



Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve

News --- # 12

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August 2009

Birdsong and Butterflies Highlight Seventh Annual FTWP Bird Walk –

*By Sandy Rea
with Kitty Taylor Mizuno*

Nine FTWP members joined naturalist Frank Windfelder for the 2009 FTWP bird walk on Saturday morning May 23, 2009. Frank is a long-time and expert birder. He knows Taylor's Preserve well, visits often, and was enthusiastic as he led us down the narrow lane and around the back side of the wetlands. He said that our Taylor Preserve has a greater variety of species in a small space than are in some of the larger preserves in the Delaware Valley. Many of his identifications were based on hearing the bird's song rather than by sight.

In recent years, Frank explained, he has gained a new enthusiasm for butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies. As we walked, it was not unusual to pause for Frank to point out and even photograph various butterflies or dragonflies. It was gratifying to hear him say that Falcate Orange-tip butterflies breed here, and not at the Tinnicum preserve, for example, because here they have both the native plant that they need to feed on, and also the one they need to lay eggs on. He also told stories woven with facts regarding birds we were seeing and hearing. Identified by sight or sound were forty-two species of bird, seven butter/dragon/damselflies, green frog, bull frog, snapping and red bellied turtles.

Surprisingly abundant were yellow billed cuckoos. We heard pairs near each other two and probably more different times. Frank termed these

as "probable" nesting pairs since they were a pair, were singing their mating song, and were "on territory" i.e., where they have been known to nest previously. We guessed that the greater number of cuckoos related to more tent and gypsy moth caterpillars this spring.

Very good sightings were common along the narrow lane. Perched atop a tree not far into the wetlands was a Willow Flycatcher. Its distinctive, scratchy song was easy to pick out from the many other songs heard along the lane. Perched on the underside of one of the phone pole platforms was a Great Crested Flycatcher. The Great Crested Flycatcher is one of two cavity nesters here at TWP; the other is the Tree Swallow.

From near the southeast end of the wetlands and the Tom Bujak created bench we could clearly hear the rapid, soft, descending coo-oo-oo-oo of the Least Bittern. It is a very shy bird, and did not show itself. We went to the Orchard Way spit to hopefully see one, but to no avail.

From the Orchard Way spit there is a good view across the wetlands where there is a nesting pair of Red Shouldered Hawks. Their whining, noisy cry is easy to identify. It is a rare event in New Jersey for Red Shouldered Hawks to nest. They have been here now for a handful of years. By this time of the spring the nest is hidden by foliage. Frank emphasized how important it is to refrain from approaching the nest on the back side of the wetlands. He told a story of seeing three adult Red Shouldered Hawks here a number of years ago. Two were in flight with talons locked, fighting. He

guessed that the third was an intruder being driven away from the nest by one of the nesting adults.

In the big Sycamore tree near the new tractor barn we identified the nest of a Baltimore Oriole. As we watched a female entered the woven, hanging sack. In several minutes, above, was the male. We had seen an old oriole nest earlier. Frank said that the orioles do not reuse the old nests as winter winds and weather do too much to damage them.

As we walked Frank stopped to point out and often photograph butterflies: Zabulon Skipper, Cabbage White, Spicebush Swallowtail, Falcate Orange-tip, and Silver Spotted Skipper; dragonflies: Eastern Pondhawk, Common White Tail; and a damselfly.

Bird Species [with “ -s” indicating song only]

Cedar Waxwing	Orchard Oriole
Warbling Vireo –s	Baltimore Oriole
Carolina Chickadee	Green Heron
House Finch	Common Yellowthroat -s
Red Bellied Woodpecker –s	Swamp Sparrow -s
Red Winged Blackbird	Mourning Dove
American Goldfinch	Cardinal
Willow Flycatcher	Northern Flicker
Yellow Warbler	Yellow Throated Vireo
Song Sparrow –s	Carolina Wren -s
Gray Catbird	Yellow Billed Cuckoo
Tree Swallow	Blue Jay
Wood Duck	House Wren -s
Great Crested Flycatcher	Red Eyed Vireo –s
Eastern Wood Peewee –s	Towhee -s
Canada Goose	Red Shouldered Hawk –s
Grackle	Wood Thrush –s
Least Bittern –s	European Starling
Blue Grey Gnatcatcher	American Crow
Tufted Titmouse –s	House Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Robin

Leader: Frank Windfelder

Walkers: Suzanne Day, Ruth Fink, Stephanie Judson, Nick Karkaroukas, Bennett Landsman, Chuck Mattern, Kitty Mizuno, Sandy Rea, Mike Zickler

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Clean Up Day (March 14, 2009) —

By Carolyn Bujak

Twelve hardy & intrepid FTWP volunteers showed up at the preserve and braved crisp, clear, beautiful weather, saved big bucks on gym fees, stood around talking, laughing and enjoying apple cider and snacks, and oh yeah, we cleaned up the preserve a bit. That little bit of work resulted in an huge truck load of trash & debris collected bit by bit from all over the preserve: hiking trails along the river and by the swamp bridge, down both the narrow and wide lanes, hiking trails behind the rental garden area, in the bus stop area along River Road, and in front of the pine trees along River Road. Chainsaws were necessary to clear entangled, storm damaged tree branches from the area near the orchard; the freed branches were then cut into manageable pieces. The following folks enjoyed their work way too much: Kitty & Takashi Mizuno, Stephanie Judson & Sandy Rea, Carolyn, Tom & Joseph Bujak, Bennett Landsman, Linda Hayes, Jimmy Griffin, Louisa Khanlian, Patti Farley, and Chuck Mattern. After the clean up, when we were socializing and eating & drinking again, a young fellow arrived and introduced himself as Eric Marnell. Eric, like the rest of us, enjoys hiking, fishing and bird watching at the preserve, and offered to help with the next FTWP work party.

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Audubon Society Walk-about —

By Tom Bailey

On Saturday, April 4 at 8 am, I met with Tony Geiger of the NJ Audubon Society at the refuge to show him the site for possible inclusion in the “Pinelands Birding and Wildlife Trails Guide”. Tony was very impressed with the refuge and we had an enjoyable walk despite the windy and chilly conditions.

We first visited the “Harbor Reef” land. A stop at Dredge Harbor to look at the Great Blue Heron rookery revealed not much activity with the high winds. We next walked down Taylor’s Lane past the horse pasture then back towards River Road on the marsh lane. Several Wood Ducks and Great

Blue Herons flushed up from along the side of the road and closer to River Road we stopped to look at some skunk cabbage. As we approached the gardens we also admired the weeping willow tree that was just starting to leaf out.

We then walked along the south side of the marsh where Tony enjoyed taking many pictures. We were careful to steer well clear of the Red-shouldered Hawk nest as the female was in it incubating eggs as she kept a watchful eye on us as we walked by. A Brown Creeper and a Golden-crowned Kinglet were heard and seen as they foraged in some trees on the side of the trail and three Blue-winged Teal were spotted near the Beaver dam. We walked past Wright's Cove and to the bluff where the intense winds made viewing and picture taking very difficult.

On our way back we stopped at the west side of the marsh. A flock of calling Green-winged Teal took flight when they saw us along with several more Wood Ducks. A single Belted Kingfisher was seen perched on a branch looking for breakfast and several Tree Swallows along with two Rough-winged Swallows were observed as they swooped over the marsh. One lone Red-bellied Turtle was hauled out on a log in the marsh.

Our walk ended about 10:30. Tony thanked me for the tour and said he was looking forward to stopping back in several weeks as Spring progressed. Please visit the website <http://www.njwildlifetrails.org/> for more information on the "Birding & Wildlife Trails Guides".

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Bird House Collaboration with the NJ American Water Company –

This spring a collaboration between Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve and the New Jersey American Water Company resulted in the installation of eight bird houses on the preserve. Jeff Caldwell of the water company had originally planned to put up bluebird houses, but on the advice of FTWP's Tom Bailey they agreed that the houses

would be more likely to be used by other species. They put up six tree swallow boxes in the swamp, and two along the underground water company pipeline for chickadees, wrens, and the like.

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New Trail Signs

By Kitty Mizuno

We have had eight new trail signs made up, and are about to put them up on the 47 acre McCarter tract of land that Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve helps to oversee. The tract is the one next to Dredge Harbor and the heron rookery island, that we worked so hard to keep in its natural state, in spite of plans to "develop" it over the years, and is now owned by the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. The text for the signs was written as a group effort, in consultation with the noted local naturalist, Karl Anderson. The new signs cover such topics as: 1. The importance of ponds, such as Wink's Pond, as breeding places for amphibians, dragonflies and damselflies; 2. The plants growing in the narrow field where the water pipeline was laid, and the oak woodland surrounding it; 3. The remains of the Joseph Wright House, built in 1771 and demolished about 40 years ago; 4. The origin of Dredge Harbor and the heron rookery island; 5. The importance of the Taylor Preserve as a valuable link in the chain of natural lands along the Delaware River that are feeding and resting areas for migrating birds; 6. The impact on the land of the increasing number of deer; 7. A discussion of native and invasive plant life, with examples from the plants that grow on the tract; 8. An explanation of the Native American Trail that began here at Plum Point, and went to the shore.

We have also updated the ten signs on the original loop trail on the Taylor Preserve, and will be replacing them, since they have deteriorated due to age and vandalism.

We hope many of our readers will be able to come soon to walk both the new and the old trail. One of our next projects will be to put up a kiosk and welcome sign near River Road to guide people to the trails.

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**Minutes (draft) FTWP 2009 Annual Meeting—
February 21, 2009**

Attendees:

Kitty Taylor Mizuno, (Chair) Takashi Mizuno, Patti Farley, Tom Bailey, Tom Bujak, Caroline Bujak, Ruth Brooks, Rich Brooks, Louisa Khanlian, Michael Robinson, Bennett Landsman, Cathryn McCall Landsman, Rusty Conroy, Suzanne Day, Mike Zickler, Amy Taylor Brooks with Maya and Emma, Samuel and Marion Snipes, Chuck Mattern (Recorder)

Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Chair of Friends of Taylor Wildlife Preserve (FTWP), opened the meeting and presented the tentative agenda for review.

Introductions of attendees

Agenda Review

1. Approval of 2008 Annual Meeting minutes

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were approved.

2. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's Annual Report for February 2008 through February 2009 was prepared by Sandy Rea and submitted to the meeting by Kitty Mizuno.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

3. Last Year's Activities

- a. The Annual Meeting was held Feb. 24, 2008
- b. Bird walk with Tom Bailey was held May 17, 2008
- c. Cleanup day was held Saturday, April 5, 2008
- d. Deer population has been kept in control by permitted hunters.
- e. 20 Welcome signs (12" x 12") were designed and ordered. Ten of these have been put up.
- f. Text for 8 new trail signs for the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust land has been written and approved. Some minor changes for replacement of existing signs have also been approved.
- g. Art work by Joel Zickler is complete.

Mike Zickler brought it for us all to see.

- h. FTWP website has been updated with new photos, etc.

4. Update of Ongoing Activities

- a. Trail signs project implementation: putting up more welcome signs, ordering and putting up 8 new signs (Martin Rapp can get sign posts), replacing 10 original signs. The ordering of signs was approved.
- b. Discussion of an entrance sign or kiosk at the front at the garden plots area. Mike Zickler will coordinate applying to Larry Miller of the NJNLT for a grant for this.
- c. Reporting progress on trails grant to NJNLT, Mike Zickler reported the grant letter with forms and the progress report must be completed by the end of the second year and this is the second year since application. Larry Miller will send us a letter asking for this update.
- d. Deer population to be kept in control with the existing program of permitted hunters, including the Cinnaminson Police.
- e. Beaver Dam, beaver population down but will likely increase in the spring.
- f. Adjustment of marker for Hal Taylor Tom Bujak to dig a test pit to see if it can be moved.
- g. Tom Bailey suggested we support the succession of new pine trees in the old conifer groves.
- h. Tom Bujak may be able to provide some used wood for duck boxes (1" x 10" x 12').
- i. Tom Bailey will give a tour to Tony Geiger of the New Jersey Audubon Society on April 4th in preparation for including the Taylor preserve in the NJ Audubon Pinelands Birding and Wildlife trails guide that is to come out this fall.
- j. Mike Zickler raised the question of whether we should apply to be included in a list of Important Bird Breeding

Areas (IBBA). This will be explored further.

- k. Tom Bailey's plan to remove trees from the garden plot area is approved.

5. **FTWP Web Site**

The FTWP web site has had 519 hits since July 2007. The web hosting fee of approximately \$68 is due before April 1, 2009 was approved.

Kitty Mizuno's motion to continue to maintain the web site at \$350.00 this year was approved.

Patti Farley suggested the web site include more about the farm and farm plots.

6. **Clean Up Day**

Saturday, March 14, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. was selected for this year (low tide is at noon). Rain date is Sunday, March 15. Two areas targeted for this year are along River Road and across the lane from Wink's Pond. Plan to remove deer stands and work on split rail fence.

7. **Bird Walk**

Frank Windfelder agreed to lead a bird walk on Sat., May 23, with a rain date of Sun., May 24. It will begin at 7:30 a.m. from 7 Taylor's Lane.

8. **Election of officers:**

Nomination to share the position of Secretary accepted by Takashi Mizuno and Chuck Mattern and approved.

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|------------------------------|----------------|
| Kitty Taylor Mizuno | Chair |
| Michael Zickler | Vice Chair |
| Sandy Rea | Treasurer |
| Takashi Mizuno/Chuck Mattern | Co-Secretaries |

EXECUTIVE BOARD

All board members whose terms were expiring agreed to extend their Executive Board terms for two more years until 2010.

- Patti Farley (2009)
- Stephanie Judson (2010)
- Chuck Mattern (2010)
- Kitty Taylor Mizuno (2009)
- Takashi Mizuno (2009)

- Sandy Rea (2009)
- Suzanne Rie Day (2009)
- Michael Robinson (2009)
- Larry Tatum (2010)
- Mike Zickler (2010)

9. **Newsletter**

Patti Farley agreed to produce a newsletter in June 2009. The following agreed to author articles:

- Mike Zickler to write a synopsis of the bird walk.
- Caroline Bujak to write a synopsis of clean-up day.
- Takashi Mizuno to write a synopsis of beaver population and beaver dam

10. **Cedar Run Rehabilitation**

Discussion and proposal of committee to consider a Freedom Center for Wildlife. A non-profit to operate a building in the garden plot area.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Kitty Taylor Mizuno.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Mattern and
Takashi Mizuno
Shared Secretary

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To become a member, mail the following:

Here's _____ as a donation to help FTWP. (FTWP is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions may be deducted as provided by law.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

To:
Friends of the Taylor Wildlife Preserve
7 Taylor's Lane
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-1609

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