

Whistler

December 2011 – January 2012



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6, 2011	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
December 10, 2011	Second Saturday Bird Walk — Washington Park (Leader: J. Reiskind), 9 a.m.
December 17, 2011	Christmas Bird Count — New River (Compiler: Katherine Higgins)
December 18, 2011	Christmas Bird Count — Hanging Rock (Compiler: Phil Dickinson), 8 a.m.
December 21, 2011	Birds and Beer — Foothills Brewery, 5:30 p.m.
December 23, 2011	Christmas Bird Count — Mt. Jefferson (Compiler: Eric Harrold)
December 31, 2011	Christmas Bird Count — Forsyth County (Compiler: Chuck Thompson)
January 3, 2012	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
January 13 — 16, 2012	Winter Field Trip — Outer Banks, NC (Leader: Rob Rogers)
January 14, 2012	Second Saturday Birdwalk — Tanglewood County Park (Leader: TBA), 9 a.m.
January 18, 2012	Birds and Beer — Foothills Brewery, 5:30 p.m.
January 21, 2012	Bethabara Park Cleanup — Bethabara Wetland (Leader: Pam Wooten), 9 a.m.
January 24, 2012	Chapter Meeting — Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m. Dr. John Brzorad, "Behavior and Movements of Egrets"
January 28, 2012	Burke's Garden, Virginia, Day Trip (Leader: Ron Morris)

Christmas Bird Counts

Sign up now for our Forsyth County Christmas Bird Count on December 31. Contact Chuck Thompson at cosmo6190@yahoo.com, 336-766-7884. Teams will fan out across the county for this annual bird census. All that are required is an interest in birds and a pair of binoculars. For inexperienced birders, it is a great chance to learn alongside veteran counters. We will review what we found at a 6 p.m. count dinner at Cha Da Tai on Jonestown Rd. at U.S. 421. For first-time participants, Forsyth Audubon will cover the \$5 fees.

On December 18, the chapter will lead a Christmas Bird Count at Hanging Rock State Park. We will start at the Visitor's Center at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, a bag lunch and your \$5 fee. We also hope to have hot soup. Contact Phil Dickinson, pdickins@triad.rr.com, 336-659-2464, to take part.

Winter Trip to Outer Banks

Our winter field trip will visit the Outer Banks on January 13 – 16, with our base of operations at the Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary in Corolla. The sanctuary is situated on Currituck Sound with more than 2600 acres of marsh, wetland and upland habitat to explore—see www.nc.audubon.org. On Saturday morning, Sanctuary Director Mark Buckner will lead us on a tour of the sanctuary and surrounding area. After lunch, we will head for Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Bodie Light and Oregon Inlet. On Sunday, Mark will lead us around Lake Mattamuskeet and Pocosin Lakes, which are premier winter destinations for swans, geese and other waterfowl. Time permitting, we also may look for Short-eared Owls at Alligator NWR. Check www.fws.gov for information on these refuges. For stops on the way down or back, try Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park, www.shwpark.com, in Scotland

Neck (admission), an early visit to Alligator or other stops on the N.C. Birding Trail.

The lodge at Pine Island Sanctuary offers six rooms with two single beds and two single rooms for \$25/night. There are kitchen facilities to prepare your own meals. Contact Mark at mbuckler@audubon.org to reserve. Accommodations also are available at the Hampton Inn directly across from the road from the sanctuary—<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com>, 252-453-6565. Blue Point and Aqua are local restaurants that are open year round. Mark will arrange for a group dinner at a local restaurant of our choice on Saturday night.

To sign up for the trip, contact Rob Rogers at rogers10@triad.rr.com, 336-643-0563.

Egrets in January

Come see Great and Snowy Egrets in January! On January 28, Dr. John Brzorad will present "Behavior and Movements of Egrets" at our Chapter Meeting, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Bethabara Park Visitor's Center. Dr. Brzorad is Director of the Reese Institute for Conservation of Natural Resources and Assistant Professor at Lenoir-Rhyne College. He has studied egret behavior of egrets at marshes and inland rivers since the 1990s.

Join Forsyth Audubon

If you are not a member, we invite you to join. Membership in Forsyth Audubon includes membership in National Audubon Society and is just \$20 for the first year. Send your check made out to ASFC: to Forsyth Audubon, P.O. Box 15111, Winston-Salem, NC 27113. Please include your name, email, address and zip code.

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 or on Facebook.
Forsyth Audubon, P.O. Box 15111, Winston-Salem, NC 27113