

# Audubon News

February 2004

A publication of the Mecklenburg Audubon

Volume 9, Number 6

Audubon News is published nine times a year, September – May by Mecklenburg Audubon Society  
Serving Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Union Counties in NC and York County SC.

## Monthly Meeting

# Gulls By Golly!!!

*Rescheduled from December*



At least once every winter I am asked “What at those sea gulls doing at the shopping center?” or “Why are there sea gulls in Charlotte?” I try to explain to folks first that there is not such bird as a ‘sea’ gull. There are ring-billed, laughing, herring and many other types of gulls. Most like to be around water but not necessarily ‘seas’. One thing all the gulls have in common is they like flat, wide open spaces. And from a bird’s point of view a shopping center parking lot is a perfect ‘beach’ or resting place. They can see predators easily and they can keep track of what their neighbor has found to eat.

From a beginning birder’s view point gulls and terns all look a like. But looks can be deceptive. We have three gull species seen regularly in the Charlotte area. Do you know what they are and how to identify them? If you go to beach over the holiday you can run into a few more gulls and

several terns. To complicate matters it takes most gulls two to four years to develop their adult plumage. They also have different winter and summer plumages. So how do you determine what species you are looking at?

That’s what Taylor Piephoff and Don Serif are going to discuss at the February meeting. They will help you determine what gulls you are seeing here in Charlotte by discussing plumages, habitats, and habits. They will also show us some of the more unusual gulls to look for when you are at the coast in the winter. Especially, out at the outer banks.

So don’t miss this informative presentation, Thursday, February 5th at 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church [920 Sharon Amity].

## Great Backyard Bird Count

Will massive snowstorms in the northern U.S. yield large movements of winter finches and waterfowl to the South? Will populations of American Crow, presumingly hurt by West Nile virus, rebound or continue to show declines? Is the Carolina Wren, one of the South’s most familiar birds, expanding its range into the Northeast? Those are all questions about our bird populations that researchers hope even rookie birdwatchers will help to answer by taking part in the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, February 13 – 16, 2004.**

The Great Backyard Bird Count encourages families, individuals, classrooms, and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks,

nature preserves, schoolyards, and other areas during any or all of the four count days. You can take as little as 15 minutes to count. Participants enter their observations online at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org), a user-friendly, state-of-the-art web site developed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Mecklenburg Audubon is teaming ups with Reedy Creek, Latta Plantation and McDowell Nature Centers, Wing Haven Bird Sanctuary, Carolina Raptor Center, and Wild Birds Unlimited to promote the annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

Last year, bird enthusiasts across North America submitted nearly 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds. **Charlotte submitted the**

*Continued on page 2*

### Charlotte Area 2003 Results

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Reports</u>
Belmont	40	10
Charlotte	89	488
Clover	27	4
Concord	40	26
Cornelius	54	29
Davidson	44	20
Denver	40	10
Gastonia	60	25
Harrisburg	28	11
Huntersville	54	44
Indian Trail	28	8
Kannapolis	28	5
Lincolnton	48	15
Matthews	47	36
Monroe	44	17
Mt. Holly	27	6
Pineville	23	9
Rock Hill	42	13
Shelby	26	6

Grand total: 782 reports



## FIELD TRIPS

*Please remember to contact the trip leaders several days before the trip. If you don't, you may not receive information about last minute changes or cancellations. Also, if we don't know you are coming we might leave without you!!*

### Friday, February 6th: Ribbon Walk Owl Prowl

This field trip is being held in conjunction with Ribbon Walk. If you have not been to this gem just north of downtown Charlotte you are missing a treat. Barred owls nest in the old Beech trees and I am sure there is probably a Great Horned around somewhere.

We will meet at the entrance to the forest at 6:30 PM. [directions] We should be out about an hour to hour half. Depends on how cooperative the owls are. Remember to dress warmly. If you are interested in going contact Judy Walker [704-537-8181 or [birdwalker@mac.com](mailto:birdwalker@mac.com)].

### Saturday, February 7th: Evergreen Preserve

Evergreen Preserve anytime of the year is a wonderful place to bird. The new pond and surrounding wetland plants has been a great addition. Winter birding in the preserve will include a variety of sparrows, woodpeckers, and hawks. This year's Christmas count added a new mammal - coyote!

We will meet at the Winterfield School parking lot at 7:30 AM and should be done just about noon. Be prepared to walk about 2 miles. If you are planning to join us, contact Louise Bardenat 704-535- 6385 or [louise@lbarden.com](mailto:louise@lbarden.com).

### Saturday, February 21st: Cowan's Ford Refuge

Another great place to bird in the winter is Cowan's Ford Refuge. Ducks and sparrows will be on the list but just about anything can show up at this Important Bird Area. We will meet in the parking lot at the viewing stand at 7:30 AM and should be done between 12 and 1 PM. There will be a lot of walking so remember to wear sturdy shoes. If you are interested in join this trip contact contact Judy Walker at 704-537-8181 or [birdwalker@mac.com](mailto:birdwalker@mac.com).

### Saturday, March 13 th: Mint Hill Park

This is a new field trip location. There are so many great places to bird in Mecklenburg County its hard to fit them all in. Lucy Quintilliano has been birding this park for a couple of years now and it can be very productive. Early March can produce some surprises since winter visitors are gathering for the big push north and there may be some eager neotropic migrants.

We will meet at the Brugger Bagels at Matthews Festival shopping center (Independence and 51) at 7:30. If you are interested in going contact Lucy Quintilliano at 704-364-9028 or [LucyAQ@aol.com](mailto:LucyAQ@aol.com).

### Saturday, March 27th: Sandhills Nat. Wildlife Refuge

We haven't gone to this refuge which outside of McBee, SC in several years so we thought we would add it to the list this year. The early neotropical migrants should have arrived. But the big draw of this trip are red cockaded woodpeckers. They should be pretty active since it's the beginning of their breeding season.

This is a full day field trip but not a lot of walking. Bring lunch and water. Bathrooms may or may not be available. We will meet at 7 AM at the McDonalds in Windsor Square, which is on Rt. 74 [Independence Blvd.] about a mile or so past Sardis Rd. on the left going towards Monroe. You will have to go into the Windsor Square shopping center to get to it. If you are interested in going contact Judy Walker at 704-537-8181 or [birdwalker@mac.com](mailto:birdwalker@mac.com).



*Let's see to find out how many birds, count the legs and divide by 2.*

*Continued from page 1*

## Great Backyard Bird Count

**highest number of checklists [488] of any city in the country and reported the second highest total species in North Carolina.** Charlotte also ranked ninth in the country for the number of individual birds counted.

"Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon, and Wild Birds Unlimited would like to extend a warm thanks to the residents of Charlotte, NC, and surrounding communities for their participation in the Count. Charlotte showed exemplary effort providing insight into the distribution and abundance of 93 different species," says Alison Wells, Communications Director at Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

To help kick off activities for the Great Backyard Bird Count, Wing Haven Bird Sanctuary will sponsor a family gathering on February 11 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at 248 Ridgewood Avenue. The gathering is targeted at children ages 5 – 9. Participants will create food for our feathered friends to hang in their own backyards. Call 704-331-0664 to register.

In addition to participating in the actual count, visitors to the Nature Centers and Carolina Raptor Center between February 13 – 16 can sample shade-grown coffee, which is grown on plantations that provide critical habitat for birds. Visitors can also pick up bird feeding tips, count checklists, and more information on attracting birds to their backyards. There will also be a variety of bird-related crafts and activities for children at:

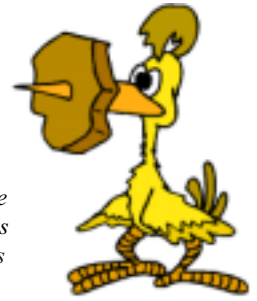
**Latta Plantation Nature Center**  
6211 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC  
704-875-1391

**McDowell Nature Center**  
15222 York Road, Charlotte, NC  
704-588-5224

**Reedy Creek Nature Center**  
2900 Rocky River Road, Charlotte,  
NC 704-598-8857

**Carolina Raptor Center**  
6000 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC  
704-875-6521

# Whose that knocking at my tree?



*In the winter with the leaves are off the trees it is easier to see who is visiting out backyards and feeders. There is one family of birds that we generally hear before we see because they are usually banging on something. Here is some basic information about these frequent visitors to our suet feeders adapted from an article by Chuck Fergus [http://sites.state.pa.us/PA\_Exec/PGC/w\_notes/woodpeck.htm]*

A drum roll at dawn, a bird in undulating flight through the forest, wood chips littering the ground at the base of a tree - all these signal the presence of a woodpecker, a highly specialized and important member of nature's highly complex world.

Woodpeckers have been around for a long time: their fossil remains date back 25 million years to the Lower Miocene, and they're widely distributed, with 45 species in the U.S. and more than 200 worldwide. Seven species either live year-round in the Charlotte/Gastonia area or visit in winter. The common flicker (yellow-shafted phase), pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, and downy woodpecker are residents. The yellow-bellied sapsucker is a winter visitor.

The woodpecker family, Picidae, fills a unique niche in the food-gathering chain. Woodpeckers drill into trees to uncover insect food, to create nesting shelters and to communicate with each other. A number of body adaptations make this drilling possible.

A woodpecker has a sharp, stout bill with a chisel-like tip for chipping and digging into tree trunks and branches. In pecking out wood, the bird aims blows from alternating directions, much like a woodchopper does. Bones between the beak and the unusually thick skull are not as rigidly joined as they are in other birds. Spongy, shock-absorbing tissues connect these flexible joints; strong neck muscles provide force for drilling; and bristly feathers shield the nostrils from dust and wood chips.

The tongue of most woodpecker species is round, horny, and rich in tactile cells. The tip is pointed and barbed. After chopping exposes a woodborer's cavity, the long, flexible tongue feels out, impales, and withdraws the larvae. The tongue is

nearly twice as long as its owner's head and winds around the inside back of the skull when retracted.

To grip trees, a woodpecker has short, muscular legs and sharply clawed feet. On most species, two toes point forward and two backward. This opposed, "yoke-toed" arrangement lets a woodpecker climb with ease. Stiff, pointed tail feathers catch on the rough bark to brace the hammering body. During molt, the two middle tail feathers (the strongest ones) do not fall out until the other 10 have been replaced and can support the bird's weight.

A woodpecker's flight is undulating. The bird usually launches off the side of a tree, pumps its wings four or five strokes, and folds them against its body. During this short pause, the bird loses a few feet of altitude. Then more wing beats, another pause, and so on.

Woodpeckers feed mainly on wood-boring grubs, insects, insect eggs and pupae. They also consume sap, nuts, and the fruits of some trees and shrubs. Hollow sounds -echoes of the woodpecker's tapping- probably signal the location of a wood borer's channel, and the bird drills up to 100 strokes per minute to uncover the morsel. Even in winter they have no trouble locating insects.

Most woodpeckers "drum" on resonant limbs, hollow tree trunks, drainpipes, garbage can lids, tin roofs, etc. Drumming designates territory and can attract a mate. Soft tapping may be a type of communication between mates, or between parents and offspring.

Courtship and nesting habits are essentially alike in all woodpeckers. Much of the rivalry between males is confined to noisy, chattering pursuit. After pair formation, both sexes excavate a nest cavity in a branch or tree trunk. The female usually lays the white, unmarked eggs directly on wood chips

left in the bottom of the cavity. Both sexes incubate, with the more aggressive male often staying on the eggs overnight. Young are altricial; for two to three weeks they remain in the nest and are fed predigested food by their parents. In the southeastern states, woodpeckers may raise two broods.

Woodpeckers have definite economic importance. They do punch holes in trees, but rarely in healthy ones. By stripping the bark from a dead or dying tree and cleaning up the resident wood borers or carpenter ants, they prevent these pests from spreading to nearby healthy trees. Adversely, woodpeckers sometimes damage utility and other poles.

Woodpeckers also chop out homes for owls, bluebirds, tree swallows, nuthatches, chickadees, gray squirrels and flying squirrels.

## DOWNY WOODPECKER

Length, 5-6 inches; wingspread, 11 1/2 inches. The downy - most common of the eastern woodpeckers - resembles a small hairy woodpecker, with a similar white back stripe and white breast. The male has a red patch on the back of his head, similar to that on the hairy. Bill length of the downy is less than the width of its head, while that of the hairy is equal to or greater than the width of its head. The downy's outer tail feathers are barred with black (in the hairy woodpecker, these are solid white). *Food:* wood-boring larvae, moths, beetles, ants, aphids, spiders, poison ivy and dogwood fruits, berries, corn, apples, and acorns. *Habitat:* open forests of mixed growth, orchards, suburbs, and parks. *Nests* are usually dug in rotting wood, 3-5 feet



## Woodpeckers

above the ground and often on the underside of an exposed limb. *Eggs*: 3-6, usually four or five, incubated 12 days. The downy woodpecker is a common resident in all seasons. *Calls*: a soft pik and a rattling sound.

### YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Length, 7-8 inches; wingspread, 14 inches. Plumage varies within the species, but the narrow longitudinal wing stripes — visible when the bird is at rest — and the finely mottled back



are good field marks. (The back coloration blends well with tree bark.) The belly is tinged yellow, and the head is red, black and white. Sapsuckers drill parallel rows of holes in live trees (up to 30 holes per day) and return later to drink sap and catch small insects attracted to the sweet liquid. The bushy tongue of a sapsucker effectively soaks up sap. Other foods include beetles, ants, caterpillars, insect eggs, spiders; the cambium (layer beneath the bark) of maple, aspen, birch, fir, hickory, beech, pine, oak and other trees; fruits and seeds.

Sapsuckers inhabit forests, orchards, and woodlots. *Nest*: a gourd-shaped cavity excavated 8-40 feet up a tree; aspen and other trees afflicted with tinder fungus are often chosen as nest sites, because the fungus creates a soft center that is easily dug out. *Eggs*: 4-7, usually five or six, with a 12- to 13-day incubation period. The sapsucker is the most migratory of our woodpeckers. The sapsucker is a winter visitor to the area. *Call* is a jay-like mewing note. Also, sapsuckers tap in a distinctive rhythm, two or three series per minute; they do not drum.

### HAIRY WOODPECKER



Length, 8-9 inches; wingspread, 15 inches. This woodpecker has a vertical white stripe down the center of its back, black wings stippled with white on the upper sides,

white feathers forming the outer edge of the tail, and white breast. Sexes are similar, but the female lacks the male's small red patch on the back of the head. Larger size and a proportionately longer bill distinguish it from the downy woodpecker. *Food*: The hairy eats beetle larvae, ants, caterpillars, adult beetles, spiders, etc.; also seeds and fruits. Primary habitat is forest land and wooded swamps. *Nest*: 5-30 feet up; the male may also dig a roosting cavity. *Eggs*: 3-6, commonly four, with a 12-day incubation period.

### RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

Length, 8-9 inches; wingspread, 17 inches. This woodpecker has a "ladder back" (a pattern of black and white bands like a ladder), red cap and back of neck, and a breast tinged a very light red. The female's crown is gray, the immature's entire head is brown, and the male's crown and neck are red. *Food*: acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts, grapes, and corn; mulberry, poison ivy, and dogwood fruits; beetles, wood-boring larvae, and ants. Red-bellied woodpeckers inhabit coniferous and deciduous forests, woodlots, orchards, and yards. *Nest*: 5-70 (usually less than 40) feet up a tree or utility pole. *Eggs*: 3-8, commonly four or five, with two weeks incubation. *Call*: a low, hoarse chuh chuh; also a rattling noise.



### RED-HEADED WOODPECKER



Length, 8-9 inches; wingspread, 18 inches. The head of an adult of this species is scarlet, and that of a juvenile, brown. Body plumage is black and white, with a large white wing area visible when the bird flies. Like the flicker, the red-headed woodpecker does a lot of feeding on the ground. It eats beetles, ants, grasshoppers, caterpillars, other insects, acorns, corn, wild fruits, apples. Redheads store acorns in tree cavities during winter and defend these food caches against squirrels and other birds. Habitat is open forestland, farm woodlots, towns and parks. This bird

often perches in the open. *Nest*: 8-80 feet up, often in an oak and occasionally in a fencepost. Starling competition for nesting sites may be reducing this species' numbers. *Eggs*: 4-7, usually five, with a 14-day incubation period. In spring, the redhead is an uncommon migrant in late April and early May; in summer, a breeding resident; in fall, an uncommon migrant from September to early November; and a winter resident. *Call* is a raucous kwrrk.

### NORTHERN FLICKER

Length, 8-10 inches; wingspread up to 20 inches (about the size of a blue jay). Flickers, also known as yellowhammers, have brown backs, no white on the wings, a prominent black band high on the breast, and bright red on the nape of the neck. The male has a black "mustache" mark extending from the bill back onto the throat. In flight, the white rump patch and yellow underwings show up well. Flickers are often seen on the ground or on sidewalks eating ants, a preferred food. Their saliva neutralizes the formic acid which ants contain. They also eat beetles, grasshoppers, crickets and other insects. In fall and winter, they eat poison ivy fruits, berries, corn, and sumac seeds. Favored habitat is woodland, orchards, woodlots, and yards. *Nest*: a hole opening into a cavity, 2-60 feet up a tree. The cavity takes up to two weeks to build. *Eggs*: 3-10, usually 6-8, with an 11- to 12-day incubation period. Starlings may drive flickers out of their newly-dug cavities. *Call*: a loud flick or flicker, 2-7 times per minute; also a shrill, descending kee-oo.



### PILEATED WOODPECKER

Length, 12-17 inches; wingspread, up to 27 inches; crow-size but with a long, slender neck. The largest American woodpecker next to the nearly extinct and closely related ivorybill. Also called the Indian hen and log cock, a pileated woodpecker has a solid black back and a conspicuous red crest for which it is named (from the Latin word for cap,

## Woodpeckers



pilleus). The female is similar to the male but does not have red cheek patches and has less red in the crest.

Flight is strong, with irregular wing flapping accompanied by

white flashing of wing undersurfaces. *Foods* include ants, beetles, wood-boring larvae and wild fruits. Pileated woodpeckers inhabit mature coniferous and deciduous forests, valley woodlots and remote mountain territory. *Nest*: a new hole excavated each year in the same nest area, 15-70 feet up (average 45 feet). The entrance hole is usually oval, and the cavity is 10-24 inches deep. *Eggs*: 3-4, incubated 18 days. These birds are uncommon residents in all seasons.

A pileated's powerful beak can break loose fist-sized chunks of wood; the bird twists its head and beak as it strikes to add leverage. Pileateds cut large rectangular holes in dead trees, spars, live conifers, and utility poles. They drum loudly and rapidly, then more slowly, trailing off softly at the end. Call: wick-uh wick-uh wick-uh, in a series; also kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk-kuk-kuk.

## Birding Wisdom

From a Wise Old Owl



### Murphy's Law of Tree Anatomy:

There are 2 sides to a tree - the side towards you and the side the bird is on.

### Murphy's First Law of Birding:

The greater the time spent searching for a rarity, the greater the chances it will be sitting on your car when you return to the parking lot.



## Bird Geography with a Twist

This is more of a geography test than a bird ID. With over 900 species of birds found in the United States one would think there should be enough birds to go around. With that many birds flying around it would seem every state could have its very own special state bird. That's not the case though. It appears a bird either needs to be brightly color or very noisy to capture the attention of the general public. Three birds, the Cardinal, Western Meadowlark and the Mockingbird, have been adopted by over 1/3 of the states. Two states didn't bother to consult Peterson's guide and chose domestic species. And yet another chose an introduced species. Louisiana was the first to adopt a state bird in 1900, but it nearly went extinct in the 1970s thanks to DDT. Obviously, birders could have done a much better job of picking birds for each of the states. Can you match the birds with the right states?

1. American Goldfinch [3 states] \_\_\_\_\_
2. Baltimore Oriole \_\_\_\_\_
3. Black-capped Chickadee [2 states] \_\_\_\_\_
4. Blue Hen Chicken \_\_\_\_\_
5. Brown Pelican \_\_\_\_\_
6. Brown Thrasher \_\_\_\_\_
7. Cactus Wren \_\_\_\_\_
8. California Gull \_\_\_\_\_
9. California Quail \_\_\_\_\_
10. Cardinal [7 states] \_\_\_\_\_
11. Carolina Wren \_\_\_\_\_
12. Common Loon \_\_\_\_\_
13. Eastern Bluebird [2 states] \_\_\_\_\_
14. Hermit Thrush \_\_\_\_\_
15. Lark bunting \_\_\_\_\_
16. Mockingbird [5 states] \_\_\_\_\_
17. Mountain Bluebird [2 states] \_\_\_\_\_
18. Nene \_\_\_\_\_
19. Purple Finch \_\_\_\_\_
20. Rhode Island Red \_\_\_\_\_
21. Ring-necked Pheasant \_\_\_\_\_
22. Roadrunner \_\_\_\_\_
23. Robin [3 states] \_\_\_\_\_
24. Ruffed Grouse \_\_\_\_\_
25. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_
26. Western Meadowlark [6 states] \_\_\_\_\_
27. Willow Ptarmigan \_\_\_\_\_
28. Yellowhammer [aka N. Flicker] \_\_\_\_\_

Answers can be found at [meckbirds.org](http://meckbirds.org) under Just for Fun.

# 11TH ANNUAL AUDUBON NORTH CAROLINA MEETING

Join fellow bird and nature enthusiasts from across the state as the Audubon Society of Forsyth County hosts the 11th Annual Audubon North Carolina Meeting on **April 16th & 17th** in Winston-Salem, NC. This year's event features a private screening of the award-winning "Winged Migration" at the North Carolina School of the Arts, many field trips and programs, an art exhibit showcasing regional nature artists and the exciting addition of a Chapters' Breakfast where Audubon leaders from around the state will present topics related to key organizational areas, such as membership, education and finance.

Registration and a reception take place late Friday afternoon at the Hawthorne Inn in historic downtown Winston-Salem. Saturday opens with the new Chapters' Breakfast in the morning followed by a full day of exciting programming. This year the annual meeting features day-long field trips to Pilot Mountain and Hanging Rock State Parks. Shorter programs include field trips to some of the Piedmont Triad's most popular birding spots, such as Reynolda House and Gardens, Tanglewood Park and Greensboro Lakes, as well as a special trip to the Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve. On Saturday morning, there is an opportunity to attend a special indoor presentation on seabirds hosted by Dr. David Anderson, Associate Professor of Biology at Wake Forest University, an expert on the evolutionary and behavioral ecology of birds. The festivities on Saturday continue with a reception at the Inn, followed by a seated dinner and dessert. NC Audubon Executive Director Chris Canfield will deliver his annual report during dinner.

**Later Saturday evening, join us for a private screening of Jacques Perrin's highly acclaimed film, "Winged Migration," at the North Carolina School of the Arts.** Participation is open to the public, so members please invite your friends!

If you have questions regarding the annual meeting, contact Sebastian "C" Sommer at 336.761.8216 or via email at [nancsom@triad.rr.com](mailto:nancsom@triad.rr.com). You can also receive information from the NC Audubon office at 919.929.3899.

## FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

*All trips will depart from the Hawthorne Inn parking lot. Trips limited to 15 participants. Seabird program participation is not limited.*

### TRIP #1

#### Horne Creek/Pilot Mountain St. Park

9:00 AM *All day—bring beverage and lunch*

Bird the Horne Creek Nature Trail and a nineteenth century Piedmont homestead. Along the Yadkin River, watch for Pileated Woodpeckers, Great Blue Herons, and Bald Eagles. Look for Black and Turkey Vultures and Common Ravens at the summit, while enjoying spectacular views of the Big Pinnacle and the valley below. Easy to moderate hiking trails.

### TRIP #2

#### Hanging Rock State Park

8:00 AM *All day—bring beverage and lunch*

Hike the trails and see picturesque cascades and waterfalls, high rock cliffs and spectacular mountain views. Bird along woodland trails in search of woodpeckers and early migrants, keeping eyes out for early woodland wildflowers (trailing arbutus, trout lily). The park has been

home to nesting Peregrine Falcons. Moderate to more difficult hiking trails.

### TRIPS #3 and #7

#### Reynolda Estate Nature Walk and House Tour

9:00 AM and 1:30 PM

Visit the four-acre formal gardens and 125-acre preserve of woodlands, fields and wetlands that were part of the 1917 estate of industrialist R. J. Reynolds. The morning walk features the woodland preserve and the afternoon walk focuses on the gardens. Add an optional tour of the Reynolda House Museum of American Art (\$6 charge to be collected on site for museum tour). See an extensive art collection, including Audubon prints and the Dorothy Doughty porcelain bird collection. Or explore other areas of the estate and the shops at Reynolda Village on your own.

### TRIPS #4 and #8

#### Tanglewood Park

9:00 AM and 1:30 PM

A variety of habitats make this park one of the best birding locations in Forsyth County. Open meadows are good for sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Bluebird, and swallows; wetland, lake and riverside areas may produce ducks, herons, warblers and Swamp Sparrows; while mixed forest is home for woodpeckers and woodland species.

### TRIP #5

#### Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve

9:00 AM

Stroll among the wildflowers, ferns, and trees in their spring beauty in this six-acre woodland garden. Home for more than 500 wildflowers and ferns, the Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve has 28 kinds of trillium! While enjoying the flora, keep a lookout for early migrant and late winter resident birds.

### PROGRAM #6

#### Seabirds: What you can learn by living with them for 20 years and having a lot of electronics.

10:30 AM

Many people think of seabirds as brief glimpses of black and white during a pelagic trip. They are also highly social and cognitive birds with long-term relationships and fascinating life histories. Find out more as Dr. David Anderson, distinguished researcher, lecturer, and respected author from Wake Forest University, reviews his 20 years of field research on boobies and albatrosses in the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands.

### TRIP #9.

#### Greensboro City Lakes

1:30 PM

A pair of Bald Eagles has nested on the city lakes of Greensboro since 1994. View the pair and their eaglet(s)—no guarantees—after a short hike through the woods. Enjoy lake trails surrounded by beautiful, natural scenery watching for waterfowl and early migrant birds amongst a diversity of wildflowers, trees and other wildlife.

### TRIP #10

#### Historic Bethabara Park

12:30 PM *Bring beverage and lunch*

After lunch at the Herman Buttner house, the 1803 home of a Moravian distiller, enjoy a nature walk in search of woodland wildflowers and birds. Be on the lookout for early warblers and resident species including kinglets, Northern Flickers, Pileated Woodpeckers and Red-shouldered Hawks. After the walk, enjoy a video about the early Moravian settlers and tour this 1753 site nestled in a wooded 175-acre wildlife preserve.

# ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

5-7:00 PM **Registration/Reception** Hawthorne Inn

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

## Field Trips

*Register for field trips below; trips limited to 15 participants.*

7:30 AM Chapters' Breakfast

8:30 AM Assemble for Field Trip Instructions

9:00 AM Field Trips

## Evening Events

5:30 PM Reception at Hawthorne Inn

6:00 PM Dinner and Executive Director's Report

8:00 PM *Winged Migration* and Commentary at the NC School of the Arts

## LODGING INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

**Lodging:** The Hawthorne Inn, 420 High St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101, 336.777.3000 **Group rate:** \$65/night, plus tax, 2 double beds or a king, includes continental breakfast **Group name:** Audubon; based on availability up to 3.17.04.

*Field trips will leave from the Inn parking lot and most social activities will take place here.*

**Directions from West:** Head East on I-40, then continue East on Business 40 into downtown Winston-Salem. Take the Cherry St. Exit (5-C) onto High St. The front entrance of the hotel is immediately on your right.

**Directions from East:** Take I-40 West, then take Business 40 split (Exit 206) into downtown Winston-Salem. Take the Cherry St. Exit (5-C) onto Cherry St. Turn left at the first traffic light onto 1st St. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Marshall St. Cross over Business 40 and through the next traffic light. As you head downhill, the hotel's rear parking entrance will be on your right. Turn into the parking lot and drive around the building to the hotel's front entrance.

## REGISTRATION FOR THE AUDUBON NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL MEETING

**\$45 Price includes field trips, Saturday dinner, screening of *Winged Migration* & all Breakfasts.**

**Please clip and send this form with a check for \$45 made payable to Audubon North Carolina to: Audubon Society of Forsyth County, PO Box 10952, Winston-Salem, NC 27108. If you have questions regarding the annual meeting, please contact "C" Sommer at 336.761.8216 or via e-mail at nancsom@triad.rr.com. Or call the state office at 919.929.3899.**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAY TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EVENING TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AUDUBON CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSED

## FIELD TRIP PREFERENCES

*Please indicate name of participant, morning and afternoon field trip numbers and alternates for each.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AM TRIP#

ALT.#

PM TRIP#

ALT.#

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AM TRIP#

ALT.#

PM TRIP#

ALT.#

### ALL-DAY FIELD TRIPS

*If you register for an all-day field trip, do not register for an afternoon trip.*

Trip #1 Horne Creek/Pilot Mountain

Trip #2 Hanging Rock State Park

### MORNING FIELD TRIPS

Trip #3 Reynolda Estate

Trip #4 Tanglewood Park

Trip #5 Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve

Prog. #6 Seabirds

### AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

Trip #7 Reynolda Estate

Trip #8 Tanglewood Park

Trip #9 Greensboro City Lakes

Trip #10 Historic Bethabara Park

# Audubon News

Published by Mecklenburg Audubon  
A Chapter of National Audubon  
P. O. Box 221093, Charlotte, NC 28222  
meckbirds.org

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1779  
Charlotte, NC

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Mecklenburg Audubon is a chapter of National Audubon. Meetings are held at Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church, 920 N. Sharon Amity Rd. on the first Thursday of each month, September – May at 7:30 PM.

## Great Backyard Bird Count



Mark your calendars

**February 13-16, 2004**

Remember,  
we have a reputation to uphold!!

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## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Thu. 2/5	- By Golly Gulls [Monthly Meeting, rescheduled from December]
Fri. 2/6	- Owl Prowl at Ribbon Walk
Sat. 2/7	- Evergreen Preserve [1/2 day field trip]
Sat. 2/21	- Cowan's Ford Refuge [1/2 day field trip]
Thu. 3/4	- Traveling Birder: New Zealand [Monthly Meeting]
Sat. 3/13	- Mint Hill Park [1/2 day field trip]
Sat. 3/27	- Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge [Full day field trip]
Thu. 4/1	- Wandering Warblers [Monthly Meeting]



For additional activities and information go to <http://meckbirds.org>