidneyleaf Snoutbean
Rhynchosia tomentosa - Erect Snoutbean
Sarracenia purpurea - Purple Pitcher-plant
Sarracenia rubra - Red or Sweet Pitcher-plant
Seymeria cassioides - Black Senna, Senna Seymeria

Smilax glauca - Sawbrier
Smilax laurifolia - Blaspheme-vine, Bamboo-vine
Stylosanthes biflora - Pencilflower
Tephrosia virginiana - Goat's-rue
Tofieldia racemosa - Savanna Asphodel
Toxicodendron pubescens – Poison Oak
(Bruce Sorrie)



A Toast To The Old Growth

“Here’s to the land of the longleaf pine
The summer land where the sun doth shine
Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great
Here’s to down home the old north state”

On October 4 we celebrated the 460th birthday of the oldest known longleaf in the world! We had over a 150 folks throughout the day for hikes and talks, and 60 or so for the two hikes to see the old tree. The day was capped off with a really cool cake (thank you Kim) that resembled a tree cookie.

Thanks to everyone who helped. Next year we will start planning earlier, and will need folks to serve on a planning committee. If you’re interested, contact Scott Hartley – 910 638-5225 or 910 692-2167. (Photo by Merlin Hartley)

Photography Spotlight

The two photos below are of SNHS members Leslie and John Watschke with cygnets on a field trip to Crex Meadows, Wisconsin, for the first Trumpeter Swan Cygnet Round-up and Banding. The Watschkes, who winter at their farm in Southern Pines, spend summers in northern Wisconsin.





Of This and That.....

Bluebirds!

Sunday, November 9, 2008, Weymouth Woods and the North Carolina Bluebird Society are sponsoring a program entitled *Feeding Bluebirds in the Winter—Mealworms and No Melt Suet*. The program starts at 3:00 p.m. in the Weymouth Woods auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

Bug Sounds!

Carol Bowman stumbled on the website "Songs of Insects" and is having a great time learning the different cicada calls. For all of you who like to listen to wildlife while in the woods, the cicadas do a nice job of filling the void left by birds as they become more silent this time of year. They're easy once you get the hang of it, and just like with birds, make the outdoors a greater place of wonder. This is a great site for children!

This link takes you to an online guide that has great pictures, maps, and song recordings:

http://www.musicofnature.com/songsofinsects/iframes/OLG_families.html.

Southern Pines Long-Range Plan Advisory Committee

The following email was received by SNHS. Please note also that the Southern Pines Long-Range Plan drop-in center is located at 161 E. New Hampshire Avenue. This center serves as a place for residents to keep tabs on the process, weigh-in on key issues, and interact with folks helping to shape the plan.

As many of you know, I am one of 20 citizens of Southern Pines who have been appointed to the town's Long-Range Plan Advisory Committee. As I understand it, we are to act as a conduit for gathering public opinion that affects the Long-Range Plan being developed for Southern Pines by a company named Studio Cascade.

This information gathering will probably take two forms:

1. The public will be invited to participate in a variety of information gathering sessions. When this happens my job will be to let you know where and when the sessions are being held, so you can give your input directly. I plan to do this by sending e-mail to those on my distribution list.

2. Committee members may be asked to speak for their friends and neighbors. If I know far enough in advance what topics we will be discussing, I will send e-mail to those on my distribution list to solicit your input and opinions.

As a first step, I want to create a distribution list of only those who want to be involved with this. Some of you are very interested in this effort (I know at least two of you volunteered to be on this same committee.), while others won't want to be bothered by e-mail on this topic. I am sending this first message to all MGA members on my usual distribution, please let me know if you wish to be removed from this Long-Range Planning List, or if you don't reside in Southern Pines. If you do not reply, I will assume you want to continue to receive e-mails like this one.

By the way, the first meeting planned for the public to participate will be held in the evening of November 13. We are hoping to get several hundred people to this meeting, so Studio Cascade is working to find a suitable site and the location is not yet known. But please hold the date and I'll get back to you with the time and place.

The long-range plan is looking at a 20-50 year time horizon, so your input will have its effects for generations to come. Thanks for your help.

Hugh Mensch hmensch@earthlink.net

** From The Pilot: The Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 7: 00 p.m. at the Southern Pines Recreation Center (the Boys & Girls Club) located at 160 Memorial Park Court, Southern Pines, NC.

Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting

Several SNHS members attended the CBC fall meeting in Wilmington during the first weekend in October. We had three days of extraordinary birding with trip leaders from the area who knew where every warbler and shorebird could be found. In all, 171 species of birds were tallied over the three days!! Photos can be seen on the CBC website at www.carolinabirdclub.org. If you have never been on one of these trips, you are missing an opportunity to bird with some of the best birders in the Carolinas. These folks easily identify species and are committed to enhancing your experience by teaching field marks and identification techniques and making sure YOU see the birds on every field trip.

The winter CBC meeting will be in Williamston, NC where we'll bird the "inner banks" and explore some areas we've never birded. It is scheduled from January 29 through February 1, 2009. Check it out on the CBC website. (Carol Bowman)

The Simplest Bench in the World

On a recent field trip to Hinson Lake in Rockingham, I noticed several "birders benches" located around the lake. I remembered reading a magazine article about these benches, wondered how comfortable they might be, and had saved the instructions for making one. Well, wonder no more.....they are VERY comfortable and just the right angle for bird watching! Following are instructions for making the Simplest Bench in The World. (Carol Bowman)



simplest bench
in the world

By Jean Bartholome, Durango, Colorado

One of the easiest ways to make a good garden even better is to set a comfortable bench in a secluded corner. Just having a place to sit transforms an ordinary patch of flowers into a quiet contemplative refuge.

So when I was looking for a simple bench, I remembered hearing about a useful design once built by Aldo Leopold, whom many consider the father of wildlife ecology. Leopold's writings have led many to discover what it means to live in harmony with the land. If this bench was good enough for him, it's definitely good enough for me.

A little research led me to this sturdy design I could build quickly with a few 2x8s, glue and screws. Best of all, it's amazingly comfortable, perfect for bird-watching – even for two people. Thanks, Aldo!

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1 MARK ONE END of the 2x8 x 10 at a 22-1/2-degree angle with a speed square or protractor, then cut with a circular saw. Make a mark 36 inches away and repeat the cut at the same angle. Cut the remaining front leg and two back legs from the same piece. Cut the seat and the backrest from the 2x8 x 8.



2 FASTEN THE LEGS together. Stack and clamp the seat and backrest to the edge of the worktable as guides, and then align the legs against them. Spread adhesive on the front leg, set the rear leg in place, and fasten the legs together with three 2-1/2-inch screws.

Building Tips

To make a simple project even simpler, remember these tips:

- Be sure to assemble the legs (Step 2) so they're mirror images of each other, and not facing the same direction.
- Use clamps or a helper to hold the legs upright when securing the seat.
- Pre-drill all your screw holes to prevent splitting the wood.

Tools

Speed square or protractor
 Drill with #8 countersink drill bit
 Circular saw
 Caulking gun

SHOPPING LIST

- 1 2x8 x 8 cedar, redwood or treated lumber (seat and backrest)
- 1 2x8 x 10 cedar, redwood or treated lumber (front and rear legs)
- Exterior construction adhesive
- 2-1/2" galvanized deck screws



3 ATTACH THE SEAT and backrest. Stand the two ends up, 42 inches apart, spread glue on the tops of the rear legs, and screw the seat in place. Lay the bench on the worktable and attach the backrest with glue and screws.

Interesting Sightings:

Bicknell's Thrush

Susan Campbell banded a Bicknell's Thrush at Weymouth Woods on October 3. It was an adult bird—the small size, primary pattern, coloration of the flanks, back to tail, legs and the lower mandible were all diagnostic. Thrush activity was quite noticeable around the banding site all day. This was the second Bicknell's banded at the park. The first was netted at the site on September 27, 2001 in a net lane very close to this year's location. If accepted, Friday's bird will constitute only the second documented record for North Carolina. Susan also banded a Gray-cheeked Thrush immediately following the Bicknell's.

Impromptu Field Trips

Four SNHS members got together August 23 for a trip to Horne Sod Farm in Stedman, NC (east of Fayetteville). There had been reports of quite a few shorebirds there earlier. There wasn't a great diversity, but good birds were seen: Killdeer, Great Egrets, Horned Larks, Pectoral Sandpipers, Blue Grosbeaks, and other more common songbirds. It is well worth visiting this farm, particularly after heavy rains. You need to call before you go, but the owners are very accommodating to birders.

Then we traveled to Hoffman, NC to the McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery where we birded the ponds and saw/heard an additional eight species, including Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and Cattle Egret. The Hatchery is open daily, and Bald Eagles have been seen there in the past.

Finally, we stopped at the fields on McDonald Church Road to see the Mississippi Kites which had been reported soaring and feeding there in the last couple of weeks. We observed two kites in the short time we were there, but earlier in the week Linda Jones and I saw as many as eight soaring and feeding over the fields. It was VERY interesting to watch the kites snare food in mid-air with their talons and then, while soaring, bring their beak toward their feet and eat the prey!!! We assumed they were feeding on grasshoppers which were the size of kinglets!! (Carol Bowman)

Hinson Lake

On August 30 Carol Bowman and I visited Hinson Lake in Rockingham, NC. We found all woodpeckers in the swampy area off to the right of the dam. There were at least three Pileated Woodpeckers and 10 Red-headed Woodpeckers in the swamp. Most songbirds were seen from the kiosk at the far end of the lake. There was a mixed flock traveling at the edge of the woods across the trail and lots of Wood Ducks on the lake. Here's what we saw: Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker (heard), Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Green Heron (many), Wood Duck (male, female, juveniles—many), Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo (heard), European Starling, Red-shouldered Hawk (heard), Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue Jay, American Crow, American Redstart, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, and Great Crested Flycatcher.

We then revisited the Fish Hatchery where we saw Great Egret, Killdeer, Eastern Bluebird, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher, Spotted Sandpiper, AND two Semipalmated Sandpipers—a lifer for Carol! (Cassie Willis)

Stedman Farm

On September 7 Linda Jones, Patrick Shaffner, and I drove to Stedman to the sod farm for the second time in two weeks. Several fields were partially flooded, and the farm lane had several inches of standing water. Recent postings on the CBC list serve gave us incentive to look very carefully, especially with the storm just behind us. We duplicated many of the birds we previously found there, and added a few more. When we met up with the man who appears to be the sod farm superintendent, he warned us of recent bear sightings in the fields. Needless to say, we kept a close watch . . . just in case!

Here's the tally: Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, American Crow, Fish Crow, Mourning Dove, Short-billed Dowitcher (perhaps two), Great Egret (only one, had several last visit), American Goldfinch, Cooper's Hawk (at Woodlake, when picking up Linda), Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Blue Jay, American Kestrel, Killdeer (many, many), Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark (several, not as many as last visit), Mallard, Northern Mockingbird, Pectoral Sandpiper (many), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Loggerhead Shrike (on birch tree past BP, near Woodlake entrance – usual place - and several other locations during the day), Chipping Sparrow, European Starling, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Towhee, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Lesser Yellowlegs (two), and the best birds—five Wilson's Snipe—a lifer for me! (Cassie Willis)

General Reminder – Dues. Dues are \$5 per person, per year. Please mail your check, payable to Sandhills Natural History Society, to Carol Bowman, Treasurer, at:

Sandhills Natural History Society
P.O. Box 1472
Southern Pines, NC 28388-1472

Please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail address with your payment.

Reminder! Recycle your nature, birding, or gardening magazines at each monthly meeting. There will be a table where you can drop off or pick up magazines of interest to our group.

TEES AND LANDS' END CAPS – SNHS merchandise can be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited, near Harris Teeter, Route 1, in Aberdeen. SNHS members enjoy a 5% discount at WBU. Thanks to WBU's owner, Bill Kastern, for supporting our club! Contact David Kilpatrick at 910-295-5224 if you have any questions.

\$10	T-shirts
\$17	Baseball Caps (with embroidered logo)
\$14	Baseball Caps (with plain logo)
\$12	Mugs
\$ 3	Stickers

SNHS Board of Directors 2008:

President	Brady Beck	beck.kb@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	David McCloy	david.mccloy@ncmail.net
Vice President	Michael McCloy	prothonotarywarbler@hotmail.com
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ATTENTION!!!

If you have email and are experiencing trouble receiving all the newsletters and announcements via email, please contact Chris Norkus immediately.

If you do not have email, please read this:

Our field trips often have schedule changes and we send out email updates to the membership. We suggest you ask a friend who receives these emails to keep you informed. You can also periodically call the field trip leader to get the latest updates.