

Whistler

The Audubon Society of Forsyth County Newsletter

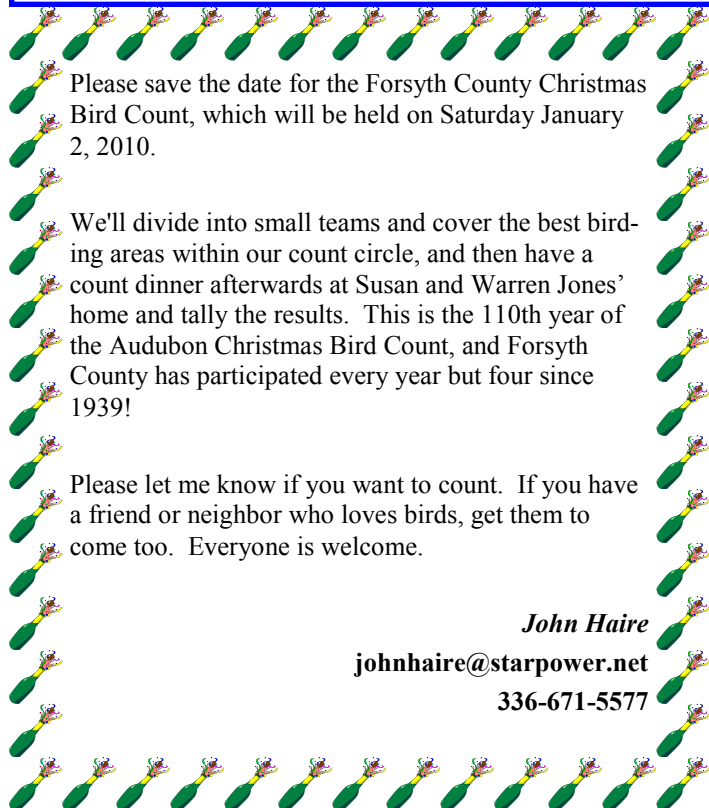
December 2009-January 2010

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 1 Board Meeting – 7:00 pm, Arbor Acres Clubhouse
- December 12 Second Saturday Birdwalk – 9 am, Civitan Park (led by Kim Brand)
- December 16 Hanging Rock Christmas Bird Count ([see below](#))
- December 19 New River Christmas Bird Count ([see below](#))
- January 2 ASFC Christmas Bird Count ([see below](#))
- January 5 Board Meeting—7:00 pm, Arbor Acres Clubhouse
- January 9 Second Saturday – 9 am, Washington Park (led by Jeremy Reiskind)
- January 15-18 Winter Trip – Chincoteague and Assateague ([see page 2](#))
- January 23 Miller Park Clean Up—9 am (led by Pam Wooten)
- January 26 Chapter Meeting – 7:30 pm, Historic Bethabara Park Visitor Center (social at 7:00 pm)
Mark Simpson: "The Joy of Discovery: Naturalists of the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains"

IBA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



Please save the date for the Forsyth County Christmas Bird Count, which will be held on Saturday January 2, 2010.

We'll divide into small teams and cover the best birding areas within our count circle, and then have a count dinner afterwards at Susan and Warren Jones' home and tally the results. This is the 110th year of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and Forsyth County has participated every year but four since 1939!

Please let me know if you want to count. If you have a friend or neighbor who loves birds, get them to come too. Everyone is welcome.

John Haire
johnhaire@starpower.net
336-671-5577

We need your help! Sign up for the Hanging Rock State Park Christmas Bird Count set for Wednesday December 16. We started this count in 2007 as part of our chapter's adoption of the park under the Audubon Important Bird Areas program. Last year, Ron Morris and Jeremy Reiskind spotted a very late Blue-headed Vireo during our count along the park's several trails. Let's see what we can document to add to the park's checklist this year. There is a lot of ground to cover, so we are looking for at least 16 birders to take part. For new birders, this is a great opportunity to get out in the field with other members. The count begins at 8 a.m. at the Park Visitor Center. To register, contact Phil Dickinson at 336-659-2464, pdickins@triad.rr.com.

Our chapter also has adopted the New River IBA, and for several years chapter members also have helped with the Mt. Jefferson and New River counts along the river. This year, the Mt. Jefferson count will be on December 18 and the New River count will be on December 19. Contact Phil if you would like to take part in either, or both. The scenery is wonderful all year. We plan to carpool.

FORSYTH AUDUBON WINTER TRIP GOING NORTH

The annual winter trip for Forsyth Audubon will be from January 15-18, 2010 at Chincoteague and Assateague National Wildlife Refuges on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland. On the way we will bird the islands along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. There are several other birding spots to check out also, The Nature Conservancy's Coastal Reserve and the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWF, as well as many others.

Birding the bridge tunnel involves special security procedures. We cannot bird the islands without a police escort. For every group of 14 birders we will need a police escort that charges \$50/hour. Costs for the security will be pro-rated among participating birders. Those who wish to bird along the bridge tunnel will have to complete registration forms and send to me no later than December 16, 2009. This is necessary in order to meet the deadline imposed by bridge security. **If you cannot meet this deadline, you cannot participate in this part of the trip, no exceptions.** Bridge security will not allow any late additions to the group.

You do not have to bird the bridge tunnel of course but can join the group at Chincoteague where we will be staying. Details on possible motels and birding spots and birds to watch for will be provided as we develop the trip guide. Whatever you choose to do this should be a great opportunity for winter birding. So, take a look at your calendars and make plans to join us in this outing. Contact Don Adamick at dad-amick@bellsouth.net if you are interested in participating. We hope you can make it.

HANGING ROCK IBA DONATION

Audubon Society of Forsyth County recently donated books and weather equipment to Hanging Rock State Park to support their Peregrine Falcon monitoring activities. The items were purchased with collaborative funds received from National Audubon under the Important Bird Area (IBA) program.

A weather gauge will allow personnel to record temperature, wind and barometric pressure during monitoring activities. Several books about Peregrine Falcons and other raptors will assist in understanding the behaviors and habits of these impressive birds. The books include, The Peregrine Falcon, by Derek Ratcliffe, two volumes of Handbook of North American Birds, and the Hawks in Flight guide by Dunne, Sibley and Sutton.

Although it was impossible to confirm how many chicks actually fledged, there was nesting activity at the park from 2004-2008. Unfortunately, only a male arrived this past spring and no nesting took place. There's a good chance birds will return, however.

Phil Dickinson

CHAT

As I write this it's almost Thanksgiving. I know I should write about all I'm thankful for, family and friends, mild fall days, birds at my feeders and all that. And I truly am thankful for all of those and more. But all that keeps rattling around in my head right now is Monty Python. Specifically *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. "Bring out yer dead. Bring out yer dead." "But I'm not dead yet." "Ere. He says he's not dead yet." "Well, he soon will be."

I'm not dead yet! I've served about three-fourths of my two-year term and "I don't want to go on the cart". At least not yet! I was very fortunate to take over the presidency after Phil Dickinson's term. He worked (and is still working) tirelessly for the chapter. He helped gather all of our data, he kept us informed of everything that was going on and he birded. Boy did he bird (and is he ever still birding)! And he turned a very well-run chapter over to me. And Ron Morris will follow me as president. I've already been calling on him for his steady sage advice. With going on-line with the newsletter, changing the venue for our chapter meetings, paddling through the lotus at Bethabara, hosting our first fund-raiser, setting up a working listserve and beginning the expansion and updating of our website I imagine that we all have been a bit off-kilter at times. But I want to thank all of you for your patience, your encouragement and your participation in all of these changes. And there will be more changes to come as we continue to grow and expand and address our mission statement.

So I guess I am thankful after all. For all of you that help make the chapter what it is today. And for all of you that haven't participated yet but are simply looking for your niche. Just let us know that you would like to help in some way and we'll be more than happy to help you find your place with us. the next newsletter will have a listing of volunteer opportunities for any level of expertise or interest!

Susan Jones



Dark-eyed Junco

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

Audubon Society of
Forsyth County
P.O. Box 15111
Winston-Salem, NC 27113

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Visit us on the web at www.forsythaudubon.org

The Audubon Society of Forsyth County

2009-2010 CHAPTER BOARD

BIRD

President:	Susan Jones	768-9151
Vice President:	Ron Morris	725-1254
Secretary:	Kim Brand	896-0923
Treasurer:	Shelley Rutkin	922-4758
Membership:	Lois Schneider	768-6645
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Newsletter:	Susan Rupp	758-4396
Newsletter Dist.:	Gene Schepker	768-6645
Field Trips:	Don Adamick	766-8436
Education:	Bill Gifford	721-0201
Conservation:	Phil Dickinson	659-2464
Bird Count:	John Haire	671-5577
	Shelley Rutkin	922-4758
Hospitality:	Marilyn Shuping	924-9776
Website:	Phil Dickinson	659-2464
At-Large:	Jeremy Reiskind	727-0734
	John Haire	671-5577

It was passed from one bird to another,
the whole gift of the day.
The day went from flute to flute,
went dressed in vegetation,
in flights which opened a tunnel
through the wind would pass
to where birds were breaking open
the dense blue air -
and there, night came in.

When I returned from so many journeys,
I stayed suspended and green
between sun and geography -
I saw how wings worked,
how perfumes are transmitted
by feathery telegraph,
and from above I saw the path,
the springs and the roof tiles,
the fishermen at their trades,
the trousers of the foam;
I saw it all from my green sky.
I had no more alphabet
than the swallows in their courses,
the tiny, shining water
of the small bird on fire
which dances out of the pollen.

For membership information, please contact Lois Schneider at 768-6645. 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.

Pablo Neruda