

# Whistler

November - December 2013



## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5, 2013	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
November 9, 2013	Saturday Bird Walk — Newell-Massey Greenway, 9 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Mike Conway</a> )
November 9, 2013	Project Feeder Watch Begins – To participate, see <a href="http://feederwatch.org/">http://feederwatch.org/</a>
November 20, 2013	Birds and Beer — Johanne’s Restaurant, 6:00 p.m.
November 25, 2013	Monday Bird Walk – Dinkins Bottom, 9 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Gene Schepker</a> )
November 26, 2013	Chapter Meeting — Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., “Lost Bird Project,” a film about commemorating Carolina Parakeets and other extinct birds.
December 3, 2013	Board Meeting — Arbor Acres Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
December 14, 2013	Saturday Bird Walk — Muddy Creek Greenway, 9 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Nathan Gatto</a> )
December 14, 2013	Mt. Jefferson Christmas Bird Count – To participate, contact <a href="#">Ron Morris</a>
December 15, 2013	Hanging Rock Christmas Bird Count – To participate, contact <a href="#">Phil Dickinson</a>
December 18, 2013	Birds and Beer — Johanne’s Restaurant, 6 p.m.
December 21, 2013	New River Christmas Bird Count – To participate, contact <a href="#">Ron Morris</a>
December 29, 2013	Stone Mountain Christmas Bird Count – To participate, contact <a href="#">Ron Morris</a>
January 4, 2014	Forsyth County Christmas Bird Count – To participate, contact <a href="#">Ron Morris</a>

## Christmas Bird Counts

The holiday season means Christmas Bird Counts. Birders of all experience levels are welcome, and the counts offer excellent opportunities to learn about our winter birds.

Our Forsyth County count will be January 4<sup>th</sup>. Contact Ron Morris to take part. Other nearby counts and contacts:

- December 14 – Mt. Jefferson (Ron Morris)
- December 15 – Hanging Rock (Phil Dickinson)
- December 21 – New River (Ron Morris)
- December 29 – Stone Mountain (Ron Morris)

## Winter Trip Goes to Virginia Tidewater

If you were on your own, you would have little opportunity to see the winter birds of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel and Mackay Island NWR. Our winter trip, January 17-20, will take you there, plus possible stops at Kiptokete State Par and Back Bay NWR in Virginia. Birding the Bridge/Tunnel can be special, with such species as Harlequin Duck, the three Scoters, Brants and Great Cormorants. And, Mackay has several Rail species.

Birding the Bridge/Tunnel requires special reservations and a fee payment (plus \$18 toll), so please contact Rob Rogers at [rrogers10@triad.rr.com](mailto:rrogers10@triad.rr.com), no later than December 1, if you want to go. Look for coming details about Virginia Beach accommodations.

## Hawk Identification Guide

How are your hawk identification skills? If you are a veteran migration counter at Pilot Mountain, you probably confident, but where does that leave the rest of us? I missed this fall

migration period, so on a lark I purchased a new book to study. *The Crossley ID Guide Raptors* by Crossley, Liguori and Sullivan was more than I thought it would be. The raptor guide dedicates a page of well-positioned photos of adults, a page for juveniles, followed by a page of quiz birds. The backgrounds are photos of appropriate habitats. Accipiters also have multiple quiz pages of mixed accipiters, as if you were at a hawk watch. The Red-tailed has 6 pages of information and 2 quiz pages on eastern, western, Krider's and Harlan's Hawks. The back of the book has an easy-reading write-up of each species. Nothing substitutes for field experience, but this book definitely prepares you to help our hawk watchers – "Hop" Hopkins.

## Remembering Our Extinct Birds

On November 26, our chapter meeting features "The Lost Bird Project." Gone are the Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon and other North American Birds, but Todd McGrain searches to install large bronze sculptures at locations where they last were seen. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. and the program at 7:30 at the Historic Bethabara Visitor's Center, 2147 Bethabara Rd.

## Bird-friendly Communities

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Audubon and Habitat for Humanity volunteers landscaped yards with native plants for two first-time homeowners near Paisley Middle School. Funding was provided by Little Greens Garden Club. Email [kim.b.brand@gmail.com](mailto:kim.b.brand@gmail.com), if you can help with watering these yards or future installations.

**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](http://www.forsythaudubon.org) or on Facebook.  
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