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Forsyth Audubon Monthly Newsletter

April 2025

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Forsyth Audubon Monthly Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 PM

Director, Dr. Shaleen Miller. Dr. Miller has been a driving force in conservation initiatives in the year and half since arriving in Winston-Salem, with efforts such as “No Mow March” and greater use of native plants in city landscaping. She will speak on “Birds, Bees, and Better Nights: Urban Sustainability and Redefining Green Spaces in our City.”

Dr. Shaleen Miller is director of sustainability and intergovernmental relations at the City of Winston-Salem. She has her PhD in Urban and Regional Planning and also teaches at UNC Greensboro in the Geography, Environment, and Sustainability Department. She has worked at 6 different universities and published research regarding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, park equity, and resilience after hurricanes. She is also a part-time professional artist, using recycled glass on paintings to create unique mixed media art. Shaleen also admits to being able to talk about foraging for mushrooms for a very long time.



We will meet at Highland Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall - 2381 Cloverdale Avenue, WS, NC 27103. Enter the building through the wide, white middle door that borders the parking lot; not the Cloverdale entrance that faces the church.

This month's program will also be available for viewing via Zoom. Instructions on how to register to view this month's program live via Zoom will be sent out the week prior to the meeting.

Great American Clean Up at Bethabara Wetlands



Great American Clean Up for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County is on **April 5th Saturday, 9 am to 12 noon**. This is the day we gather at Bethabara Wetlands (part of Forsyth Audubon's adopted area for Adopt-a-Park) and enjoy the morning picking up litter around the bird-friendly habitat.

'Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful' provides gloves, trash bags, and recycling bags. Please email gabaliga@gmail.com if you plan on joining in on the FUN!

We'll meet at the Childcare Network parking lot at the corner of Reynolda Rd and Bethabara Park Blvd. Dress appropriately for the weather, brambles, and muddy patches. Bring your own water and trash pick-up grabber/reacher stick (if you have one).

Invasive Plant Education & Removal Event at Miller Park

working together to remove invasive plants that harm our native species. This event is a great way to get outdoors, meet new people, expand your knowledge, and make a difference in our community. No experience necessary - just bring your enthusiasm and willingness to get your hands dirty! Don't forget to wear sturdy shoes and clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty. Let's work together to protect our environment and promote biodiversity! Sign up using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/invasive-plant-removal-miller-park-with-audubon-tickets-1297213032099?aff=oddtcreator>

Bird Friendly Habitat Program Off To An Early Start



As of March 27th, we have made three new property visits in 2025, bringing our grand total up to 60. The most recent visit, Kimberly Park Elementary School, becomes our first Public School to participate in BFHC. They earned "Under Construction" status, and are already planning to work towards "Full certification" - way to go, Kimberly Park! Bird Friendly Habitat will be scheduling personalized property visits through November.

Interested? Request a visit at: forsythaudubon.org/habitat-certification-program/

For more information on our program, please visit forsythaudubon.org/bird-friendly-habitat/

Join Forsyth Audubon in the Community

We will be tabling two events in April, [Spring at Bethabara](#) the afternoon of April 5th from 1:30pm - 4:30pm at Historic Bethabara Park. We will also be at the [PEA Earth Day Celebration](#) from 10am - 4pm on April 26th at the fairgrounds in Winston-Salem. Click the links to learn more and pick your shift

Have questions? Contact Shari Burrell at 336-575-6989 or email shariburrell68@gmail.com.

Join the fun and help us grow our flock!

Lights Out North Carolina Update

Advocacy Committee and Education Committee Joint Outreach

Spring migration is a dangerous time for migrant birds! One way that everyone can help decrease the danger of this season is to reduce nighttime light pollution by turning off outside lights and closing window coverings after dark. Getting this message out to residents and businesses in Forsyth County is a joint initiative of your Advocacy and Education committees. Watch and listen for programs on your local TV and radio stations as meteorologists, and even our very own Rebecca Craps, Education Chairperson and one of Forsyth County's NC Cooperative Extension Agents, provide important information to the public on this topic. And remember to join in the effort to darken our skies and contribute to safe passage for the birds we love!

North Carolina Advocacy Day

Advocacy Day registration is open! There's no better way to speak up for birds than to meet with your local lawmaker. Join the Audubon flock on April 29 at the NC General Assembly to advocate for wetlands, family land protections, and conservation trust funding. Questions? Contact Kim Richmond at kjrichholder@gmail.com.



Flock Together At Advocacy Day

Join the Audubon flock
on April 29, 2025 to
speak up for birds at the
NC General Assembly.

act.audubon.org/a/2025-advocacy-day

 **Audubon**
NORTH CAROLINA

American Goldfinch. Photo: Andy
Raupp/Audubon Photography Awards

Piedmont Environmental Alliance Field Trip at Winston Lake

Forsyth Audubon recently participated in Piedmont Environmental Alliance's first ever field trip to Winston Lake. Over the course of the day, volunteers enjoyed a day outdoors, teaching 89 students from Carver High School the basics of birding and conservation.

The morning started with a magnificent find - a pair of Great Blue Herons building a series of nests in the pines by the lake. That became a focal point for the day, with many binoculars and scopes pointed at their busy work.

At the top of the hill, there was a talk given on the importance of birds in the ecosystem and the small things we can do every day to protect them. Students downloaded Merlin, with a Chipping Sparrow calling obligingly from the pines all day. After a question and answer session, kids got an up close view of some bird skins and perused the photos and field guides.

occasional swallow made an appearance. Students took to the scopes quite naturally, and even managed to take a few photos through them, that - with any luck - graced the feeds of their social media that evening.

Overall, it was a lovely day and the kids left with a deeper understanding and appreciation of our beloved Piedmont ecology. Thanks to Wendy for leading the event, and Shari, Bernie, Pam, Doug, Judy, Brie, and Saahithi for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Forsyth Audubon Nominations Committee Announcement

Forsyth Audubon's Annual Meeting will be held during the Chapter Meeting on May 27th where the Slate of Officers for 2025/26 will be announced and voted on by members who are present at the meeting.

Mark Your Calendar

April 8 - 6:00 PM - Monthly Dinner - River Birch Lodge - 3324 Robinhood Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

April 12 - 8:00 AM - Second Saturday Bird Outing - Bethabara Visitor Center - 2147 Bethabara Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

April 22 - 6:30 PM - March Chapter Meeting - Highland Presbyterian Activity Building - 2381 Cloverdale Avenue, Winston-Salem, 27103

April 26 - 9:00 AM - Young Birders Outing - Reynolda - Meet by Lake Katharine - 144 Reynolda Vlg Wy, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

April 28 - 9:00 AM - Monday Bird Outing - Muddy Creek Greenway / Jamison Park - 285 Meadowlark Dr, Winston-Salem, NC 27106 - David Collins will lead this outing with a focus on bird photography.

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