

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

**Thursday, Feb. 9th, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library
at Price Park**

FABULOUS BIRDS!



Paul Salazar will be presenting some of his fabulous photographs of birds in his backyard just in time for the *February 18 backyard bird count*.

Paul is a member of the Bokeh Photography Group in Greensboro. He owns and operates a custom wood-working business but has been studying and practicing photography as a serious hobby since 1964. Paul's background includes photography courses from the NY Institute of Photography and the Famous Photographers School. He has also attended several nature photography workshops and seminars with instructors such as Rod Planck, George Lepp and Bill Fortney.

Paul has decades of experience as a small and medium format film photographer and is a skilled darkroom technician. Several years ago he switched from film to digital photography. He now considers himself to be primarily a nature photographer. He has had his images in several publications over the years.

Paul has put in a wonderful bird and butterfly garden where he does much of his photography. Additionally, he has traveled to South Carolina, Florida, and south Texas to photograph birds.

Over the past six years, Paul has been instructing his two daughters, Rebecca, 14, and Gabby, 18, in the art of photography as an activity that they can share together. His oldest daughter, Gabby, now 18, has won the 2003 Nature's Best Photography contest, Youth, and last year she won BBC's Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year.



Our mission: TO FOSTER APPRECIATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ENJOYMENT OF NATURE, AND WORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

JORDAN LAKE

Feb. 25, 2006

On Saturday, February 25 we'll travel to Jordan Lake, just south of Chapel Hill for some winter birding. Jordan Lake is an Important Bird Area (IBA), and we hope to see bald eagles, ospreys, cormorants, great blue herons and other species on the lake from the Bald Eagle Viewing Platform. From the parking lot it is a nice meandering walk to the platform, and on the way we'll encounter early and late succession forests that support a variety of woodland species of birds. The entire walk is about a mile, and we'll hope for good weather and good viewing.

Because of the chance for bad weather at this time of year, please contact Alice McCall at alyb68@hotmail.com or 698-0220 if you are planning to go so you can be notified if the trip is cancelled.

For carpoolers: Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Alice cCall's home. Call 698-0220 for directions.

(Continued in next column)

(cont. from previous column)

Or meet us on site.

Directions: 421 South to Hwy 64 east. After crossing the lake turn left (north) on Hwy 751. You will pass a small gas station and New Hope Church Rd. Immediately afterward, turn left into the gravel parking lot which is marked only by a small brown sign with binoculars. Plan to arrive at 10:00 a.m.

ANOTHER FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP WATERFOWL ON THE GREENSBORO LAKES



Saturday, February 11

TGP Audubon will join the Piedmont Bird Club for the first of two annual trips to view waterfowl on Greensboro area lakes. Target birds are ducks, geese, grebes, mergansers and gulls. Dress warmly and bring something hot to drink, as wind off the lakes can be chilling.

Meet at 9:00 at Congregational United Church of Christ, on Radiance Dr., so we can carpool. Spotting scopes are useful. Leader, Henry Link, 273-4672, linkh@bellsouth.net.

Program and Field Trip Schedule 2006



- Sat., January 28** - Field trip to Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, an Important Bird Area, with PBC. RSVP*
- Sat., February 4** - Audubon Bird Seed Sale at New Garden Nursery Gazebo, Lawndale
- Thurs., February 9** - "Enjoying Backyard Birds". Speaker: Paul Salazar.
- Sat., February 11** - A tour of the Greensboro lakes with PBC for winter waterfowl. RSVP*
- February 17-20** - Great Backyard Bird Count
- Sat., February 25** - Field trip to Jordan Lake, an Important Bird Area. RSVP*
- Thurs., March 9** - "Birds of the Galapagos Islands". Speaker: Lynn Moseley, Biologist.
- Sat., March 18** - Field trip to White Pine Preserve on the Deep River. RSVP*

*To RSVP, check article in newsletter.

More information about programs and field trips at our website: www.tgpearsonaudubon.org

WINTER SEED SALE COMING UP Feb. 4, 2006



Did you forget to stock up on birdseed at the Fall Seed Sale in October? T. G. Pearson Audubon will hold its second seed sale of the year on **February 4th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at New Garden Nursery Gazebo, 3811 Lawndale Dr.**

You can support the chapter's environmental education initiatives while at the same time helping our local birds through the winter. T.G. Pearson is glad to make available a wide assortment of top quality birdseed at a good price. Drop by before noon to help support Audubon educational programs and buy food for the birds.

BOOK REVIEW

“John James Audubon –
The Making of an American”
by Richard Rhodes
Reviewed by Rob Bierregaard

Richard Rhodes’ most remarkable biography of Audubon (John James Audubon--The Making of an American, 2004, Alfred A Knopf) is, above all else, a love story. It’s a story of Audubon’s love for birds, his wife, and his adopted country—the fledgling United States.

Aside from the love stories, the book offers a feast of both natural history and whatever we call history that isn’t “natural history.” Rhodes gives us an intimate feel for what life was like back then, more through the details than the “big picture.” How many bags of gunpowder, pounds of ground arsenic (to preserve bird skins), and flints (for your flintlock rifle) did you need to bring to the field to collect and draw birds?

We learn how the young country expanded west of the mountains—the first step was mostly floating down the Ohio River from Pittsburg to the Mississippi and New Orleans. (This was a one-way trip, so the boats that couldn’t be outfitted for ocean travel were disassembled and the wood used in construction.) We learn of the economic depression that swept the young country with the blockades before and during the war of 1812 and its impact on Audubon. (If history had been presented like this in high school, I might have paid attention!) We discover how significant disease was, and how fast the landscape was changing even early in the 1800s.

Naturally, the countryside and its wildlife are the principal backdrop to the story of Audubon’s life. Audubon arrived in a land where humans were just beginning to alter the world around them, but had not yet come to dominate and overwhelm the entire landscape. We read of market hunters shooting 48,000 Golden Plovers in a single day in New Orleans, Carolina Parakeets “abundant beyond description” along the Missouri River near Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, (who would have imagined them that far north?) and the now-probably-extinct Eskimo Curlews in the Gulf of St. Lawrence seemingly as common as Passenger Pigeons.

Rhodes paints a detailed portrait of John James as a rather mercurial and most outgoing man. His mood swings were dramatic, perhaps never more than when he was in England—well received by the intelligentsia, successfully working on the publishing of *The Birds of America*, but 4,000 miles separated from Lucy, his “dear friend” and wife.

He was nothing if not flamboyant. When he taught dancing in Louisiana, he was quite the rage. A member of his crew on the expedition to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, described him as “a nice man, but Frenchy as thunder.”

Audubon got around—from Philadelphia to New Orleans and out to the Montana-North Dakota border; from Florida to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and over to Europe, where he hustled his life’s project—The Birds of America. Along the way, over nearly four decades, he seemingly met everyone there was to meet in the young country.

A birder reading this book will recognize many that Audubon met as names of birds that might be on his or her life list—Wilson’s Plover, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Bewick’s Wren, Henslow’s Sparrow, Swainson’s Hawk. Most played pivotal roles in Audubon’s life and their namesake birds were illustrated in The Birds of America.

If you’re interested in more of a summary of Audubon’s life and don’t have time to read the whole book, I (Bierregaard) am working on a webpage that traces Audubon’s life focused on the eminent naturalist historians that influenced Audubon’s life and “their” birds. It’s sort of a “Cliff Notes” summary of Rhodes’ book, illustrated with the Audubon’s own plates depicting the birds named for these important people.

<http://www.bioweb.uncc.edu/Bierregaard/Audubon.htm>



Board and Chapter Officers

Co-Chair Gregg Morris, 883-3270
gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov

Secretary Ann Walter-Fromson, 299-9494
walterfromsona@gborocollege.edu

Treasurer Sue Cole, 854-3346

Membership and Deep River Project
Tom Duckwall, 337-0811,
TomFDuckwall@cs.com

Education Alice McCall, 698-0220
alyb68@hotmail.com

Natural Area (open)

At-Large Nancy Poole, NPOOLE@triad.rr.com
Dan Chambers, instructus@aol.com

Chapter Historian & Bird Seed Sale
Sherri Forrester, 851-0354
bouncerm@msn.com

Newsletter Karen Hogarth, 292-4598
khogarth4@triad.rr.com

Web Page Robb Fulkerson
robb@riverdaze.com
www.tgpearsonaudubon.org/

**T. Gilbert Pearson
Audubon Society
PO Box 10157
Greensboro, NC 27404**

Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Greensboro, NC
Permit No. 469

Return Service Requested

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

The National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology want you to participate in the ninth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (**GBBC**), February 17-20, 2006. This is one of the easiest and important Citizen Science projects to do. You can be actively involved in bird conservation.

All you need to do is count birds for a minimum of 15 minutes, however 30 minutes is recommended. You can do this from inside your home while sipping your morning coffee in your pajamas. You can "count birds with a buddy" and bring a new person, young or old, into the birding world. It would be great fun to do with your children or grandchildren.

You can count in your yard for one day or each of the four days of

the GBBC. You can visit a local park. Walk one of our many trails. Count at your church or your child's school. Count at your favorite birding spot or explore a new one. Pictures of your experience are welcomed.

Visit the GBBC website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

All that you need to know is on the website; however if you need help, email me (Dan Chambers) at Instructus@aol.com and I will be glad to assist you. Check the "Results" section from previous years to see reports from our community.

It is fun. It is important. Count on as many days as you can, at as many places as you can. Every bird enthusiast, that's you, needs to participate. Once again, the Great Backyard Bird Count is held February 17-20, 2006. Enjoy!

