



Wake Audubon
P.O. Box 12452
Raleigh, NC 27605

www.wakeaudubon.org

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in search of odonates, especially damselflies! Wear water shoes or strap-on sandals; no flip-flops or bare feet! Leader: Brian Bockhan (919-841-4060, brian.bockhahn@ncdenr.gov).

July 27: Field Trip
Local Lepidopterans: Butterflies in Your Backyard

Time: 8:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Registration requested but not required. Join us at NCSU's JC Raulston Arboretum and Prairie Ridge Ecostation for some easy strolling to observe butterflies. Meet at the Arboretum, in the open area between the visitor center and parking lot. Bring snack foods/drinks, binoculars, and cameras as desired. This trip is open to all ages and physical conditions. Leader: John Gerwin (jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org; 919-854-7791).

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., Raleigh.

Free parking is available in the lot at Wilmington and Jones streets, one block from the museum. Directions are available on the museum's website at www.naturalsciences.org/visinfo/index.html.

All meetings are free and open to the public. Check for schedule changes and other events at www.wakeaudubon.org.

Annual Meeting Field Trips (cont.)

wood thrushes attest to the variety of habitats at this site.

Birds at the Art Museum (inside and outside)

8:00 a.m. - noon; 20 minutes from hotel; easy walk; restrooms available. Limited to 20 participants. The NC Museum of Art is surrounded by a 164-acre art-and-nature park. We will start with a walk along the museum's trails through woods and meadows, where we are likely to see Eastern bluebirds, orioles, sparrows, and wood-warblers. Inside the original building is a gallery devoted to America's greatest nature artist, John James Audubon. The museum's original, complete Audubon collection, recently treated to restore

Lake Crabtree

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; 10 minutes from hotel; easy walking on grass and trails, restrooms available. Lake Crabtree is a 520-acre flood-control lake that dominates the park. The habitats in the park include oak forest and mixed hardwoods/pine, floodplain forest, and small wetland communities. Seeing a bald eagle is possible, with an active nest on site, and osprey are occasionally seen. There are abundant nesting songbirds, including great crested flycatcher, Eastern kingbird, red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, wood thrush, Northern parula, ovenbird, hooded and yellow-throated warblers, summer and scarlet tanagers, and indigo bunting.

Falls Lake

7:30 a.m. - noon; 25 minutes from hotel; moderate walking on trails. Falls Lake is a state recreation area composed of the 12,000-acre

its condition, is displayed with bird specimens on loan from the Museum of Natural Sciences. We will examine a selection of the pieces for their artistic, ornithological, and historical value with the former curator.

Wildlife Backyard Habitat

7:30 a.m. - noon; 20 minutes from hotel; easy walking around gardens and pond; restrooms available. Harry and Hallie Wilson have created a wildlife retreat at their home in Zebulon. They will host a tour of their gardens and answer questions on the creation and maintenance of this lovely oasis.

Sunday

lake and 26,000 acres of oak-pine woodlands. White-tailed deer, rabbit, red fox and raccoon are some of the most common forms of mammalian wildlife. Likely birds include Eastern bluebirds, American goldfinches, Carolina wrens, wood ducks, red-tailed hawks, osprey and bald eagle.

Umstead State Park

8:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.; 10 minutes from hotel; moderate walking on trails; restrooms available. Umstead provides a welcome natural retreat from the urban development that has grown up around it. The 5579-acre park includes three small lakes and several miles of creeks, where great blue herons and kingfishers can be seen. The habitat is primarily pine/hardwood successional forest. Many of the woodland bird species found here include a variety of woodpeckers, vireos and warblers.

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.

Wingbeats



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 Birkhead, Conservation Coordinator for the NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; Curtis Smalling, Director of Land Bird Conservation, Audubon NC; Don Seriff, 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 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday field trip participants will have time to eat lunch and get to the hotel for this event.

Audubon NC will host a wine and cheese reception after the symposium at 6:00 p.m. followed by a banquet and awards ceremony. We will host a silent auction at the hotel Saturday from 1:00 to 7:00 p.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: ats9397@yahoo.com, phone: ???

Registration table at the hotel for registration, field trip information and general information:

- Thursday 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. (one shift)
- Friday 6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Shifts: 6:00 - 9:30; 9:30 - 1:00; 1:00 - 5:00)
- Saturday 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Shifts: 6:00 - 9:00; 9:00 - noon; noon - 3:00)

Reception Friday night at museum

- Contribute a dessert
- Greet arriving guests

Saturday banquet

- 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

Spring 2013

Inside:

- NC Audubon Annual Meeting
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Spring and Summer Field Trips and Meetings
- Bird of the Year

Calendar

Apr. 6-7: Bird House Competition

The annual birdhouse competition at JC Raulston Arboretum draws a large crowd including lots of families. We need volunteers to work 2- to 3-hour shifts at our table distributing our literature, describing our programs, and selling our merchandise. It's lots of fun working with other volunteers and talking with folks about birds. Contact Angie (dblacres@embarqmail.com). We are also hosting an outdoor children's nature activity and need volunteers. Contact John Gerwin (jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org; 919-854-7791).

Apr. 9: Monthly Meeting
Conserving Breeding Habitat for Grassland Birds in a Changing Agricultural Landscape
Grassland birds are declining at staggering rates across the U.S. Jessie Birkhead, Conservation Coordinator for the NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will address challenges facing grassland birds in agricultural landscapes and discuss how the cattle industry can better accommodate breeding grassland birds by using native warm-season forages.

Apr. 20: Field Trip
Prairie Birds
Birding along Mid-Pines Rd./
Yates Mill Pond area, south of
Raleigh. Leader: Erla Beegle
(Optmystc1@gmail.com).

Apr. 27: Songbird Celebration
at Blue Jay Point
Volunteers needed! This
family-friendly event focuses
on birds, and Wake Audubon
sets up a table with games
and bird-related art projects
for kids as well as information
on our projects, bird walks,
bird-friendly landscaping, etc.
Contact Gerry (gerryluginbuhl@
gmail.com).

May 4: Field Trip
Spring Bird Count
North American migration
count. Team up with birders
across Wake County to count
birds. Leader: John Connors
(jconnors@wakeaudubon.org;
919-755-0253).

May 14: Monthly Meeting
Lights Out, Winston-Salem!
Each year, millions of migrating
birds are killed when they hit
lighted buildings. Join Forsyth
Audubon board member Kim
Brand to learn how one NC
Audubon chapter studied
this serious problem and has
become part of the solution.

May 17-19: Field Trip
Spring Birding in the NC
Mountains (Boone area)
Join us for a colorful, bird-
and wildflower-filled weekend
in the Boone/Blowing Rock
area. This is a popular trip in
a popular location, where we
have always found a variety of
warblers along with tanagers,
orioles, and more. Lodging is
at the Holiday Inn Express in
Boone. We will ride together
in the Museum's tour bus
(fee). Leaders: John Gerwin
(jgerwin@wakeaudubon.org,
919-854-7791), Jerry Reynolds,
Brian O'Shea. Cosponsored
by the NC Museum of Natural
Sciences. Space limited to 22.
Register with Debbie Huston
(debbie.huston@natural-
sciences.org; 919-707-9840).

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 the grasslands and farms of rural America. Meadowlarks favor taller grasses for nesting and short, often grazed lands for food, which consists mostly of insects, caterpillars, and some seeds.

Both the Eastern and Western meadowlark have somewhat squat bodies with short tails and long beaks and a profile that resembles that of the European 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 band. 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 flutelike, 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 they prefer.

In the Raleigh area, Eastern meadowlarks are often seen at Mid-Pines or NC 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 Edwards Mill and the cow pasture at the west side). NCSU's vet school cow pasture adjacent to the University Club on Hillsborough Street is another good location to find meadowlarks.

FIELD TRIPS — Audubon NC Annual Meeting Friday

Howell Woods

6:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; one hour from hotel; easy walking; restrooms available. Must bring own food, water and snacks. Howell Woods contains a great diversity of habitats and wildlife species within 2,800+ acres situated between the Neuse River and Hannah and Mill creeks. The property consists of more than 1,600 acres of bottomland hardwood forests, more than 600 acres of mixed hardwood/pine, nearly 400 acres of pine forest (both longleaf and loblolly), and nearly 100 acres of early successional habitat. Breeding species include Mississippi kite, red-headed woodpecker, brown-headed nut hatch, a variety of wood warblers, summer tanager, and orchard oriole.

Wood Duck Nests at Turnipseed Preserve

6:30 a.m. - noon; 40 minutes from hotel; flat but potentially challenging trails; no restrooms. Limited parking; must carpool. Limited to 10 participants. Bring water and snack. Turnipseed Preserve is a 221-acre site in the Marks Creek watershed, a sub-basin of the larger Neuse River watershed. Owned by Wake County, the preserve features a mixture of bottomland hardwood forest and mixed pine-hardwood forest. Exceptional flora and fauna include endangered Michaux's sumac, sora, chimney swift, hairy woodpecker, rose-breasted grosbeak, savannah sparrow, orchard oriole, yellow-billed cuckoos, Eastern wood-peewees, many species of wood warblers,

spotted salamander, marbled salamander, and Eastern box turtle. A group from Delta Waterfowl have built and monitored wood duck nest boxes here for several years and this trip will include seeing these nests.

Swift Creek Greenway and Hemlock Bluffs

7:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.; 25 minutes from hotel; moderate walking on paved trails; restrooms available at Hemlock Bluffs. An unusual geological formation promoted the survival of a remnant stand of Eastern hemlocks far from the mountains. The hemlocks mix with hardwoods and pines to create a diverse landscape. More than 130 bird species, including 28 warblers, have been documented at this 150-acre property in southern Cary. Trails at the top of the bluff provide tree-top views, and creek-side trails penetrate wetland communities. Expect to see ovenbird, summer and scarlet tanagers, red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, great crested and Acadian flycatchers, Eastern wood-pewee, wood thrush, Northern parula, hooded warbler, and Louisiana waterthrush.

Prairie Ridge Ecostation and Schenk Forest

7:15 a.m. - noon; 20 minutes from hotel, moderate walking on unpaved trails; restrooms available. Prairie Ridge is the NC Museum of Natural Sciences' outdoor classroom. The habitat includes a 10-acre restored piedmont prairie, a permanent pond, and vernal pools that attract

Annual Meeting Field Trips (cont.)

wildlife. An arboretum of lowland forest trees and shrubs includes some rare and unusual species. Two short trails loop around this site and include an observation blind by the pond. We will also visit Wake Audubon's chimney swift roosting tower. Species seen at Prairie Ridge include Eastern kingbird, summer tanager, field sparrow, blue grosbeak, and orchard oriole. A two-minute drive will take us to Schenk Forest, a 245-acre forest managed for timber production and wildlife habitat. Yellow-breasted chat, indigo bunting, and blue grosbeak nest in the recent timber harvests adjacent to the picnic shelter near the forest's main entrance. Northern parula, summer tanager, and ovenbird are seen along the trails.

Urban Red-Tails and Other Hawks

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. NC Museum of Natural Sciences; 30 minutes from hotel; easy walking. Red-tailed hawks are back, nesting on Capital Square. Spotting scopes and binoculars are provided by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Volunteers from the museum, NC Parks, and Wake Audubon share information about the hawks and other downtown birds with passing pedestrians. A fun activity that will take you downtown, where there are great lunch options for humans, too.

Walnut Creek Wetlands Center

1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.; 30 minutes from hotel; easy walking on paved trails; restrooms available. Walnut Creek and the surrounding wetland have

grown from a neglected area to a green building nature center with access to Raleigh's award-winning greenways, where resident and migrant birds continue to find habitat. The resident red-shouldered hawks are sure to greet birders on this trip. Lake Raleigh is now an integral part of NC State's Centennial Campus, but land has been preserved to provide outdoor classroom experiences for biology classes.

Museum Herpetology, Ichthyology, and Invertebrate Collections

1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.; 20 minutes from hotel; indoors. Limited to 12 participants. The NC Museum of Natural Sciences' Research Laboratory at 4301 Reedy Creek Road houses the museum's amphibian and reptile, fish, and invertebrate (primarily mollusk, crustacean, and myriapod) collections, totaling hundreds of thousands of specimens. The building also contains office and lab space for a staff of about a dozen curators, collections managers, and technicians who work with the collections. The facility was built specially to house the Museum's fluid-preserved (i.e., "wet") collections, and has been occupied since 1998. Jeff Beane, Collections Manager for Herpetology at the museum since 1995, will provide a tour of this outstanding state resource—the part of the Museum that the public never sees—and answer questions about the collections.

Saturday (all half-day trips)

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 Museum of Natural Sciences, for a morning of bird banding. Mist nets are opened early in the morning so you can observe all phases of the banding procedure. Participants can also enjoy Prairie Ridge's mowed loop trails from the higher ridge through the prairie and hardwood shrubs — where 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 orchard oriole, blue grosbeak, and some migrants. Visitors may also use the outdoor classroom deck and watch the bird feeders for notable visitors.

Midpines Road and Historic Yates Mill Pond

7:00 a.m. - noon; 30 minutes from hotel, easy walk; restrooms available. Historic Yates Mill County Park is a 174-acre site that features the only gristmill (circa 1756) still standing in Wake County. Park habitats include oak forest and

mixed hardwood-pine, floodplain forest, and small wetland communities. Summer-breeding songbirds include great crested flycatcher, Eastern wood-pewee, red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, wood thrush, yellow-throated warbler, Northern parula, prothonotary and hooded warblers, summer and scarlet tanagers, and indigo bunting. There are active wood duck boxes along the pond and boardwalks, and a mill observation deck provides close viewing access to waterfowl and wading birds. More than 160 bird species have been documented here.

Shelley Lake

7:15 a.m. - noon; 20 minutes from hotel; easy walk on paved path; restrooms available. Shelley Lake is a 53-acre flood-control lake surrounded by approximately 3 miles of paved trails with additional connecting greenway trails. This city park offers a surprising variety of birds for a popular urban park. There is a growing great blue heron rookery, nesting piliated and red-headed woodpeckers, and the big surprise of last year, nesting warbling vireos. Belted kingfishers and

May 31-June 2: Audubon NC
Annual Meeting
Events at various places in
Raleigh and Wake County.
Contact Gerry (gerryluginbuhl@
gmail.com).

June 1: Field Trip
Art Museum Birding
An outdoor bird walk and
indoor tour of Audubon's Birds
of America prints at the NC
Museum of Art. Leader: Joseph
Covington (JCovington1@nc.rr.
com).

June 11: Monthly Meeting
Hummingbirds and Tanagers
and Manakins—Oh, My!
NC Museum of Natural Sciences
bird curator and Wake Audubon
board member John Gerwin will
recap his 17 days of birding
in northern Ecuador. He will
discuss and show images of
many of the 60 species of
hummingbirds seen, plus
colorful tanagers and other
notable tropical birds.

July 9: Monthly Meeting
315 Species: Does Falls Lake
Have the Largest Checklist
of Any Birding Spot in North
Carolina?

The protected acreage around
the lake provides excel-
lent habitat for birds and
birders. Join NC State Parks
Interpretation and Education
Specialist Brian Bockhahn for a
look at how, where, and when
to observe birds and other crea-
tures at Falls Lake.

July 13: Field Trip
Dragonflies at Durant Park and
Falls Dam

Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Durant
Nature Park. We will explore the
habitats of Durant for about
two hours, looking for odonates
and other insects. This will be
a slow-paced hike of about two
miles, moderate grade, on good
trails around pond and stream
habitat. Bring drinking water,
snack, sunscreen, hat, bug
spray, close-focusing binoculars,
and camera if desired. Though
some nets will be provided for
in-hand viewing, most identifica-
tion will be "on the wing." We
have the option of continuing
for another two hours below the
dam at Falls Lake, where we will
wade knee- to hip-deep in water