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Forsyth Audubon Monthly Newsletter

March 2025

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Forsyth Audubon Monthly Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 PM

and National Audubon priorities. Kim started her bird advocacy journey right here in Winston-Salem with Forsyth Audubon, serving as vice president and secretary. She then spent nine years at North Carolina Audubon before joining the National Audubon staff as Vice President of Conservation Action, Chapters, a position she has held for the past two years. Kim earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Florida and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of South Florida. She earned her MS in Zoology from the University of South Florida.

Kim helped lead several new projects and partnerships while serving on the Forsyth Audubon board from 2008 to 2014, including co-founding the Lights Out program, coordinating the Wood Thrush geolocator tagging project with National Audubon Society and the Smithsonian Institution (as well as serving as an executive producer on The Wood Thrush Connection film released in 2016), and growing a native-plants-landscaping partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County.



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.

Social time begins at 6:30, program begins at 7:00 PM

Honoring Royce Hough

Forsyth Audubon lost one of its founders and great supporters this past Valentine's Day. Royce Hough (Nov 17, 1937 - Feb. 14, 2025) played a critical role in the formation and start of our chapter in the 1970's and early 1980's. After a hiatus from Winston-Salem for his career, Royce and his wife Harriet returned to Winston-Salem in 1984, and once again Royce helped nurture and guide Forsyth Audubon, often serving as the wise sage for the next generation of board members. To read his full story go to: <https://www.salemfh.com/obituaries/Charles-Royce-Hough-III?obId=37335862>

The Board of Forsyth Audubon seeks to honor the life and work of this wonderful man by establishing a fund in his honor. You will hear more about this in the coming month. If you would like to be part of this planning effort, please contact Chris Marsh at cmarshlci@gmail.com.

Bird Friendly Habitat Program Starts April 1st!



Would you like to see and protect more bird species on your own property, big or small? Do you want to be part of a nation-wide movement to create more “safe and friendly” bird wildlife habitat by starting with your own property in Forsyth County?

accessing your property's existing native plants, non-native invasive plants, and any "safe and friendly" wildlife improvements you may have in place. In addition to receiving an attractive yard sign touting your progress, you will receive an emailed Site Visit Report listing all of our survey results and most importantly, site-specific recommendations for enhancing your own bird-friendly habitat. The cost is a mere \$50 tax-deductible donation to Forsyth Audubon for 2 acres or less. Sign up for a [property visit](#) now! For more information about our Bird Friendly Habitat Program, please visit <https://forsythaudubon.org/bird-friendly-habitat/>

Lights Out North Carolina!

Did you know that most birds migrate at night, using the moon and stars to navigate their way?

Unfortunately, artificial lights and skyglow from buildings along their path can be disorienting, leading to fatal bird-building collisions.

Window collisions kill more than 1 billion birds yearly in the U.S., but there are many ways you can help birds during spring migration (March 15-May 30).

- Turn off lights at night
- Especially upward-facing lights
- Extinguish pot and flood lights
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls whenever possible
- Close blinds and curtains
- If you work in an office building, ask your employer to turn out exterior upward-facing lights, as well as interior office lights from 11pm to dawn.

Learn more at the following link: <https://bit.ly/43f4b0a>

Advocacy Day Registration

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

[Register now for Advocacy Day 2025 on Tuesday, April 29](#)

Forsyth Audubon Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to staff the Forsyth Audubon booth at 3 upcoming events:

- Forsyth Creek Week Kickoff Jamboree, Sunday, March 23, 2-4pm, at Winston Lake Park
- Spring at Bethabara, Saturday, April 5, 1:30-4:30pm, at Historic Bethabara Park
- PEA Earth Day Fair, Saturday, April 26, 10am-4pm, at the Carolina Classic Fairgrounds

Sign up by going to <https://forsythaudubon.org/volunteer-hub/> or contact Shari Burrell, 336-575-6989, shariburrell68@gmail.com

New City Parks Natural Area Program

In early February, Winston-Salem City Council unanimously approved a *Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a City Parks Natural Area Program*. This resolution recognizes that sustainable natural areas are an important asset in city parks to increase populations of songbirds, pollinators, and other beneficial insects. It also establishes a *City Parks Natural Area Program* to support the use of habitat best management practices. These practices may include removal of non-native, invasive plant species; establishment of tall grass meadows and early successional habitats; and the use of alternatives to chemical pesticides and herbicides where possible and appropriate. Forsyth Audubon collaborated closely with city staff in writing and supporting this resolution. We look forward to continuing to assist the city in implementing the Parks Natural Area Program, and to protecting and enhancing bird habitat in our community!

Spring field trip to the Lowcountry of South Carolina, led by Chris Marsh.

This four-day, three-night tour of the Lowcountry of South Carolina will give you exposure to all the major habitats found in this region. This trip is for those who love all aspects of nature, as well as birds. Highlights will include visiting two nesting rookeries, seeing migratory shorebirds and plovers in breeding plumage, observing species typically found in Florida, and visiting one of the iconic cypress swamps in the United States. The itinerary may be adjusted slightly based on last-minute information about unexpected bird species being present in the area.

Fee: \$45 per person; space limited to 14 people

Contact Chris Marsh at cmarshlci@gmail.com to sign up

For more info including the itinerary go to <https://forsythaudubon.org/event-calendar/forsyth-audubon-spring-trip>

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).

Forsyth Audubon Winter Trip Blog Post

the following link: <https://forsythaudubon.wordpress.com/>

Mark Your Calendar

March 11 - 6:00 PM - Monthly Dinner - River Birch Lodge - 3324 Robinhood Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

March 22 - 9:00 AM - Creek Week Spring Clean Up ("Plirding") - Newell-Massey Greenway - 3584 Winston Lake Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

March 22 - 10:00 AM - Young Birders Outing - Tanglewood Park Yadkin River Trail - Tanglewood Park, meet in gravel parking lot near Skilpot Lake

March 24 - 8:30 AM - Monday Bird Outing - Long Creek Park - 5801 Bethania Tobaccoville Road
Pfafftown, Winston-Salem, NC 27040

March 25 - 6:30 PM - March Chapter Meeting - Highland Presbyterian Activity Building - 2381 Cloverdale Avenue, Winston-Salem, 27103



