


Whistler

The Audubon Society of Forsyth County Newsletter

October-November 2010

Printed on recycled paper 

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2, 9:00 am	Big Sweep/Miller Park Clean-up (Leader: Pam Wooten)
October 5, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting – Arbor Acres Club House
October 9, 8:00 am	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Bethania-Walnut Bottoms (Leader: Gene Schepker) <i>Meet at the Village of Bethania Visitor Center</i>
October 10	Big Sit – Reynolda Gardens (see below)
October 26, 7:00 pm	Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitor Center Bill Conner, Wake Forest University "Legions of the Night: The Bat-Moth Arms Race" (<i>see below</i>)
November 2, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting – Arbor Acres Club House
November 13, 9:00 am	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Horizons Park (Leader: Phil Dickinson) <i>Meet at the parking lot at the park</i>
November 13	Start of Project FeederWatch (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
November 23, 7:00 pm	Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitor Center Ken Bridle, Stewardship Director, Piedmont Land Conservancy

THE BIG SIT

The Sitting Ducks (ASFC's Team) will be setting up the ASFC circle at Reynolda Gardens in the lower parking area near the boat house from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Please be aware that restrooms near the greenhouses are closed on weekends. However, there will be restrooms available near Mayberry's on Sunday.

Be sure to bring your binoculars, a folding chair, something to drink, a hat, sunscreen and maybe bug repellent. Spotting scope and field guides are optional.

CHAPTER MEETING

Bill Connor, Professor of Biology at Wake Forest University, will share insights from research he and Nick Hristov have done on bats and moths and their prey. See <http://www.wfu.edu/~conner> for more on this research.

FRIENDS OF SAURA MOUNTAIN RANGE

A new group is forming to help preserve, protect and promote the Saura Mountain area, including Pilot Mountain and Hanging Rock State Parks. In early discussions, Friends of the Saura Mountain Range envisions itself as a volunteer base and financial resource for our cash-strapped state parks. It also would be an advocate for the parks and the area before local and state governmental bodies.

Audubon Society of Forsyth County works with both parks. We do Hawk Watch at Pilot Mountain, and we conduct counts, offer education programs and purchase materials for Hanging Rock under the Important Bird Area program. Phil Dickinson has represented the chapter at initial Friends meetings. Other local groups taking part include Piedmont Land Conservancy, Foothills Chapter of Sierra Club, Dan River Basin Assn. and Sauratown Trails Assn. Local individuals also are participating.

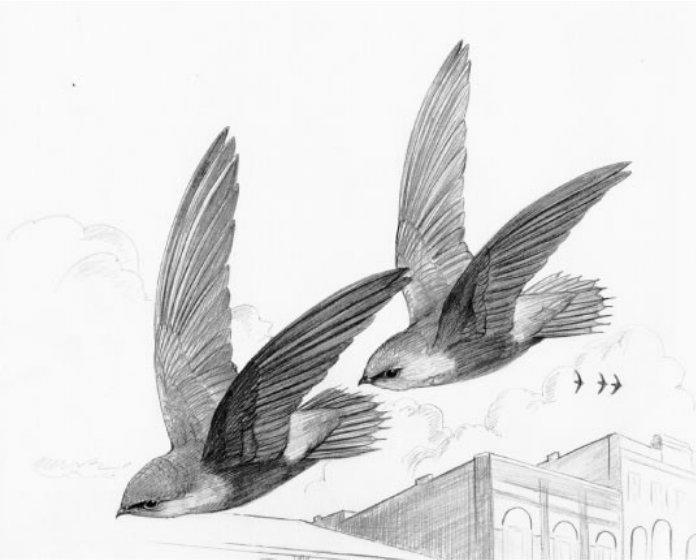
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SWIFT WATCHERS

They came, they saw, they marveled at our annual Swift Watch. People started to gather around 7:15 p.m. on September 15 on Fourth Street next to Krankie's to watch a part of our fall swift migration spectacle. As they did last year, swifts are using a small warehouse chimney at this location. More than 50 kids, first-timers, Wake students and Audubon regulars watched about 300 swifts go down the chimney around 7:50. The number of birds did not match last year or some other sights around town, but still drew oohs and ahs from people who had never seen our fall guests. They also learned some cool facts about these small birds that are traveling all the way to South America. Thanks to Ron Morris and Bill Gifford for organizing this event.

The roosting phenomenon will continue through September and perhaps into early October. Northwest Middle School on Murray Rd. has been the site of a huge roost of thousands of birds. Other places to check include Kernersville High School, Vienna, Lewisville, Speas, and Griffith Elementary Schools, and the old school in Clemmons.

Phil Dickinson



PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

For more information on Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch, see www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw.

Have great fun watching birds in your backyard (or beyond) and help develop greater knowledge about bird populations and migration patterns.

AUDUBON NORTH CAROLINA'S CANFIELD GOES TO THE COAST

It is a bad news, good news scenario for North Carolina Auduboners. Chris Canfield, Executive Director of Audubon North Carolina, has resigned from that position. The good news is that he will direct National Audubon Society activities along the Gulf Coast in the wake of this summer's tragic oil spill. Chris was a strong conservation advocate during his North Carolina tenure, successfully stopping the Navy's proposed Outlying Landing Field near Pocosin National Wildlife refuge and forcing the National Park Service to adopt regulations to protect the Piping Plover and other wildlife at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, among other things. We also have two new Audubon chapters in the state—Cape Fear and High Country. Thanks Chris for a job well done.

Gulf Coast restoration and conservation efforts will be in good hands, that is for sure. And, in the latest news from the National Audubon Society now reports that the coastal Louisiana area will receive significant federal funds for restoration efforts. Here is what National has to say in its September Audubon Advisory:

"After decades of neglect and abuse, devastating hurricanes and a catastrophic oil spill, coastal Louisiana finally got some good news. An amendment to the CLEAR Act, the House of Representatives oil spill response bill, directed \$1.2 billion of the expected civil penalties from the BP spill to Gulf coast restoration efforts. It also sets up a mechanism by which projects will be proposed, prioritized, and selected for restoration dollars. Because Louisiana had far more damage from the Deep Horizon disaster, and is also in greater need of restoration dollars, Audubon expects a large percentage of the money to go to Louisiana. The Senate has yet to pass a similar bill, but it is slated for action during the lame duck session after the November elections.

"The second piece of good news for coastal LA? As part of President Obama's budget request for coastal Louisiana restoration, the Senate approved funding — a total of \$35.6 million for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in Louisiana. This includes \$19 million to start construction of wetlands restoration projects, and \$16.6 million to conduct wetlands pre-construction studies. The House has yet to act on this legislation, but we expect it to be adopted after the November election. This will be the largest commitment ever by the federal government to begin large-scale restoration of coastal Louisiana."

Phil Dickinson

BIRDING GUIDE TO FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA 2nd EDITION TO BE RELEASED IN OCTOBER!

I would like to thank everyone who purchased a copy of the first edition of the Birding Guide to Forsyth County. The money raised will help support Forsyth Audubon's many worthwhile projects.

The first edition of the Birding Guide was just a start. New birding sites are being found and the county records are changing constantly. So far in 2010 we have added a new species to the accepted county list (with a well photographed Black-necked Stilt), and moved one from the provisional to the accepted list (with the addition of a photograph of a Forster's Tern). Several occurrence tables have been updated. In addition, my crack staff and I have traveled the county looking for new and different birding locations from east to west. These underbirded locations have been added to the guide. Each new and existing location is now listed with GPS code that will make it easier for a birder with a GPS unit to find the site. The codes can also be used for virtual birding from home by typing the GPS code into Google Earth and getting a bird's eye view (maybe a vulture?) from above. Also, a new section on where to look for localized species has been added. A birder can find a good spot to look for Grasshopper Sparrows (for example) just by looking in this section.

After much cussing at and fussing with the web publishers download tool I have succeeded in converting the book to a much more user friendly size! The new edition is in a 6 by 9 inch format. Despite the smaller format I have kept the font size the same for those of us that need bifocals and reading glasses. The tables of relative occurrence for each bird species in the county by week throughout the year have been tweaked and adjusted to fit the new format.

I also apologize for the many corrections that needed to be made. I would like to thank all those who have provided me with suggestions, additions, and corrections. For those who have the first edition I will e-mail an errata and correction document that will include all the new birding locations which can be printed and placed with the first edition. Major changes to individual species records will be included. If you are not on Forsythbirds you may e-mail me at dkdisher@gmail.com for a copy. I will send it to you when it is complete. If you are on Forsythbirds you will receive a copy.

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At an August meeting, the group created task forces to develop an official nonprofit structure for the organization and to develop a process for recruiting volunteers. Park Superintendents Matt Windsor and David Cook offered some project priorities. Pilot Mountain would like to begin a stream and wetland restoration project on Horne Creek at the Yadkin River Section. Hanging Rock needs volunteers for trail maintenance, visitor center coverage and pesticide treatment of Eastern Hemlocks.

The mutual benefits to be gained from a relationship between our chapter and Friends of Saura Mountain Range are clear, given our activities at the parks and interest in local bird conservation. If you would like to help, as a liaison to the new group, as a work volunteer, or whatever, contact Phil at pdickins@gmail.com.

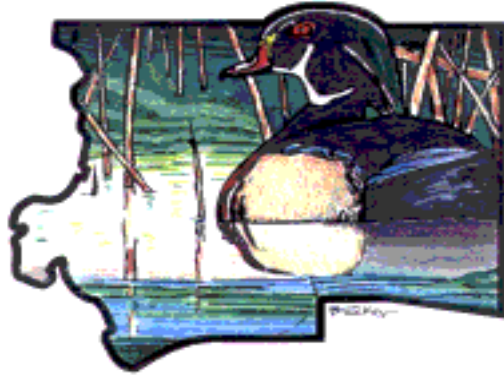
Phil Dickinson



The Audubon Society of Forsyth County is planning a trip to Hungary next spring so that our good friend Ferenc Domoki can return the favor and show us some of his birds. The time frame for the trip would be to arrive in Budapest in time to be picked up by Ferenc around Saturday, May 7. We would all be delivered back to Budapest around Friday, May 13. Ferenc has suggested a tour centered in his home of Szeged, concentrating on the lowland and steppe specialties and, as he says, "ordinary" European bird species with an excursion to the Zemplen Hills by way of the wonderful Hortobagy National Park. Time will be made for cultural activities as well. We're planning the details now so please contact Jim Martin JimMartin@ArborInvest.com or Susan Jones sljones@triad.rr.com if you are interested in going.

Our Mission

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems—focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and North Carolina’s biological diversity



Visit us on the web at www.forsythaudubon.org

Audubon Society of
Forsyth County
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The Audubon Society of Forsyth County

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At-Large:	John Haire	671-5577
	Susan Jones	768-9151

If you don't wish to join the National Audubon Society, but would like to join the local chapter, send \$15.00 (make your check payable to ASFC) to: Audubon Society of Forsyth County, P.O. Box 15111, Winston-Salem, NC 27113. Please include your name, email, address and zip code.

To look at any thing,
If you would know that thing,
You must look at it long:
To look at this green and say,
"I have seen spring in these woods",
will not do - you must be the thing you see:
You must be the dark snakes of stems and ferny
plumes of leaves,
You must enter in
To the small silences between
The leaves,
You must take your time
And touch the very peace
They issue from.

John Moffit