**Ibis Fest, May 14 -15**
Celebrate the amazing biodiversity of Brunswick County with field trips to Green Swamp, Bald Head Is. and Shelton Herb Farm. Bird the creeks and the Cape Fear by kayak and boat. Workshops on photography with professional photographer Mark Buckler, maritime history, dragonflies, herbal lore and more. Jay Barnes speaks on NC hurricanes; Celia Rivenbark on *Going Green in the South!* Visit [www.ibisfest.org](http://www.ibisfest.org)

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**Celebrating Native Azaleas**
Despite what you may have heard, the azaleas we tout in the Azalea Festival are not native to the US. But we have our own southeastern azaleas, equally lovely but almost unknown. These, including the misnamed Piedmont Azalea, grow here on the coast. A picture is worth a thousand words...
Upcoming Activities
Details for these activities are on our website, www.capefearaudubon.org

Monday, April 12, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
**Monthly meeting.** Dr. Jamie Rotenberg, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at UNCW, will speak about Painted Buntings, our most colorful birds. **Location:** Trinity United Methodist Church, Southport.

Tuesday, April 13, 9 - 11 a.m. **Birding at Brunswick Town/Orton Pond.** Migrating warblers, returning osprey, vireos, butterflies. **Directions:** Meet at Brunswick Town Visitors Center.

Saturday, April 17, 7 a.m. - all day.
**Birding at Waccatee Zoo Rookery/Brookgreen Gardens/Huntington Beach SP.** Entrance fees. Close looks at wading birds in breeding plumage; shorebirds, common ground dove possible.

**Directions:** Meet at Burger King lot, Wooster and Third St, Wilmington.

**Who's New**
We extend a hearty welcome to new members:
Nancy and Dennis Becker, Southport
Chuck Wilson, Hampstead
And as always, our thanks to our renewing members who keep us going!

**Wood Stork, Bald Head golf course; Roushdy**

**Birding Bald Head by Juanita Roushdy**
A rainy day recently brought back wonderful memories of birding on Bald Head Island. Instead of birding here in Maine, my new home, I decided to sort the photos on my computer. What a great choice.

Admittedly Bald Head Island is not the easiest spot to get to, nor the cheapest. But once there, you’ll be rewarded, no matter the weather. Over 222 species have been recorded on Bald Head. Your
birding begins on the ferry! You’ll pass Battery Island, Audubon’s sanctuary for White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, and Little Blue Heron – it’s notable because it hosts 12 percent of North America’s White Ibis population, some 18-30 thousand birds! Once I saw 6 Dovekies! So keep your eyes peeled.

Red-tailed Hawks atop Old Baldy Lighthouse; Roushy

Be sure to scan the beaches on either side of the marina entrance. To the left, you may be treated to a Piping Plover, but definitely, Sanderlings, Willetts, Ruddy Turnstones, and, who knows, perhaps a Purple Sandpiper on the rocks. I did see a snowy plover once. Depending on the time of year, Cedar Waxwings may greet you at the ferry landing or a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on one of the roofs.

You can bird Bald Head two ways, by foot or by golf cart. If you choose to walk from the ferry, three spots are a must: around the lighthouse; by the tent across from the marina; and on the shore by Access #1. Taking the path to the lighthouse will take you through Painted Bunting habitat May to September; several have established territories there. Around the lighthouse area are mature live oaks that are often full of warblers including Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Eastern Kingbird. Always check out this area; if it’s migration time, you never know what will show up.

By the tent across from the marina, you’ll have magnificent views of the marsh and are likely to see all kinds of wading birds (in winter, ducks and mergansers) and shorebirds at low tide; also Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and Bald Eagle hunting in the marsh – perhaps even a Clapper Rail.

Continue walking until you get to Access #1 where you might be lucky enough to see hundreds of shorebirds on the shoal at the mouth of the creek – Dowitchers, Royal and Caspian Terns, Dunlin, American Oystercatcher, as well as Piping Plover, Semipalmated Plover, among many other birds on the water and on the beach. This is one of my favorite spots for surprises – I saw a White Pelican from here!

If you choose to go by golf cart, then the island is your oyster, but don’t forget to allow plenty of time: golf carts are not as
fast as cars!! Be sure you have a fully charged battery and a map. Take the beach road, which will take you through shrubby habitat before coming out into dunes and beachfront. Check out the lagoons in front of the BHI Club and the beach – always good for surprises, particularly in windy weather. Drive on out to Frying Pan Shoals for seabirds at the point – thousands during the winter – again always a surprise and a great spot to study gulls. If you have time, take the drive to Middle Island, along the marsh. Return on Federal Road through the maritime forest and check out the Maritime Market area for Worm-eating Warblers, Orchard Orioles (oh, the birds are too numerous to mention!).

My favorite memory was seeing just before sunrise over 200 Bonaparte gulls skittering across the waves close to shore on a bitterly cold and windy morning – even in the lack of light they shimmered and their pink legs and feet resembled wind-tossed cherry blossoms – a treat for all of us on that Christmas Bird Count morning.

I hope you’ll enjoying birding Bald Head as much as I did. Check out www.ncbirdingtrail.org for more information. Enjoy. Don’t forget the butterflies and dragonflies!

Read Me!

Bird by Andrew Zuckerman is a photography book, an art book, and a superb look at the bodies of birds...every pin feather! From the eye of an owl to the legs of a Seriema, you can see birds as you never even dreamed of seeing them. See www.birdbook.org.

Parting Shot...
Snowy Egret. Adele Paynter, photographer

Comments and submissions welcome. Please send them to Cary Paynter, info@capefearaudubon.org