

Whistler

May - June 2014



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| May 7, 2014 | Hanging Rock Spring Bird Count — 8 a.m. (Compiler: Phil Dickinson) |
| May 9-11, 2014 | Spring Field Trip — Wilmington and Southport, N.C. (Leader: Rob Rogers) |
| May 10, 2014 | Saturday Bird Walk — Reynolda, 8 a.m. (Leader: Bill Gifford) |
| May 17, 2014 | New River IBA Bird Surveys — (Leader: Phil Dickinson) |
| May 17, 2014 | Audubon Day at Birdfest — Habitat for Humanity (Contact: Kim Brand) |
| May 18, 2014 | Day Trip to Mason Farm Biological Preserve — (Leaders: Craig & Jane McCleary) |
| May 21, 2014 | Wood Thrush Party — Johanne's Restaurant, 5 p.m. |
| May 25, 2014 | Day Trip to Grayson Highlands State Park, VA — (Leader: Ron Morris) |
| May 26, 2014 | Monday Bird Walk — Black Walnut Bottom, 9 a.m. (Leader: Shelley Rutkin). |
| May 27, 2014 | Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., Cornelia Barr, “Changing the World, 19 Acres at a Time” and Annual Election |
| June 14, 2014 | Saturday Bird Walk — Civitan Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: Jeremy Reiskind) |
| June 18, 2014 | Birds and Beer — Johanne's Restaurant, 6 p.m. |
| June 21, 2014 | Day Trip to Valle Cruces Community Park — (Leaders: Craig & Jane McCleary) |
| June 30, 2014 | Monday Bird Walk — C. G. Hill Memorial Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: Carol Gearhart) |

Spring Bird Count and Birdathon

The combination of perfect weather and a late spring made for an exciting Spring Bird Count on May 3. At the count dinner, preliminary results indicated a high species tally, including every warbler on our spring checklist, plus two that are not – Blue-winged and Wilson's.

Spring Bird Count also means Birdathon. Tax-deductible contributions this year go to protection of Audubon North Carolina coastal sanctuaries. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to ASFC and mail them to P.O. Box 15111, Winston-Salem, NC 27113.

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 re-catch 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.

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 during May, email pdickins@triad.rr.com.

Wood Thrush Party

On May 21, come out to Johanne's Restaurant and celebrate the Wood Thrush project. Meet Peter Keller, the staff member from the Smithsonian Institute who will be trapping and banding the birds! From 5 – 6:30 p.m., delicious appetizers will be provided and there will be a cash bar. It's our usual Birds & Beer night, but we are starting an hour early. Those who want to stay and have dinner can go right ahead with

the usual routine. Johanne's is at 3870 Bethania Station Rd.

Our members' generous support of our members for this project has been fantastic. Thank you.

Creating Bird-friendly Communities

This spring, Forsyth Audubon and Habitat for Humanity volunteers – along with many Habitat homeowner families – have planted three bird-friendly yards. There are two more bird-friendly planting days coming up. Come help out for a few hours on May 10 and/or May 24 – you'll be glad you did!

Sign up: www.habitatforsyth.volunteerhub.com. It's fun to plant all together in a group, and it is a joy to introduce gardening and birds to others. Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity, funded by a Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship to Kim Brand, will continue this summer with neighborhood bird walks. Please let Kim know if you are interested in helping kids learn to look through binoculars and sharing your love of birds on these walks. We'll plant two more yards and one public space in the fall. Email kim.b.brand@gmail.com.

Washington Park Nature Center

On March 25, our chapter meeting features "Changing the World, 19 Acres at a Time," by Cornelia Barr. Cornelia is Chair of the Gateway Environmental Initiative. She will inspire us with her story of how a few people who care can make a big difference for our Earth! And she'll update us on exciting developments toward building a nature center next to Washington Park. Election of officers. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. and the program at 7:30 at the Historic Bethabara Visitor's Center, 2147 Bethabara Rd.

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