

# Whistler

September - October 2014



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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|--------------------|--|
| September 2, 2014  | Arbor Acres Clubhouse – 7 p.m.   |
| September 13, 2014 | Saturday Bird Walk — Muddy Creek Greenway, 8 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Nathan Gatto</a> )  |
| September 14, 2014 | Day Trip to Mason Farm Biological Reserve — (Leaders: <a href="#">Craig &amp; Jane McCleary</a> )  |
| September 17, 2014 | Birds and Beer – Johanne’s Restaurant – 6 p.m.   |
| September 18, 2014 | Swift Watch – Northwest Middle School or other TBA – 7:30 p.m. ( <a href="#">Ron Morris</a> )  |
| September 23, 2014 | Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., Heather Hahn, Audubon NC Executive Director, "Save the Songs: Climate Change and Birds."   |
| September 29, 2014 | Monday Bird Walk — Black Walnut Bottom, 8 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Shelley Rutkin</a> ).  |
| October 7, 2014    | Board Meeting – Arbor Acres Clubhouse – 7 p.m.   |
| October 11, 2014   | Saturday Bird Walk — Bethabara Greenway, 8 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Bill Gifford</a> )  |
| October 12, 2014   | Day Trip to Knight Brown Nature Preserve — (Leaders: <a href="#">Craig &amp; Jane McCleary</a> )   |
| October 15, 2014   | Birds and Beer — Johanne’s Restaurant, 6 p.m.  |
| October 27, 2014   | Monday Bird Walk — Washington Park, 8 a.m. (Leader: <a href="#">Jeremy Reiskind</a> )  |
| October 28, 2014   | Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitors Center, 7 p.m., Brad Carey, Corps of Engineers, "Creation of Waterfowl Impoundments and Riparian Habitats" |

## Count Raptors at Pilot Mountain

Sign up to count migrating raptors during the Pilot Mountain Hawk Watch. Four-hour shifts (or less) are available from Sept. 11-30. Email [pdickins@triad.rr.com](mailto:pdickins@triad.rr.com). Inexperienced birders: come improve your identification skills. We will pair you with veteran hawk watchers.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will host an education day at Little Pinnacle. If you are not going to Mason Farm, visit us. We have invited residents from our Bird Friendly Communities neighborhood to see the hawks at 2 p.m.

## Volunteer at Fall Festivals

Please help Forsyth Audubon spread our message that birds are fascinating, fun and worthy of protection.

1. AppleFest – 9/20 - Historic Bethabara - 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Email [lewilliams89@yahoo.com](mailto:lewilliams89@yahoo.com).
2. Black Walnut Festival – 9/27 - Bethania - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Email [tomrmcckay@earthlink.net](mailto:tomrmcckay@earthlink.net).

## Wood Thrushes with Backpacks

Twenty-two adult male birds from Historic Bethabara Park and the Yadkin River section of Pilot Mountain State Park now are wearing small backpacks (small to us, not to them) that will record GPS coordinates for their travels over coming months. Smithsonian Institute Field Biologist Peter Keller attached all those tags. He will return next May to capture as many of the birds as possible so data can be retrieved. The information will provide focus for habitat conservation efforts for this bird with the ethereal song. Come help again next spring.

## Lights Out Training

Rise early and go downtown at 7 a.m. on Sunday, 9/7. Allison Sloan, former Project Safe Flight volunteer in New York City, will lead a 1-hour walk around downtown, checking buildings for injured and killed birds. Five buildings turn

off their lights from 11 p.m. to dawn during spring and fall migration, which has reduced bird collisions noticeably, but we still need to document the problem. Bring cash for coffee and pastries afterward at Camino Bakery.

## Creating Bird-friendly Communities

Come to an Ice-Cream Garden Party on 9/7 at 2 p.m. and celebrate the bird garden we planted last spring in partnership with the Neal Place Neighborhood Association. Many of the neighbors are interested in learning more about birds and nature. Meet new friends at 1345 Tyndall St., Winston-Salem.

We have 2 more yards and 1 more public space to plant this fall. We have helped beautify several neighborhood streets and invited birds and butterflies into the lives of first-time homeowner families. There are several ways you can get involved this fall:

Sign up for a planting day – 9/20 at 1618 Thurmond St. and 9/27 at 516 Liberia St., both in Winston-Salem. Join us between 9 a.m. and noon. Have a pickup truck? Pick up free leaf mulch from the city and deliver it any time between now and the planting days. Or pick up plants the week before planting day on your own schedule at nurseries in Winston-Salem and Kernersville. Contact Kim Brand for more info: 336-391-9614 or [kim.b.brand@gmail.com](mailto:kim.b.brand@gmail.com).

## Birds and Climate Change

On September 23rd, our chapter meeting features Audubon North Carolina Executive Director, Heather Hahn, who offers a program on “Save the Songs: Climate Change and the Birds.” Heather will introduce you to a new Audubon report about the potential impacts of climate change on our bird populations. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. and the program at 7:30 at the Historic Bethabara Visitor’s Center, 2147 Bethabara Rd.

**Our Mission:** To conserve and restore natural ecosystems — focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and North Carolina’s biological diversity.

Visit us on the web at [www.forsythaudubon.org](http://www.forsythaudubon.org) or on Facebook.  
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