

[View this email in your browser](#)



Forsyth Audubon Newsletter

2024 Summer Catch Up

As summer is beginning to wind down, it is time to recap what Forsyth Audubon has been up to the past few months! This newsletter is a special "catch up" newsletter recognizing all that's happened this summer. Stay tuned later in August for our usual newsletter as we resume monthly editions!

Advocacy Updates

NC Audubon's Eighth Annual Advocacy Day

Wow! What a wonderful turnout we had for NC Audubon's Eighth Annual Advocacy Day blitz of meetings with our lawmakers in Raleigh on May 22!! We had fourteen Forsyth Audubon members participate and meet with three of our four representatives, as well as one of our senators! It was all about relationship-building and making our positions known on key topics such as conservation funding in the budget, our support of the Heirs' Property Bill that has passed the House but is stuck in committee in the Senate, and our grave concerns for the rollback of wetland area protections in NC. Hopefully we will be able to do a little birding with some of our senators and representatives over

YOUR voices heard in Raleigh!

We appreciated our time with each of these lawmakers and look forward to seeing any fruit that may develop from our time together! Thanks to NC Audubon for creating such a wonderful opportunity for all of us to make our voices heard!



Opportunity to Step Up and Speak Out About our State Parks

Public input via an online survey is being sought now through the end of August for the NC Outdoor Recreation Plan covering 2025 through 2030. This is a

land for new parks, potential funding sources, and services that will be provided that could directly impact habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Visit <https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/2025-2030-nc-outdoor-recreation-plan> for more information about this opportunity, as well as to access the link to take the survey. It only takes between 5 and 10 minutes to complete, so let's take this time to make our voices heard on an important topic related to bird habitat and conservation funding! Thank you for your action – from your Advocacy Committee!

Education Updates

Collaboration between Forsyth Audubon and N.C. Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center spearheaded by Rebecca Craps and Chris Marsh

This summer, approximately 40 local students participated in Freedom Schools programs at Cook Elementary School and Kimberley Park Elementary School. The program collaboration provided students with an opportunity to participate in five, hands-on nature lessons related to soil, water, birds, plants and insects, and observation of the natural world for a total of 20 hours of instruction. Special thanks to our Forsyth Audubon and Northwest Piedmont Master Naturalist Volunteers: Kathy Watts, Ga Baliga, Kyras Martin, Andrea Thomas, Catherine Wandell, Kim Richmond, Margaret Castro, and Elnora Gore.



Conservation Updates

2nd Street Native Garden Partnership with City of Winston-Salem and Bashavia Gardens

On March 4th, 2024, the Winston-Salem City Council passed the Natural Landscape Ordinance Amendment. This was done to allow and incentivize residents to landscape with native plants using more “natural” and less manicured landscape methods. Soon after, and in support of this legislation, Forsyth Audubon partnered with the City of Winston-Salem and Bashavia Gardens (a native plant nursery and ecological garden services firm) to create a “Natural Landscaping Demonstration Garden” in the downtown Second Street Park (pictures below). The plantings, funded by Forsyth Audubon, went into the ground in June. On June 17th, in honor of National Pollinator Week, Forsyth Audubon and Bashavia Gardens were acknowledged in a Winston-Salem City Council Meeting for having established the Demonstration Garden. On behalf of Forsyth Audubon, Andrea Thomas received a copy of a Proclamation celebrating the City’s recent sustainability efforts from Mayor Allen Joines. Be sure to visit the garden (In Downtown Winston-Salem on Second Street between Spring Street and Poplar Street and across from Shady Blvd).



Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program

Did you know that our Chapter has its own Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program? Started in late 2022 as a pilot program, we're "official" as of April 2024 with [7+ pages of bird friendly habitat content](#) on our [new FA website](#), and a small but growing team of volunteers (Lydia Hastings, Jean Chamberlain, and Susan Andrews) trained to make on-site visits to help you enhance your own property's habitat.

Native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are a big part of the habitat equation, as well as removing high threat non-native invasive plants. But, there's more to quality habitat than plants alone. Making your property both "safe and friendly" for birds and other wildlife is extremely important!

For a tax-deductible \$50 donation to Forsyth Audubon, a team of two volunteers will survey your property (big or small) for all native plants and high

recognize your efforts, either “Under Construction” or “Certified”, and an emailed copy of our formal Report after the visit.

The team has made 49 property visits as of July 31. Want to find out how you can improve your property’s habitat for birds and all wildlife? Request a certification visit on our [Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program webpage](#).

An Update from Our Conservation Chair

Hello all. I hope you are enjoying the summer; it sure seems to pass by quickly as students are already heading back to school. While the pace of Forsyth Audubon’s meetings slows during the summer months, plenty of conservation activity has continued across our community. Bird walks led by our dedicated Audubon members have been plentiful and enjoyed by both children and adults alike. Our *Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program* continues to be in high demand. (Susan Andrews and Jean Chamberlain recently made a certification visit to our family’s yard and we are proudly posting a Forsyth Audubon “*Bird-Friendly Habitat Under Construction*” sign). We’ve met with Ardmore neighborhood residents who are excited about helping remove non-native invasive plants in Miller Park. And, our leadership team has had productive meetings with Winston-Salem’s Sustainability Director (Shaleen Miller) and *Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful* Executive Director (Andy Szabat) to discuss how we can help support initiatives that increase habitat quality in our city parks. We are excited about these opportunities. More to come!

Our Conservation Committee is meeting on August 15th to discuss our mission and our conservation project priorities in the coming year. Your ideas and questions are welcomed – please drop me an email anytime at dtzimmer21@gmail.com. And, if you’d like to join our committee, just let me know. Thank you and I hope to see you sometime soon!

Dave Zimmer
Conservation Chair

Reminder to visit our newly designed website for all things

<https://forsythaudubon.org/>

A Special Thanks to Outing Volunteers!

Thank you to all those who helped plan, organize, and lead our bird outings throughout the summer! The summer was a great success thanks to all those that helped, especially with the Young Birders Outings which have created many great outdoor memories for the young up and coming birders! We are excited about the fall and all the great opportunities there will be with continuing our outings.

Mark your Calendar

August 13 - 6:00 PM - Monthly Dinner - River Birch Lodge - 3324 Robinhood Rd.

Winston-Salem, NC

August 24 - 9:00 AM - Young Birders Outing at Black Walnut Bottoms - 5393 Ham Horton Lane, Bethania, NC

August 26 - 9:00 AM (note new start time) - Monday Bird Outing - Ivy Bluffs (Pilot Mountain State Park) - Meet at the south side of the Yadkin River at 4240 Shoals Road, East Bend, NC



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Forsyth Audubon · P.O. Box 15111 · Winston-Salem, NC 27113 · USA

