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Forsyth Audubon Monthly Newsletter

May 2025

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Forsyth Audubon Monthly Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 PM

Please join us for this month's chapter meeting on May 27th to hear from the one and only Rob Rogers, a top local birder. Rob will speak on "Bird Chasing Adventures". If you do not know Rob, trust us when we say his are adventures

Forsyth County!

With the exception of four years in Chapel Hill, Rob has lived in Winston-Salem, where he began birding at the age of 10. He joined Forsyth Audubon in 1995 and served as our president 2015-16. Rob taught a Beginner's Birdwatching Class for Forsyth Tech from 2003-2019, introducing countless folks to the joys of birding, including many of our current members. Rob is generous with his time and knowledge, leading bird walks that are as fun as they are informative. Don't miss this chance to hear his tales of adventures with binoculars!



A special note for May's chapter meeting: this is our annual end-of-year meeting. We will vote on a slate of officers for next year.

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.

Forsyth Audubon Annual Fund Drive

The wonders of spring migration are upon us! The arrival of warblers and other fragile travelers highlights the importance of our volunteer efforts.

Please consider making a financial donation to Forsyth Audubon to enable us to continue to serve our community by providing numerous bird and habitat projects and activities (see website link below). In the past year alone we have:

- Completed 65 visits as part of the Bird Friendly Habitat Certification program since its inception
- Led over 30 guided bird walks
- Held monthly “Young Birder” walks
- Held monthly chapter meetings featuring expert speakers
- Spearheaded Winston-Salem’s new resolution supporting natural areas in parks
- Provided scholarships for two local school teachers to attend National Audubon camp in Maine
- Funded the native plant garden at 2nd Street Park
- Educated youth about birds and habitat protection at Winston-Salem schools
- Provided bird and habitat education to nearly 700 people at community events
- Continued to support the library’s Birding Backpack Lending Program

Making a donation to Forsyth Audubon can be easily done on our website (<https://forsythaudubon.org/donate-2/>). Your financial support is critically important to enable Forsyth Audubon to perform local projects, provide interesting programs and volunteer opportunities, and strengthen our community impact. Local member contributions are our most important funding source, covering approximately 75% of our annual costs. The greater the local support, the greater positive impact our Chapter can make in our community.

We want to express huge appreciation to our enthusiastic supporters who have already responded to our fund drive! Thank you so much for donating to Forsyth Audubon!

President

North Carolina Audubon's Advocacy Day

North Carolina Audubon's Ninth Annual Advocacy Day in Raleigh was Tuesday, April 29th, with participants from various Audubon chapters from across the state speaking up for birds with their state legislators. Forsyth Audubon fielded ten participants this year – eight from our membership, one from a partner organization, and another who is a graduating high school senior who saw the notice online and signed up to go along. It was a great day! We met with six legislators or their legislative assistants.

Here are a few photo highlights for you to see how things went in Raleigh.



In addition to working to establish and maintain a good relationship with our various legislators, the topics we discussed were as follows:

- The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act (SB 317 & HB 976) is to protect family landowners from forced sales and help them keep their land and habitat intact. As North Carolina continues to grow, this bill will help preserve its natural and rural heritage, including important wildlife habitat.

Preservation Fund, which protect clean air and water and vital habitat.

- Stronger protections for seasonal and isolated wetlands. Wetlands provide vital habitat for birds and help filter water and protect downstream communities from flooding. A Supreme Court ruling and NCGA provision in 2023 removed protections for 1 million+ acres of wetlands in North Carolina. We want to see protections given to seasonal and isolated wetlands.
- Bipartisan emissions reduction goals that ensure birds have a place to thrive for generations to come and that people have reliable and clean energy. Vote against the Energy Security and Affordability Act (SB 261), which would get rid of a key carbon reduction goal: the state's 2030 goal of reducing carbon emissions by 70 percent of 2005 levels.

We hope you'll consider joining us next year and let your voices be heard speaking up for the birds!

Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program Making Visits Through November



In April, the Bird Friendly Habitat Certification (BFHC) program added **five** new property participants and **three** return visits to our BFHC stats. One of the return visits resulted in our program's first **graduate**. This participant moved from "Under Construction" to "Certified" in less than two years...congratulations!

In May, we will be working with Lewisville Middle School, our **second public**

Home Tour on Saturday June 7th. We will have **four** of our BFHC properties on the tour, each exemplifying the use of SE native plants, and other practices, to create safe and sustainable bird friendly habitat. For tour information or to purchase tickets see: peanc.org/green-home-tour-tickets-june-7

To see photos of our recent BFHC participants, and to request a personalized property visit yourself, go to forsythaudubon.org/habitat-certification-program/. For more information on our Bird Friendly Habitat program, please visit forsythaudubon.org/bird-friendly-habitat/.

Forsyth Audubon Hats Available!



New Forsyth Audubon hats now available for \$15 at Wright's Backyard Birding Center, 3906 Country Club Rd, Winston-Salem

Last Young Birders Outing Before Summer Break

The last Forsyth Audubon Young Birders outing before the summer break will be on **Saturday, May 24th at 9:00 a.m.** We will meet at the Historic Bethabara Park Visitors Center located at 2147 Bethabara Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Although we gear the walks to the younger set, folks of all ages are welcome to attend.

Mark Your Calendar

May 10-13 - Forsyth Audubon Spring Trip - Lowcountry of South Carolina

May 10 - 8:00 AM - Second Saturday Bird Outing - Miller Park (Queen Street Parking Area) - 2500 Queen St, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

May 13 - 6:00 PM - May Monthly Dinner - River Birch Lodge - 3324 Robinhood Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

May 24 - 9:00 AM - Young Birders Outing - Historic Bethabara Park Visitors Center - 2147 Bethabara Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

May 26 - 8:00 AM - Monday Bird Outing led by Doug DeNeve - Bethania Black Walnut Bottoms - 5393 Ham Horton Ln, Bethania, NC 27010

May 27 - 6:30 PM - May Chapter Meeting - Highland Presbyterian Activity Building - 2381 Cloverdale Avenue, Winston-Salem, 27103

June 14 - 8:00 AM - Second Saturday Bird Outing - Horizons Park - 2835 Memorial Indl School Rd, Germanton, NC 27019



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