

Whistler

June - August, 2015



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25 – June 7, 2015	Wood Thrush Recapture – Bethabara Park, Pilot Mountain (Contact: Kim Brand)
June 10, 2015	Yadkin River Nature Trail Opening – Tanglewood Park, 10 a.m, by invitation.
June 13, 2015	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Civitan Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: Jeremy Reiskind)
June 14, 2015	Elk Knob State Park Day Trip – Leaders: Craig & Jane McCleary)
June 17, 2015	Birds and Beer – New Location to be announced, 6 p.m.
June 29, 2015	Monday Bird Walk – Hobby Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: TBA)
July 11, 2015	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Muddy Creek, 8 a.m. (Leader: Carol Gearhart)
July 15, 2015	Birds and Beer – New Location to be announced, 6:00 p.m.
July 25, 2015	Bethabara Park Cleanup – Reynolda Rd. Day Care, 9 a.m. (Leader: Pam Wooten)
July 27, 2015	Monday Bird Walk – Horizons Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: TBA)
August 1, 2015	Audubon NC Chapter Day – Haw River SP, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Open to all members
August 8, 2015	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Archie Elledge, 8 a.m. (Leader: Hop Hopkins)
August 15, 2015	Birds and Beer – Five Points Restaurant, 6:00 p.m.
August 27, 2015	Monday Bird Walk – Reynolda, 8 a.m. (Leader: TBA)

Your New Officers for 2015-2016

Chapter officers for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 were elected at our May meeting. Rob Rogers is our new president. Ana Clara Melo succeeds Rob as vice-president. Howard Coston and Craig McCleary continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Much thanks for a great year to outgoing president Carol Gearhart.

Yadkin River Nature Trail

The Yadkin River Nature Trail at Tanglewood Park officially opens on June 10 with a ceremony for local officials and other invited guests. Development of the trail has been a collaborative effort between Forsyth Audubon and the park. The trail is in the area between the river and the BMX road – now designated as Audubon Trail.

After Working together on a native warm season grass restoration project, the County asked Forsyth Audubon to create signage for a nature trail. The chapter secured funding and designed the educational signs. Twelve signs now welcome visitors in the southwest corner of the park. This area includes geographical features like the native grassland and an oxbow that support a diversity of wildlife from frogs to butterflies to hawks and owls. Funding was provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Duke Energy and Pilot View Inc./Resource Institute.

Forsyth Audubon will offer guided nature walks to celebrate the opening of the trail on June 14 and June 21 at 9 AM and 11 AM each day.

Much thanks to our own Ron Morris for developing the content for each sign, to Roseann Rush for her graphic designing and text editing, to Carol Gearhart for working to bring everything together, and to David Disher and Will Stuart for donating most of the photographs used on the signs.

Spring Trip to Monterey, Virginia

Twenty-three members just returned from our spring trip to Virginia's Bath and Highland counties. The birding began at Warbler Rd. north of Roanoke. Later stops included Hidden Valley, Paddy Knob and Blue Grass Valley.

Cerulean, Mourning and Golden-winged Warblers were life birds for several in the group. Blackburnian Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Black-capped Chickadees also were among the nearly 100 species tallied by the group.

Wood Thrush Recapture

Last year, we captured and attached GPS locator tags to 22 male Wood Thrushes at Pilot Mountain State Park and Historic Bethabara. Currently, Tim Guida, a field biologist from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, is here trying to recapture some of those birds to collect the data from the tags.

On May 25, Tim netted a tagged bird that had spent the winter in Belize. When five chapter members traveled to there in January 2014, everyone hoped that some Belize thrushes also would be "our" birds. Our travelers did not visit the precise area where the tagged bird wintered, but they were pretty close.

Trapping continues through June 7 and possibly later. The goal is to use collected data to guide habitat conservation efforts. The chapter also will consider how best to continue our relationship with Belize Audubon on behalf of these birds and other neotropical migrants.

Thanks to our volunteers and partners: National Audubon's International Alliances Program, Audubon North Carolina, Pilot Mountain State Park and Historic Bethabara Park.

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.
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