



<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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**President's Corner**  
**By: Frank L. Rawling, Jr.**

**A New Venture**

The date of the Spring Festival for 2007 is Saturday, May 19. To promote the festival the Friends Board has decided to add television to the usual advertising that we support. Recently I met with Comcast, the cable company in New Castle and Kent Counties, to finalize an agreement to place advertising promoting Bombay Hook NWR and the Spring Festival on the air in both those counties. These ads will air between April 30th and May 18th. The spots will air on 5 channels in the New Castle County, Middletown, and Kent County areas covered by Comcast. The channels are as follows: Animal Planet, Discovery, ABC Family, Outdoor Life Network (now VS), and TNT. They will be 30 second spots and will air 5 times per week per channel for a total of 75 spots in each area. The actual time of the day has not yet been chosen but will vary throughout the week. This is a new venture for us and is something of an experiment. At the Festival we will try to ascertain how the attendees found out about the event in order to determine if this form of advertising was successful. The spot will consist of video scenes of the refuge with text and a voiceover giving details of the festival. The film has been taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service unit at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. Prior to the airing we plan to send out a notice to the membership with the pertinent details so that you can help out by talking it up with your friends and neighbors.

Meanwhile, another volunteer season is over but the Refuge is still open. So make a New Year's resolution to visit the Refuge this winter. It is a wonderful place to see at any time of the year.

Perhaps I will meet you out on the dikes or trails.

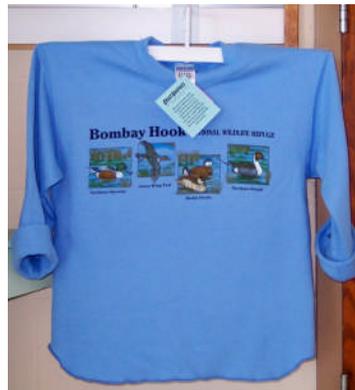
Have a happy and peaceful New Year!

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**The Refuge Store**  
**By: Verna Price**

Spring is almost here, and now is the time to start thinking about visiting the store.

As you enter the foyer you will notice a lot of changes. The old display panels have been removed, the walls have been painted and much of the merchandise has been moved into the auditorium.



*Some of our (pre-renovation) merchandise include BH shirts.....*



*.....and Marcia Poling's Christmas Ornaments.*

A new floor will be installed and new display panels will help give everything a nice clean new appearance.

After the face-lift to the foyer, our merchandise will be replaced and new items will be added. Be sure to come visit us and appreciate a real spring cleaning!

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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: [bombayhook@del.net](mailto:bombayhook@del.net)

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

### *Bird Notes*

*By: Frank L. Rawling, Jr.*

## **The Fall Migration**

Fall migration is always an exciting time of the year at Bombay Hook and is the time of the year when we have our most visitors. Why is this? I suspect that it is due to the large influx of Snow Geese that occurs at this time. There is something about a pond, Raymond Pool for example, that is simply staggering when it is covered with these large white birds. This year has been no different as the Snow Goose population and the waterfowl numbers have indeed been impressive. So let's have a look at what avian life was on the refuge.

### September

September began with the sighting of 2 **Peregrine Falcons** and 2 **Black Terns** at Bear Swamp. This was followed by sightings in the same location of **Tricolored Herons** and an immature **Little Blue Heron**. There was an even dozen **Blue-winged Teal** at Bear Swamp the same day along with 28 **American Avocets**. The next day the Avocet population on Raymond Pool was estimated at 450. Avocets are a favorite species among visitors to the Refuge. Raymond that day also housed 2 **Royal**

**Terns**. Shearneck was a popular spot for ducks this fall as there was plenty of food therein. For example, there were hundreds of **Green-winged Teal** there the first week and I saw, perhaps 2,000 **Northern Pintail** lift off after being flushed by a **Bald Eagle** later in the fall. Not to be left out there were shorebirds at the Refuge in early September with **Willetts**, **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Dowitchers** and both **Black-bellied** and **Semipalmated Plovers** in attendance. In addition, in the first week of September, 4 **Hudsonian Godwits** were seen in Raymond Pool. The falcon population increased when a female **Merlin** was observed flying around Raymond and Shearneck. **Glossy Ibis** were still at the refuge in early September.

An immature **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** as well as an adult were in residence in the usual location at the north end of



*American Avocets*

Bear Swamp. Early in the month observers were noticing **Bobolinks** at various locations and the first sightings of **Horned Larks** in the farm fields were reported. Raptors being reported were **Osprey**, **Northern Harriers** and **Cooper's Hawks** in addition to the falcons and the **Bald Eagle** reported above. A couple of **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen on Raymond in the second week of the month. A nice sighting was a **Willow Flycatcher** at the turn-around at Finis Pool. Also nice was a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Raymond Pool. Passerines were still being observed as shown by sightings of **Blue Grosbeak** at the entrance road to Finis and **American Redstart** and **Red-eyed Vireo** at Finis. Some sightings from along or near Whitehall Neck Road were **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **American Golden-Plover** and **Baird's Sandpiper** at Wick's Potato Farm. Back on the Refuge **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, **Stilt Sandpiper** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** were seen at Raymond Pool. At mid-month a **Magnolia Warbler** was seen in the Finis Pool area as well as the first report of **Snow Geese**. **Pied billed Grebes** are often seen at the Refuge and 2 were in residence at Bear

Swamp during the month. At the end of the month a **Tennessee Warbler** was seen along the trail to Raymond Tower.

### October

The month opened on a nice note with the sightings of a **Bay-breasted Warbler** along the dike at Stop 8. That same day **American Coots** were sighted as well as **Bobolinks** and the first reported **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**. A nice selection of shorebirds including **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Stilt Sandpipers**, **Least and Western Sandpipers** and **Black-bellied Plovers** were feeding at Shearneck. **Eastern Phoebes**, **Wood Pewees**, **Eastern Towhees** and **Goldfinches** were all seen the first week. A



*Goldfinch*

**Black-crowned Night Heron** along with a couple of immatures were at Bear Swamp and a **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Shearneck. Meanwhile the **Snow Goose** flock had increased to the hundreds. By the end of the first week a **Black-necked Stilt** and a couple of **Black Skimmers** had been spotted. The following week both a **Palm Warbler** and a **Winter Wren** had been seen on the Bear Swamp Trail and a **Blue-headed Vireo** at Raymond Pool. The first report of the season of **American Widgeon** was made on the 10th. Both **Ruddy Ducks** and a **Wood Duck** were seen on the next day as well as a **Caspian Tern**. Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were on the Refuge the third week. One of the most reliable spots to see **Clapper Rail** is on the bayside of Shearneck. The trail to Shearneck Tower is also a good spot to find passerines and so it was this week as both **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen there. This fall there have been large flocks of **Dunlin** present, particularly on the Shearneck mudflats. There have also been large numbers of **Tundra Swans** present. On the 30th a **Swainson's Thrush** was seen behind the Visitor Center and on the Friends Birdwalk the next day a **Black and White Warbler** was seen along the Boardwalk Trail and a flock of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was observed along Bear Swamp Trail while Shearneck Pool housed **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Blue-winged**

**Teal**. The month closed out with the sighting of a **Cackling Goose** at Raymond Pool.

### November

What a good way to begin the month of November – a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** seen along Raymond Neck Road. This was followed up with a **Woodcock** at Shearneck. The same day as the Woodcock sighting a pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was seen along the road to Finis Pool, and at Finis Pool an **Eastern Towhee** was seen. The first week in November the following shorebirds were seen: **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Western Sandpiper** and **Dowitchers**. An **American Bittern** was also seen this week as well as **American Avocets**. Other



*Snow Goose*

birds seen were **Bufflehead**, **Mute Swan**, **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **Gadwall**. One of the most reliable spots to find **White-crowned Sparrows** at the Refuge is in the shrubbery at the Visitor Center and 4 were seen there on the 12th. Two **Canvasbacks** were seen on the bayside of Shearneck at mid-month. Also seen that week were **Swamp Sparrows**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and **American Pipits**. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen patrolling on the 18th. One birder estimated 30,000 **Snow Geese** at mid-month. The number of duck species was increasing on the Refuge as witnessed by observations of **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Canvasback**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Shovelers**. **White-crowned Sparrows** were also seen along the Boardwalk Trail. A **Great Egret** was still in residence in the latter half of the month. Always difficult to pick out of the **Snow Goose** flock is a **Ross's Goose** but one was observed at Raymond. A real nice find was a **Common Moorhen** at the north end of Shearneck. The month closed out with the sighting of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Shearneck.

**Cheers and Good Birding !!!!**

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## **Help out the Refuge Write a Letter!**

The Refuge System has been short of funding for years. Currently the System has a \$3.1 billion dollar funding backlog. As a result the Refuge System has, for years, had to make do with less. Here in Delaware our two refuges have identified \$8.7 million dollars and 3 staff positions in unmet high priority needs. As you have heard Bombay Hook and Prime Hook are to be complexed and put under one manager. One reason for this is that with the funding shortfall expected this year the Refuge System must do less with less. In Delaware a \$102,000 increase is needed just to return to current services. So how can we, as members of the Friends of Bombay Hook, help the Refuge. One way is to write letters to our Congressional delegation and to our local officials (their local addresses are appended) and ask them to support increased funding for the System and Bombay Hook in particular. According to C.A.R.E. (Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement) for every \$1.00 spent on Bombay Hook's budget almost \$7.29 are generated in recreational expenditures to the local economy. \$8.7 million dollars of local tax revenues are generated through recreational expenditures.

For more information on this subject and a sample letter to lawmakers go the National Wildlife Refuge Association website at:

<http://www.refugenet.org/new-publications/survivalkit.html>

The addresses for our lawmakers are:

### U.S. Senate

Senator Joseph Biden  
24 N.W. Front Street  
Windsor Building  
Suite 101  
Milford, DE 19963  
302-424-8090  
[www.biden.senate.gov](http://www.biden.senate.gov)

Senator Thomas Carper  
2215 Frear Federal Building  
300 S. New St.  
Dover, DE 19904  
302-674-3308  
[www.carper.senate.gov](http://www.carper.senate.gov)

### House of Representatives

Rep. Michael Castle  
Frear Federal Building  
300 S. New St.  
Dover, DE 19904  
302-736-1666  
[www.house.gov/castle](http://www.house.gov/castle)

### State

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner  
Tatnall Building  
150 William Penn Street  
Second Floor  
Dover, DE 19901  
302-744-4101  
[www.state.de.us/governor](http://www.state.de.us/governor)

Or you can contact Kent County Levy Court at the following address:

Kent County Levy Court  
Administrative Complex  
555 Bay Road  
Dover DE 19901

### The Commissioners are:

P. Brooks Banta (President)  
Allan F. Angel (Vice President)  
Eric L. Buckson  
Bradley Eaby  
Harold Brode  
Richard E. Ennis  
W.G. Edmanson

More information about Levy Court, including Commissioners' e-mail addresses, can be found on Kent County's website at:

[www.co.kent.de.us/Departments/Administration](http://www.co.kent.de.us/Departments/Administration)

**Richard Clifton of DE Selected as  
Winner of 2006 Federal Duck  
Stamp Contest**



*Photo of the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp Winner by Richard Clifton of Milford, DE*

**Wildlife artist Richard Clifton of Milford, DE, has won the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest - the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America with his depiction of a pair of swimming ring-necked ducks.**

**For more information check the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website:**

<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Make a difference in your community by volunteering your time and expertise. Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is looking for volunteers that can help with the following opportunities:

- Environmental Education Coordinator
- Outdoor Classroom Teachers
- Program Developer for Pre-school Program
- Program Developer for Junior Refuge Manager Program
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Scheduling Volunteers
- Computer input and reports
- Landscaping and weeding Refuge area and native plant trail
- Staff information booths at local events
- Staff Bird Identification Stations on Auto-tour route during peak bird migration weekends
- Staff the Visitor Center and Refuge Store

For more information contact Tina Watson at 302-653-6872.

## **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Calendar of Events**

Check back for updates

**March 3, 2007 10:00 am – 12:30 pm Volunteer Orientation.** Meet at the Visitor Center for a presentation on volunteer opportunities at Bombay Hook NWR. A tour of the Refuge will follow the meeting.

**March 13 & April 10, 2007 9:30 am – 11:30 am Gardenkeepers.** Meeting and garden work.

**April 21, 2007 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Environmental Education Workshop & Horseshoe Crab Survey Training.** This workshop will introduce teachers and volunteers to the National Wildlife Refuge System and the natural resources at Bombay Hook. Participants will learn how to use the Refuge as a hands-on outdoor classroom and how the Refuge manages habitats for wildlife. Included are trail walks, fresh, brackish and bay wetland studies, and wildlife identification. Horseshoe crab survey training will be part of the workshop (12:30- 2:00). Bring a bag lunch and dress for outside activities. **Call to register.**

**April 21, 2007 1:00 pm Highway Clean-Up.** Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center Auditorium. Bring your gloves and wear shoes that can get wet. Refreshments will be served after the clean up. We are usually finished by 4:00 pm. Sponsored by Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.

**April 24, 2007 8:00 am – 11:00 am Tuesday Morning Warbler Walk.** Join Ken Liehr and Frank Rawling as they search the treetops for migrating warblers and other songbirds and wildlife. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**April 29, 2007 7:30 am – 12:00 noon Shorebird ID Workshop** with Andy Urquhart and Eric Braun. Learn to identify shorebirds based on size, structure, habits, and plumage. Half day trip includes both classroom and field work. Reservations required. Call 302-239-2471 to register by April 27.

**April 29, 2007 1 pm – 3:30 pm Bicycle Tour on the Refuge.** Join Tina Watson for a guided bicycle tour. We will stop to discuss habitats, wildlife management techniques, and to do bird identification. The guided trip will be approximately 6 miles. Riders may continue their bicycle tour on their own through the 8 miles of Refuge roads. Roads are packed dirt and a bicycle with hybrid tires is suggested. Bring your helmet and check the air in your tires!

**May 1 & 8, 2007 8:00 am – 11:00 am Tuesday Morning Warbler Walk.** Join Ken Liehr and Frank Rawling as they search the treetops for migrating warblers and other songbirds and wildlife. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**May 6, 2007 2:45 pm Afternoon Saltmarsh Boat Ride.** The trip will take you into the Leipsic River, Delaware Bay and the saltmarsh. Dress for the weather. May be cancelled due to wind conditions. **Call to Register.**

**May 8, 2007 9:30 am – 11:30 am Gardenkeepers.** Meeting and garden work.

**May 12, 2007 7:00 am – 1 pm Spring Bird Count.** Meet at the Visitor Center. Experienced and novice “birders” are needed to help count and record bird species. Teams will be formed and assigned an area of the Refuge to survey and record their bird sightings. The teams are usually finished by 1:00pm. For more information contact Tina Watson at 302-653-6872.

**May 19, 2007 Migratory Bird Festival. 9:00am – 4:30 pm** The theme for International Migratory Bird Day is *Birds in a Changing Climate*. Come join us for a day filled with information, fun, hands on activities, exhibits, wildlife photography and art, boat rides, and more. Check back at later date for a schedule of events.

**May 29, 2007 11:30 am Afternoon Saltmarsh Boat Ride.** The trip will take you into the Leipsic River, Delaware Bay and the saltmarsh. Dress for the weather. May be cancelled due to weather conditions. **Call to Register.**

**June 12, 2007 9:30 am – 11:30 am Gardenkeepers.** Meeting and garden work.

**June 23, 2007 10:30 am – 5:00 pm Pea Patch Island Field Trip.** Joel Citron will meet us in Delaware City for the 12 noon ferry. We will spend a couple of hours walking the trail on the north end of the Island looking for the 9 species, herons and other birds, that nest at the rookery. An 11-passenger van will leave Bombay Hook at 10:45 am. **Call to register** if you plan on taking the van from Bombay Hook. Interested participants can also meet in Delaware City in time to board the 12 noon ferry.

HAVE A FRIEND 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
- 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*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal       New Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

<u>Membership Plan (Check One)</u>	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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

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)

\*Junior membership: under age 18.

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

\*\*\*Sponsor and Life memberships includes family.



2591 Whitehall Neck Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977

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