

Whistler

The Audubon Society of Forsyth County Newsletter

December 2010-January 2011

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting – Arbor Acres Club House
December 11, 9:00 am	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Washington Park
December 14	Christmas Bird Count, Mt. Jefferson
December 15, 8:00 am	Christmas Bird Count, Hanging Rock State Park <i>Meet at the Park Visitor Center</i>
December 18	Christmas Bird Count, New River
January 1	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
January 4, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting – Arbor Acres Club House
January 8, 9:00 am	Second Saturday Bird Walk – Muddy Creek Greenway
January 14-17	Winter Trip, Morehead City/Beaufort (see page 2)
January 22, 9:00 am	Bethabara Park clean-up (Leader: Pam Wooten)
January 25, 7:00 pm	Chapter Meeting – Bethabara Park Visitor Center (see page 3) Simon Thompson, Birding New Frontiers and Familiar Destinations

SAVE THE DATE:

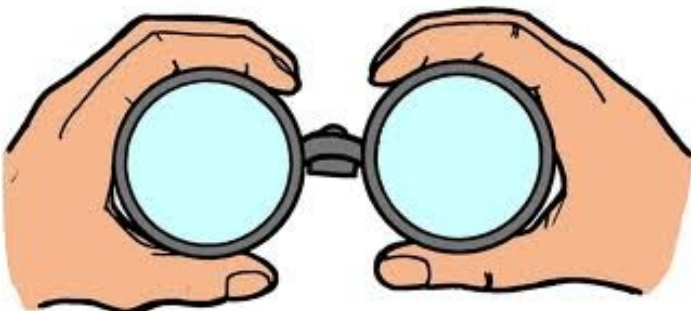
AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY JANUARY 1

Start the New Year off right with Forsyth Audubon's main Citizen Science event of the year, the Christmas Bird Count. We'll divide into teams to look for and take a census of our winter birds, and maybe turn up a rarity or two. Everyone is welcome to join in the count. Feeder watchers within the count circle are also invited to participate. Contact John Haire to sign up or if you have any questions (johnhaire@starpower.net or (336) 671-5577).

IBA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

We need your help! Sign up for the Hanging Rock State Park Christmas Bird Count set for Wednesday December 15. We started this count in 2007 as part of our chapter's adoption of the park under the Audubon Important Bird Areas program. Let's see what we can document to add to the park's checklist this year. There is a lot of ground to cover, so we are looking for at least 16 birders to take part. With enough people, we will also cover the YMCA's Camp Hanes and other areas near the park. For new birders, this is a great opportunity to get out in the field with other members. The count begins at 8 a.m. at the Park Visitor Center. To register, contact Phil Dickinson at 336-659-2464, pdickins@triad.rr.com.

Our chapter also has adopted the New River IBA, and for several years chapter members have helped with the Mt. Jefferson and New River counts along the river. This year, the Mt. Jefferson count will be on December 14 and the New River count will be on December 18. Contact Ron Morris (725,1254, ronmorris@triad.rr.com) if you would like to take part in either or both. The scenery is wonderful all year. We plan to carpool.



Winter Trip, January 2011

Forsyth Audubon is returning to the Morehead City/Beaufort, NC area for our next winter birding trip which will be from January 14 through January 17, 2011. We will consider the 14th a travel day, will bird on the 15th and 16th, and after a little more birding will return on the 17th. Note that, as usual, this is the MLK holiday weekend.

As in January 2007, our principal guide for birding in the area will be John Fussell's book, *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina*. Among the main spots we will hit are the Rachael Carson Preserve and possibly Bird Shoals, located on an island off Beaufort that is accessible by ferry. Since we have to reserve the ferry a day ahead of time this will be a scheduled event. Other sites to visit include Calico Creek and the nearby Treatment Plant in Morehead City, Fort Macon State Park, and a trail near the Aquarium in Morehead City. Near Beaufort we will check out Howland Rock, North River Marsh, and the Carteret Wildlife Club's Observation Platform north of the marsh. There are many other sites that we might add to the above list.

During the January 2007 trip we found over 125 species during what was very mild weather. Species of note were Le Conte's Sparrow, Clapper and Virginia Rail, Horned Grebe, and many others. If we have more normal weather, i.e., cooler, different species will likely turn up. Last winter a Eurasian Wigeon was seen in the Beaufort area.

There are a number of options for accommodations but we think it might be good to have everybody together in one place, the Inlet Inn in Beaufort. It is right on the waterfront and if we are able to fill ten rooms, they will give us a ten percent discount on each room. Here is the web site: <http://www.inlet-inn.com>. Check it out and if you are seriously interested, call them at 800-554-5466 and reserve a room; tell them you are from Forsyth Audubon. Also, please let Don Adamick at dadamick@bellsouth.net know if you make a reservation there. If we don't get commitments for ten rooms by the end of December, then we'll make information available on other options.

Mike and Marilyn Shuping are graciously opening their home in the Beaufort area to all birders for a last night "count dinner." They are in a great spot for birding too. More details on this and the rest of the trip later.

So, please let Don Adamick know: 1) if you plan on participating in the trip, 2) how many will be in your party, and 3) if you want to stay at the Inlet Inn. For the usual contact list he will also need a mailing address and cell phone number. Thanks.

Yadkin River Greenway Proposed

A public meeting was held at Tanglewood Park on November 1st for the purpose of introducing to area residents a proposed greenway along the Yadkin River in parts of Forsyth, Davie, Davidson and Yadkin counties. The concept was presented by Landscape Architect Susan Hatchell. The greenway would start at the Ellison Creek crossing of Styers Ferry Road just outside Lewisville and reach to the southern tip of Tanglewood Park.

Town leaders of Lewisville, Clemmons and Bermuda Run support the proposal which would include spurs reaching each of these communities and two pedestrian bridges that would span the river: one near the I-40 crossing and the other about halfway between Clemmons and Lewisville.

ASFC members Carol Gearhart, Myrna Harris, Rick Mashburn and I attended the meeting which drew a crowd of approximately 200 area residents.

The Yadkin River is an important and underutilized feature of the landscape of the western Piedmont. It has great significance, not only to the ecology of the area, but to its cultural and historical legacy as well. The Shallow Ford was part of the Great Wagon Road that led the Moravians to now Forsyth County. It was the site of Revolutionary and Civil war battles, and was likely home to Native American villages centuries earlier.

All who take great pleasure in existing greenways around the county can easily imagine the value of the proposed river greenway. It would make accessible an 18 mile stretch of the river that is currently mostly unavailable to us, and it would make it easy to traverse by those of us who are getting up in years or have some impairment of mobility.

Of course, with any big idea there are also some downsides. Many people who own property along the proposed route are understandably apprehensive about, and some vehemently opposed to, allowing public access to their land and changes to their cherished view.

But this is a 20-year plan. That's a lot of time to work out the issues and to implement a plan that is fair to all stakeholders. Members of ASFC should let their community leaders know how they feel about this proposal – pro and con.

Ron Morris

Simon Thompson, Birding New Frontiers and Familiar Destinations

Most of us are familiar with birding in Costa Rica, the Galapagos or East Africa, but the birds and birding can be incredible in many other up and coming, sometimes surprising destinations. Colombia, the country with the highest bird count in the world, is opening up rapidly and birders are flocking to see the many endemics. How about Oman, Kazakhstan, Namibia and The Gambia? All offer great birding, good infrastructure and peoples becoming more aware of their birds and wildlife. Join Simon for a comfortable armchair birding journey to both new and familiar destinations.

The Legend of Pale Male opened in New York on Thanksgiving weekend, and will open nationally in early December. The documentary relates the story of Pale Male, who has nested on Fifth Avenue along Central Park since the 1990s. See www.thelegendofpalemale.com for a trailer and further details.



Congratulations to Ann and Chester Robertson, this year's recipients of the Ramona Snavely award for their long-standing efforts on behalf of the Audubon Society of Forsyth County.

Gulf Birds and Oil: "Too Close for Comfort"

The oil may have stopped pouring out of the Gulf floor, but that does not mean the danger to birds and their habitats are over. In late September, Audubon survey teams saw widespread evidence of surface oil, tar balls and seepage from inches below the sand at nine of ten survey areas along the Gulf Coast. They also found plenty of birds in both contaminated and uncontaminated locations. It will take years to determine the impact of the spill on the birds and other wildlife. And despite claims that the oil has gone, there also was evidence that oil remains in the water ready to come ashore for months.

In a report issued by National Audubon Society in October, Audubon President and CEO, David Yarnold said, "It's going to take years of monitoring just to understand and start dealing with the long-term impacts of the oil—and they're just part of a much bigger threat." Scientists really don't know the long-term impact of the spill on the health and reproductive health of terns and pelicans that breed in the area, or on the food chain upon which the birds rely. And not discussed in the report are the potential impacts on migratory birds that rested there this past fall and will return next spring.

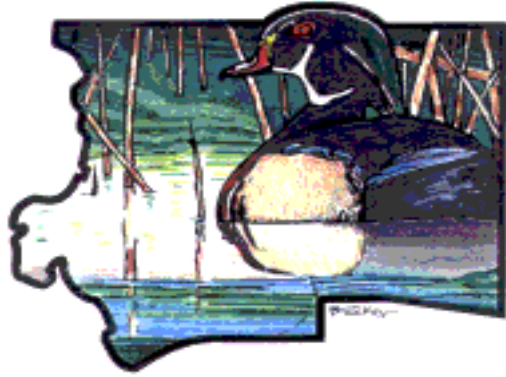
How can we help up here in North Carolina? Of course, donations are welcome, but there are other ways, too. Participate in Christmas and spring bird counts to provide data scientists can study for changes in populations and movements of migratory birds. Or, record your regular sightings on eBird. You also can help the birds by providing habitat friendly yards to welcome the birds when they do return. And, you can advocate on behalf of conservation efforts by contacting our politicians and government regulators. Finally, keep up to date on what's happening by visiting www.audubon.org and other conservation organization websites.

Phil Dickinson



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

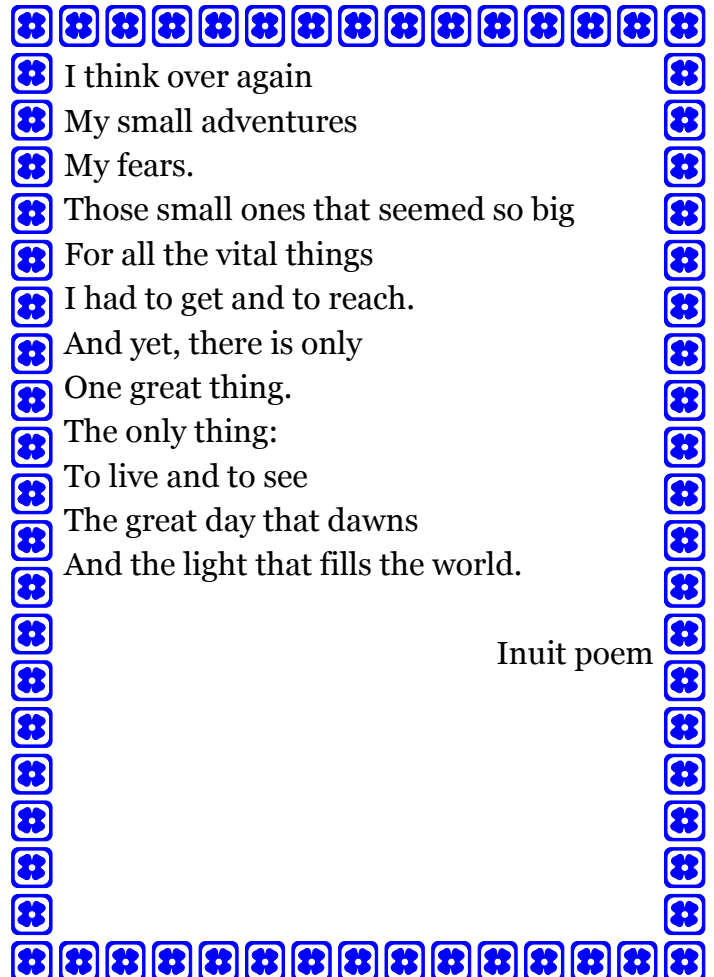
Audubon Society of
Forsyth County
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The Audubon Society of Forsyth County

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	Susan Jones	768-9151



I think over again
My small adventures
My fears.
Those small ones that seemed so big
For all the vital things
I had to get and to reach.
And yet, there is only
One great thing.
The only thing:
To live and to see
The great day that dawns
And the light that fills the world.

Inuit poem

If you don't wish to join the National Audubon Society, but would like to join the local chapter, send \$15.00 (make your check payable to ASFC) to: Audubon Society of Forsyth County, P.O. Box 15111, Winston-Salem, NC 27113. Please include your name, email, address and zip code.