Wake Audubon Welcomes Audubon NC

Wake Audubon is proud to be the host chapter for Audubon North Carolina’s 2013 annual meeting, May 31 through June 2. All Audubon members from across the state are invited to this event, and we hope that many of our local members will choose to attend.

Field trips will showcase our favorite places to bird in Wake County and a bit beyond. We will also highlight our projects, such as our work to build the chimney swift roosting tower at Prairie Ridge and the urban hawks initiative.

Events include a welcome reception Friday night from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the main building of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, a panel discussion, a wine and cheese reception, an awards banquet and a silent auction.

In keeping with our choice of the Eastern meadowlark as our Bird of the Year, the annual meeting will feature a symposium on the grasslands of the Southeastern U.S. and their natural history, diversity, and management for birds. Presenters will be Jessie Bickhead, Conservation Coordinator for the NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; Curtis Smallding, Director of Land Bird Conservation, Audubon NC; Don Serfling, Natural Resources Manager, Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department; and John Gerwin, Curator of Birds, NC Museum of Natural Sciences. The symposium will be at the Hampton Inn Brier Creek, our headquarters hotel, on Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Auction items will include china featuring JJ Audubon birds and hand-painted Christmas ornaments, each with a different bird.

Those coming from out of town will stay at the Hampton Inn at Brier Creek. Registration, Saturday symposium and Saturday night banquet will take place at the hotel. Field trips will leave from the hotel, although participants may instead meet the leaders at the field trip site.

We need our members to help make this a memorable event. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions on the list below, and please plan to attend the receptions, banquet, and a field trip or two.

WAKE AUDUBON NEEDS YOU!

Please help make Audubon NC’s 2013 meeting a success by giving a few hours of your time! Contact Anita Kuehne to sign up: email: anita9397@yahoo.com, phone: ???

- Collection of door prizes and silent auction items from local businesses
- Decorate tables Saturday 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- Help with silent auction
- Collect door prizes and silent auction items from local businesses
- Print name tags; print maps and directions to field trips

Our Mission: To foster knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of nature; to encourage responsible environmental stewardship; to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and Earth’s biological diversity.

Annual Meeting Field Trips (cont.)

Annual Meeting Field Trips

Wake Audubon Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St.

- Lake Crabtree
- Falls Lake

Wake Audubon Society

Wake Audubon Society welcomes Audubon NC. Join us on Saturday, May 25, for a wine and cheese reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by a banquet and awards ceremony. We will host a silent auction at the hotel Saturday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Auction items will include china featuring JJ Audubon birds and hand-painted Christmas ornaments, each with a different bird.

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Wake Audubon Society
**Wake Audubon Bird of the Year**

The Eastern meadowlark, Wake Audubon’s bird of the Year for 2013, is, along with its counterpart the Western meadowlark a bird of our parks and farms and rural American meadows. Meadowlarks favor taller grasses for nesting and short, often grazed lands for food, which consists mainly of insects. Both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks have somewhat squat bodies with short tails and a profile that resembles that of the eastern starling. Viewed from above or behind, the meadowlark’s light brown or tan base of feathers is marked with black spots and stripes, enabling the bird to blend into vegetation.

A frontal perspective, on the other hand, reveals a bright yellow breast with a pronounced V-shaped black hind. One subtle difference that helps with visual identification of the two species is the white feathers on the edges of their tails that are visible in flight. The Eastern meadowlark has a wider border of white feathers on its tail than the Western.

Experts claim the surest way to distinguish them is by sound. The Western meadowlark has a bell-like quality to its vocalizations, whereas the Eastern meadowlark’s voice is more flute-like, although each species has a repertoire of sounds. The voices of both species provide an enchanting quality to the open and often wind-blown country.

In the Raleigh area, Eastern meadowlarks are often seen at Pines North Carolina State’s agricultural lands on Lake Wheeler Road south of Tryon Road, and on the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Edwards Mill Road and Reedy Creek Road (think Prairie Ridge on the east side of town). In the northern Wake County pastures (west side), NC’s Forestry Service’s pastures, and the University Club on Hillsborough Street is another good location to find meadowlarks.

Wake Audubon Bird of the Year

**Bird Banding at Prairie Ridge**

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: 20 minutes from hotel; easy; restrooms available. Join John Gerwin, Curator of Birds at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, for a morning of bird banding. Mist nets are opened early in the morning so you can observe birds and other wildlife. Participants can also enjoy Prairie Ridge’s moved loop trails from the higher ridge through the prairie and hardwood sections. This is a great opportunity to see American goldfinch, indigo bunting, and sparrows are abundant to the lower trail that leads past several vernal pools through the field of early successional hardwoods, which often has orchid or honeysuckle, blue grassbush, and some migrants. Visitors may also use the outdoor classroom deck and watch the bird feeders for notable visitors.

**Finger Lakes Nature Center**

Bird Banding at Finger Lakes

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: 20 minutes from hotel; easy; restrooms available. Join John Gerwin, Curator of Birds at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, for a morning of bird banding. Mist nets are opened early in the morning so you can observe birds and other wildlife. Participants can also enjoy Finger Lakes’ moved loop trails from the higher ridge through the prairie and hardwood sections. This is a great opportunity to see American goldfinch, indigo bunting, and sparrows are abundant to the lower trail that leads past several vernal pools through the field of early successional hardwoods, which often has orchid or honeysuckle, blue grassbush, and some migrants. Visitors may also use the outdoor classroom deck and watch the bird feeders for notable visitors.

**Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve**

Bird Banding at Hemlock Bluffs

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: 20 minutes from hotel; easy; restrooms available. Join John Gerwin, Curator of Birds at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, for a morning of bird banding. Mist nets are opened early in the morning so you can observe birds and other wildlife. Participants can also enjoy Hemlock Bluffs’ moved loop trails from the higher ridge through the prairie and hardwood sections. This is a great opportunity to see American goldfinch, indigo bunting, and sparrows are abundant to the lower trail that leads past several vernal pools through the field of early successional hardwoods, which often has orchid or honeysuckle, blue grassbush, and some migrants. Visitors may also use the outdoor classroom deck and watch the bird feeders for notable visitors.

**Allied Lakes Nature Preserve**

Bird Banding at Allied Lakes

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: 20 minutes from hotel; easy; restrooms available. Join John Gerwin, Curator of Birds at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, for a morning of bird banding. Mist nets are opened early in the morning so you can observe birds and other wildlife. Participants can also enjoy Allied Lakes’ moved loop trails from the higher ridge through the prairie and hardwood sections. This is a great opportunity to see American goldfinch, indigo bunting, and sparrows are abundant to the lower trail that leads past several vernal pools through the field of early successional hardwoods, which often has orchid or honeysuckle, blue grassbush, and some migrants. Visitors may also use the outdoor classroom deck and watch the bird feeders for notable visitors.