



# Forsyth Audubon Monthly Newsletter

## September 2025

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# September Monthly Chapter Meeting

Honoring the late Royce Hough, and Featuring Local Nature Photographer David Collins Presenting on the Birds of Alaska



**Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 to 8:00 PM**

Please join us at the [Highland Presbyterian Church Activity Center](#) for our September chapter meeting. This month we will honor the late Royce Hough, one of Forsyth Audubon's founders and a legendary birder in our community.

Local nature photographer David Collins will share photographs and thoughts on Alaskan specialties including Eider Ducks, Pacific Puffins, and Ptarmigans in his talk "Birds of Alaska - Nome, Utqiagvik, and St. Paul Island."

David is a retired MD who has focused his lens on birds and conservation in the last ten years. His work has been featured at the Welborn Gallery in Yadkinville,

NC. David generously shares his photography to boost Forsyth Audubon's outreach and educational initiatives. You can read more about his work and philosophies [here](#).

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## Message from Forsyth Audubon's President

Forsyth Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife and their natural habitats for the benefit of humanity and North Carolina's biological diversity.

It is an honor to serve as your new President as we continue our progress in delivering our inspiring mission. I look forward to the opportunity to meet our members throughout the coming year. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime (my email address is [dtzimmer21@gmail.com](mailto:dtzimmer21@gmail.com)).

This month we will be sending all members a Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Impact Report that highlights our impactful education, conservation and advocacy work. Last year was a banner year for Forsyth Audubon, as our volunteers donated over 3,000 hours to deliver community impact projects attended by over 1,500 children and adults. I am thankful for the strong leadership and dedication of our Past President, Chris Marsh; our Board of Directors; and the efforts of many of our supporting members and volunteers.

Our new Board has been busy planning activities and volunteer project opportunities for the upcoming year, including many exciting opportunities this fall as highlighted in this newsletter. Be on the lookout for a survey request this fall to help our Board better understand what you value and enjoy most as a Forsyth Audubon member, and to seek your input on how we can best achieve our mission and benefit our community. Thank you and see you sometime soon!

- Dave Zimmer, Forsyth Audubon President

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## Second Saturday Outing

**September 13 at 8 AM**

Our monthly Second Saturday bird walk in September will be at one of our

long-time favorite birding locations – Miller Park. Plan to join trip leader Allison Gagnon for what should be a lovely stroll through this beautiful city park in the Ardmore neighborhood. The park is well-known as a good location for warblers, thrushes, etc. Fall migration should be well underway, so who knows what we might see? We'll meet in the Queen Street parking lot at 8:00 AM. ([2641-2649](tel:2641-2649) [Queen St, Winston-Salem, NC 27103](https://www.forsythaudubon.org/queen-street-parking)) See you there!

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## Monday Bird Walk

### September 22 at 8 AM

Forsyth Audubon's Fourth Monday bird walk for September will take place at Horizons Park. Historically, late September is a wonderful time to visit this sprawling rural park. Fall migration is at its peak, and the birding can be really special there. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, tanagers, thrushes, warblers, and other migrants have been observed at Horizons at this time of year. Two years ago we even had Philadelphia Vireos show up! (Absolutely no promises on those, though.) Join trip leader Ga Baliga at 8:00 AM in the parking lot on the south side of the road ([2835 Memorial Industrial School Rd, Germanton, NC 27019](https://www.forsythaudubon.org/2835-memorial-industrial-school-rd)) for what should be a wonderful morning of birding.

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## September Birds & Beers

We will meet at **6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 9th**, at River Birch Lodge on Robinhood Road, <https://riverbirchlodge.com>. Our group reservation will be under Forsyth Audubon.

There is no formal program, just a fun get together to share conversation about birds, nature, conservation or anything else that comes up. Come for a drink and/or a meal. There is a full menu of appetizers, sandwiches and dinner entrees.

Please let us know right away if you plan to attend. You can submit your RSVP using the following link: <https://forsythaudubon.org/dinner-reservations/> If you need to cancel, you can use that same link to update your RSVP.

To be fair to the restaurant, we will release tables that are not occupied at

6:30pm, so please arrive promptly. All are welcome. We hope to see familiar faces, new birders, family and friends again.

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## September Young Birders Walk

**Sunday, September 28 at 9:00 AM**

Meeting location: Parking lot next to Greenbrier Community Pool on Greenbrier Farm Road, Winston-Salem

Chris Marsh and Jessica Tate will co-lead the season's first Young Birder's Walk on a section of the greenway that parallels Mill Creek. This section of the greenway is paved and has excellent habitat for birds, butterflies, wildflowers and turtles (if it is sunny). Binoculars will be provided. Youth of all ages are invited as well as those who are just young at heart!

Link to location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/DRTk3twq6cCw1cDH7>

Questions? Email Chris Marsh at [cmarshlci@gmail.com](mailto:cmarshlci@gmail.com).

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## Hawk Watch



Join us at the 2025 Pilot Mountain Hawk Watch! We will be counting hawks and other raptors at the **Little Pinnacle at Pilot Mountain September 19th - 30th**.

We count in two shifts each day: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm, but you can come at any time for as long as you like.

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. Read about the history of the

watch on our website at <https://forsythaudubon.org/hawk-watch/>

For more information and to sign up, contact Jean Chamberlain at [jchamberlain1@windstream.net](mailto:jchamberlain1@windstream.net).

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## Intro to Hawk Watch

What's a Hawk Watch? What's the difference between an observer and a counter? How do I know that speck on the horizon is a Broad-winged Hawk? Or are you a veteran that wants to refresh your memory in preparation for the year? Join us on **September 16th from 6-7 PM** at the Clemmons Branch Library ([6365 James St, Clemmons, NC 27012](#)) for an Introduction to Pilot Mountain's Hawk Watch and learn how you can get involved! No experience necessary!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FA5AA28ABFACE9-58295354-introduction>

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## Chimney Swift Night Out





Join us for an unforgettable evening at Northwest Middle School ([5501 Murray Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106](#)) at **7:30 PM on Sunday, September 14** to watch thousands of Chimney Swifts swirl into their evening abode. This is a family friendly event, with an information table on these wonderful birds and ways you can help their conservation. Binoculars will be available to borrow. Bring your own chair and blanket to settle into an evening of aerial wonder.

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## Apple Fest

Apple Fest is **September 27th, 10 AM - 4 PM!** [Click this link](#), pick your shift and join the FUN. We'll have a new display and activities to share. Sign up today!

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## The Big Sit

Have you ever wanted to join a bird walk but felt intimidated by the physical requirements? Have you wanted to try birding in one spot but aren't sure where? Or do you have a competitive streak when it comes to counting and identifying birds? Join us for the 2025 BIG SIT!

Location: Bethabara Trail, 2147 Bethabara Rd. Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Date: Saturday, October 11th , 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 PM EST

We will be setting up our birding sit circle along the Bethabara Trail that runs along the Monarcas creek, behind the historic Palisade fort. The goal is to sit as a group within our 17ft diameter circle and try to count and identify as many

birds as possible. We will record all the birds we see throughout the day, and send our counts to the New Haven Bird Club coordinators, who will compile results from across the country!

ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!

SIGN UP to join us for 2 hours, or all day:

For Forsyth Audubon volunteer updates: <https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-chapters/event/837660/>

For updates from the organizer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F44AEA92AABFD0-58143298-2025>

Don't forget to bring a chair or blanket to sit on, and any binoculars, scopes, or cameras you may wish to use.

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## Mindful Birding

Meet in the paved parking lot behind Historic Bethabara Park Visitors Center, [2147 Bethabara Rd.](#)

Join us on **Sunday, October 12th from 8:30-9:45 AM** for a peaceful and reflective morning at Historic Bethabara Park, where we will blend birdwatching with mindfulness practices to deepen our connection to nature. Whether you're an experienced birder or a curious beginner, this event invites you to slow down, tune in, and engage fully with the natural world.

All ages and experience levels with birding and mindfulness are welcome. We will walk a short distance through grass to our sit spot location. You can expect an introduction on mindfulness, a slow, guided walk, time for reflection in nature, and space to share your experiences with others. Wear comfortable clothes for the weather and walking shoes. Option to bring your own portable chair. Blankets to sit on and binoculars will be available to borrow.

**Space is limited to 15 participants. Please register on [Mobilize](#) to reserve your spot.**

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# Bird Friendly Habitat Certification Program Making Home Visits All Summer!



## FA BIRD FRIENDLY HABITAT PROGRAM HITS 80TH PROPERTY VISIT IN AUGUST 2025!

Despite the heat and drought this summer, BFHC made 12 more one-on-one visits since June to help property owners learn how to develop bird friendly & safe habitats on their own land. One property at a time, in Forsyth County and adjacent counties, our program is working to increase the quality, and quantity, of habitat for not only birds, but all wildlife (including humans!).

Please help us reach our **goal of 100 properties** visited by the end of October! If you know of friends, family or colleagues that might be interested in a personalized visit to learn how to enhance their property for our avian friends and beyond, please send them to: [forsythaudubon.org/habitat-certification-program/](https://forsythaudubon.org/habitat-certification-program/) to request a visit.

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## Miller Park Invasive Species Removal

We are gearing up for more invasive plant removal days at Miller Park. Please email Melody McMichael ([fiach42@gmail.com](mailto:fiach42@gmail.com)) and/or Katherine Tombs ([katherine.tombs@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.tombs@gmail.com)) if you would like to learn more or get involved.

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# Birding Basics for Millennials

Have you "heard the call" but don't know how to get started on your birding journey? Join Rob Rogers on **October 4th from 10-11:30 AM** at the [Southside Library](#) for a fun and informative workshop on all the technology, skills, and resources you'll need to have your first successful bird outing. We'll conclude the workshop with a short bird walk through the woods on the library grounds, where you will have a chance to apply your newfound expertise.

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## Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden Birding 101

On **Monday, October 6th, from 8:30 AM -10:30 AM**, Rob Rogers, one of our top local birders, will be leading a Birding 101 workshop in collaboration with the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Gardens in Kernersville. We'll explore the basics of birdwatching, learn to identify some of our most common backyard birds, discover how to use a field guide and share tips for attracting feathered friends right to your yard. Perfect for kids, families, and anyone who's curious about the birds around us!

Limited to 12 participants - please sign up [here](#) to reserve your spot.

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## Mark Your Calendar!

September 9 - 6 PM - Birds & Beers - River Birch Lodge - 3324 Robinhood Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

September 13 - 8 AM - Second Saturday Bird Outing - Miller Park - 2641 Queen St, Winston Salem, NC, United States

September 14 - 7:30 PM - Chimney Swift Night Out - Northwest Middle School - 5501 Murray Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

September 16 - 6-7 PM - Intro to Hawk Watch - Clemmons Branch Library - 6365 James St, Clemmons, NC 27012

September 19-30th - Various times from 10 AM-5 PM - Little Pinnacle at Pilot Mountain - Pilot Mountain State Park

September 22 - 8 AM - Monday Bird Walk - Horizons Park - 2835 Memorial Industrial School Rd, Germantown, NC 27109

September 23 - 6:30-8:00 PM - September Chapter Meeting- Highland Presbyterian Activity Building - 2381 Cloverdale Ave NW, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

September 27 - 10 AM - 4 PM - Apple Fest - Historic Bethabara Park - 2147 Bethabara Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

September 28 - 9 AM - Young Birders Walk - [Map pin](#)

October 4 - 10-11:30 AM - Birding Basics for Millennials - Southside Branch Library - 3185 Buchanan St, Winston-Salem, NC 27127

October 6 - 8:30-10:30 AM - Birding 101 with Rob Rogers - Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden - 215 S Main St, Kernersville, NC 27284

October 9 - eBird 201 Workshop with Rob Rogers - Location and sign up link forthcoming

October 11 - 8 AM - 4 PM - The Big Sit - Bethabara Visitor Center - 2147 Bethabara Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

October 12 - 8:30-9:45 AM - Mindful Birding - Bethabara Visitor Center - 2147 Bethabara Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106



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