

Whistler

March - April 2014



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| March 8, 2014 | Saturday Bird Walk — Bethabara Wetland, 9 a.m. (Leader: Carol Cunningham) |
| March 15-22, 2014 | Creek Week – Education events about our streams: see Creek Week |
| March 16 | Creek Week Bird Walks – Civitan, Muddy Creek, Tanglewood, 9 -10:30 a.m. |
| March 19, 2014 | Birds and Beer — Johannes Restaurant, 6:00 p.m. |
| March 22, 2014 | Historic Bethabara Park Cleanup – 9 a.m. (Leader: Pam Wooten) |
| March 25, 2014 | Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., Jesse Birckhead, The Nature Conservancy, “Conserving Habitat for Grassland Birds.” |
| March 31, 2014 | Monday Bird Walk – Reynolda, 9 a.m. (Leader: Jeremy Reiskind). |
| April 1, 2014 | Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m. |
| April 12, 2014 | Saturday Bird Walk — Miller Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: Susan Jones) |
| April 16, 2014 | Birds and Beer — Johannes Restaurant, 6 p.m. |
| April 22, 2014 | Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m. “Trip to Belize” |
| April 26, 2014 | P.E.A. Earth Day Fair – Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| April 27, 2014 | Audubon Day Trip – Pee Dee NWR, 7:30 a.m. (Leaders: Craig , Jane McCleary) |
| April 28, 2014 | Monday Bird Walk – Muddy Creek G’way, 8 a.m. (Leader: Carol Cunningham) |

Brown-headed Nuthatch Boxes

Have power drill, will travel! That's Lee Williams, who has been making the rounds of our city and county parks to install nest boxes for our logo bird, the Brown-headed Nuthatch. Lee recently graduated from App. State with a degree in biology and has volunteered to lead our local nuthatch box efforts.

Lee has had plenty of help putting up boxes. Thanks to Jean Chamberlain, Howard Coston, Gail and Ferd Crotte, Phil Dickinson, Bill Gifford, Hunter Linde (age 10), Wayne Petel and Chuck Thompson for lending a hand. We also need volunteers to monitor the boxes during nesting season from March through May. Contact Lee at lewilliams89@yahoo.com.

Convert a bluebird box to a nuthatch box in your yard by emailing your snail-mail address to nuthatch@audubon.org. You'll receive a metal excluder plate that will let in nuthatches but not bluebirds. Or just pop over to Wright's Backyard Birding Center and buy a box with a 1" or 1 1/8" hole – just right for the nuthatch.

The nest boxes are funded by a grant from Toyota TogetherGreen to Audubon North Carolina. Sign up now for nuthatch news through Audubon North Carolina: <http://audubonaction.org/NCNuthatches>

Wood Thrush Breeding Territories

During the latter half of May, field workers from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center will be in our area to try to catch 20 Wood Thrushes for banding and attaching GPS tags. If we can recatch some in 2015, we will have a better idea about the migration paths and winter territories of these birds. This will help protect habitat for this declining species.

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

First, we need your help to find out where some of the breeding territories are, especially in outlying areas. We want to look for thrushes at Bethabara, at river sections of Pilot Mountain and Hanging Rock State Parks, and perhaps in Guilford County. If you can help do this May 1-15, email pdickins@triad.rr.com.

Also, watch for details about a May 21 Wood Thrush party.

Creating Bird-friendly Communities

Winter weather did not cooperate, but spring is almost here and we need volunteers for these Habitat for Humanity workdays: March 22, April 5, April 19, April 26, May 10, May 17. Contact kimbbrand@gmail.com, if you can help.

Habitat for Grassland Birds

On March 25, our chapter meeting features "Conserving Breeding Habitat for Grassland Birds in a Changing Agricultural Landscape". Jessie Birckhead, Conservation Coordinator for the NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will discuss challenges facing grassland birds in agricultural landscapes and how the cattle industry can better accommodate breeding grassland birds by using native warm-season forages. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. and the program at 7:30 at the Historic Bethabara Visitor's Center, 2147 Bethabara Rd.

Forsyth Audubon in Belize

On April 22, our Forsyth Audubon travelers to Belize recap their adventure in photos. Join us at Bethabara at 7 p.m.

Spring Trip to North Carolina Coast

Our Spring Trip will be May 9-11 to the Wilmington – Southport area of North Carolina. Stay tuned for details.