

Vol. 31

March—April 2007

No. 4

**MARCH PROGRAM**

Thursday, March 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
at the  
Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library  
at Price Park

**NEOTROPICAL VISITORS: MIGRATORY BIRDS  
OF THE PIEDMONT**

When do the spring migrating birds start arriving in piedmont North Carolina? What habitats do they use when they come through our area, and how does management of those habitats affect the birds? Which migrating birds stay with us over the summer to nest and raise a family, and what kind of habitat do they need to breed successfully?



**Jeff Marcus**, Piedmont Wildlife Diversity Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, will answer these questions and more at our March program.

If you'd like to be attuned to the marvelous phenomenon of spring bird migration and learn more about the needs of our summer resident birds, please join us on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m.

**MARCH FIELD TRIP**

Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.  
Beech Bluff Trail

Wildflowers and Spring Migrants

Come join us in a search for signs of spring—particularly, wildflowers and migrating birds. This year we'll try a different trail, the Beech Bluff Trail, located on the south side of Brass Eagle Loop. This beautiful trail follows a hillside overlooking wetlands where we may see ducks and tadpoles as well as spring migrants. The tall beech forest shelters many spring ephemeral wildflowers, including dwarf iris, showy orchis, and bloodroot. The first part of the trail is fairly steep and other parts of the trail may be wet, so wear sturdy, waterproof shoes. Bring your wildflower field guides, your binoculars, water, and a snack. The trail is one mile long; we'll walk the mile and back if time allows. For more information, call Ann Walter-Fromson (299-9494).

**Directions:** Beech Bluff Trail is located on Brass Eagle Loop off Fleming Road about halfway between Lewiston Road and Pleasant Ridge Road. From Bryan Boulevard take the Fleming Road exit and go north on Fleming Road. Go past Lewiston Road, continuing on Fleming. Brass Eagle Loop, a gravel road, is the first right turn after Beechmont Drive. (The other end of Brass Eagle Loop enters Fleming Road opposite Cardinal Lake Drive.) The trailhead is on the right side of Brass Eagle Loop if you take the first turn onto Brass Eagle Loop after Beechmont. Park along the side of the road. [Note: There are two trail heads on Brass Eagle Loop: Beech Bluff Trail and Bald Eagle Trail, which head up to Lake Higgins marina. Be sure to find the Beech Bluff Trail head which is on the right before the intersection with a side road (Long Valley Road) on Brass Eagle Loop.]

*Our mission: TO FOSTER APPRECIATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ENJOYMENT OF NATURE, AND WORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE*

**AUDUBON NC 2007 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**April 27-29**

Audubon North Carolina's 2007 Annual Meeting will be held in Charlotte on April 27-29. The meeting will be hosted by Mecklenburg Audubon, which has invited Audubon members from across the state to visit the city and learn about the successes and mishaps of more than a decade-and-a-half's efforts in habitat protection. The agenda for this meeting looks to be of interest for everyone.

Full details and registration forms are available on the web at <http://ncaudubon.org>

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**Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**2007**

T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society Members,

Thanks to all who participated in the Tenth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. We more than doubled last year's participation in Greensboro from 83 checklists in 2006 to 177 checklist, so far, in 2007. We had 91 species seen this year compared to 77 species last year. Currently we are fourth in the state in checklists submitted. Data can still be entered until the end of February, so if you have not entered your count, please do so by February 28.

Currently NC is second in the most checklists submitted. You can see the overall results at

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

or look for a specific NC city at

<http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/report?cmd=showReport&reportName=AllSpeciesCity&state=US-NC&year=2007>

Thanks again for your interest in bird conservation,

Dan Chambers

**APRIL PROGRAM**  
**CREATING CERTIFIED WILDLIFE**  
**HABITATS**

Thursday, April 12, 7:00, at the KCE Library  
Speaker: **Tim Gestwicki**, Deputy Director of Conservation Programs with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Direct hands-on learning experiences with nature are more meaningful and therefore more successful in instilling knowledge and appreciation. The best tools to teach the importance of maintaining biodiversity are those that relate to human well-being in combination with an appreciation of wildlife and wild places. Having good stewards of the natural world is extremely important to the future of North Carolina's wildlife and wild places.

One of the best locations to begin fostering this appreciation, and for educating the general masses, is showing them how their individual backyard, school, place of worship, workplaces, etc. can be transformed into a haven for wildlife including but not limited to songbirds, butterflies, hummingbirds, rabbits and amphibians.

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has a vast arena of habitat enhancement programs including: Wildlife and Industry Together (WAIT), Fellowship Actions Impacting the Habitat (FAITH), Schoolyard Habitats and the popular Backyard Wildlife Habitat program.

Join us on Thursday, April 12, at the Kathryn Clay Edwards Branch Library to hear **Tim Gestwicki**, Deputy Director of Conservation Programs with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, discuss this fascinating topic.

The BWH program encourages land owners to provide the four essential elements all wildlife need for survival: food, water, shelter and places to raise young. This "Landscaping for Wildlife" initiative shows property owners how to welcome wildlife into their very own yards. Certification criteria will also be covered in this *introduction to habitat enhancement*.



**T. Gilbert Pearson**  
**Audubon Society**  
 Updated Schedule of 2007 Events



**Thurs., Mar. 8 - "Neotropical Visitors: Migratory Birds of the Piedmont."**

Speaker: Jeff Marcus. (see pg 1)

**Sat., Mar. 24** - Field trip with PBC to Greensboro lakes for migratory waterfowl  
 RSVP to Dan Chambers.

**Sat., Mar. 31** - Field trip to Beech Bluff trail for wildflowers and spring migrants.  
 RSVP to Ann Walter-Fromson (see pg 1)

**Thurs., Apr. 12 - "Creating Certified Wildlife Habitats."** Speaker: Tim Gestwicki (see pg 2)

**Sat., Apr. 14** - Laurel Bluff Trail maintenance, 9:00. to 11:30 a.m.  
 RSVP to Ann Walter- Fromson.

**Sat., Apr. 14** - Earth Day Celebration at KCE Library, Price Park

**Sat., Apr. 28** - Field trip to the Lewis home in Randolph County with PBC for spring bird migration. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

**Apr. 27-29** Audubon NC Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC (See announcement, pg 2)

**Sat., May 5** - Spring Bird Count with Piedmont Bird Club. RSVP\*

**Thurs., May 10 - "Sex and Mice in the City: Barred Owls Come to Town."**  
 Speaker: Rob Bierregard.

**Sat., May 19** - Field trip to Ocooneechee Mountain State Natural Area at Eno River State Park. RSVP to Alice McCall.

**Sat., June 2** - TGPAS exhibit at Bur-Mill Park Ecotourism Fair

**Thurs., June 9** - T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society Annual Planning Meeting

**Thurs., June 14 - "On the Bluebird Trail."**  
 Speaker: Dan Chambers.

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**Sat., June 16** - Bluebird activities for families, 9:30 -11:00 a.m., Price Park.  
 RSVP to Dan Chambers.

**Sat., June 23** - Field trip to the Carolina Raptor Center. RSVP to Alice McCall.

**Thurs., July 12 - Price Park Family Nature Walk**

\* RSVP – Contact the field trip leader if you'd like to participate. See the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon newsletter at our website for details or call one of the officers listed with this newsletter:

[www.tgpearsonaudubon.org](http://www.tgpearsonaudubon.org)

APRIL 14, 2007 – TRAIL WALKERS NEEDED FOR LAUREL BLUFF CLEAN UP  
 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate Earth Day with a good deed for nature! People all over Greensboro will be cleaning up their neighborhoods and streams on this day. Join T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon folks for trail maintenance at the Laurel Bluff Trail on Lake Townsend on April 14th at 9:00 a.m. Our chapter of Audubon sponsors this link of the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail and schedules periodic clean ups. The Laurel Bluff Trail runs between Lake Brandt Road and Church Street along the edge of Reedy Fork Creek and the southern shore of the tip of Lake Townsend.

We plan to have two teams, one starting at each end of the trail, picking up trash and doing minor trail maintenance along the way. Wear sturdy shoes and gloves and bring a small pruning tool if you have one. We'll be finished by 11:00 a.m. so that you can have pizza and drinks at the War Memorial Stadium downtown (until noon), and then head over to Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library at Price Park for Earth Day activities in the afternoon.

Please call Ann Walter-Fromson (299-9494) for further directions if you can help out with this important environmental conservation effort. We're sure to see some spring wildflowers and waterfowl that will make the trail clean-up an enjoyable task.

**All Thursday evening programs are from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library at Price Park off Hobbs Road.**

## Chapter Officers

**Co-Chair** Gregg Morris, 883-3270  
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(open)  
**and**  
**Secretary** Mary Woodrow, 316-1339  
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**Programs** Ann Walter-Fromson 299-9494  
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**Natural Area** Dan Chambers  
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## Volunteers

**Membership** Tom Duckwall, 337-0811  
tomduckwall@cs.com  
**Chapter historian & Bird Seed Sale**  
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## THE CAROLINA HERP ATLAS: A CITIZEN-SCIENCE PROJECT FOR REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN ENTHUSIASTS

Have you ever seen an eastern kingsnake in your backyard or found a Fowler's Toad on your porch and wondered if wildlife biologists needed to know about it? These observations are important and now there is a place to submit your observations that can help with the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in the Carolinas: *The Carolina Herp Atlas (CHA)*.

The CHA, developed by the Davidson College Herpetology Laboratory and Davidson College Information Technology Services, is a new, online database that uses observations by *citizen scientists* to track reptile and amphibian distributions in North and South Carolina.

Funded by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the CHA also allows users a simple way to maintain a personal database of the reptiles and amphibians they observe. County-level distribution maps can be viewed by anyone who visits the website. (see web address below) Wildlife biologists and herpetologists can use these data to understand activity periods, habitat relationships, distribution, conservation status and other facets of amphibian and reptile ecology in North Carolina. (cont. next column >)

## The Audubon NC Board really counts!



Yes, during our lunch break at the winter board meeting at the NC Zoo we did our own version of the GBBC (focused there on feeders hanging from the windows).

As of today, North Carolina is # 2 for number of submissions (just behind NY) and Charlotte is # 1 in the nation!!!! More entries are likely coming from all areas, so if you haven't put your data in yet, do it now so we can stay on top. Go to [www.ncaudubon.org](http://www.ncaudubon.org) and click on the icon for the NC Results of the GBBC to watch the tally grow.

Thanks to everyone who took the time and had fun with this record-breaking winter count.

Chris Canfield  
N C Audubon State Office

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How does the CHA work? Before you can submit records, you must first register and set-up a "My Herps" account. Once you register, you are able to add records and keep track of your observations. Each observation should include: 1) state and county, 2) genus and species, 3) date, 4) location, 5) geographic coordinates (using our GeoLocator) 6) remarks, 7) and a digital photo for verification of the species identification. The GeoLocator allows the user to pinpoint the exact location of their herp observation.

So, if you want to help conserve amphibians and reptiles in the Carolinas, then tell us where they are. Submit your observations to the Carolina Herp Atlas at [www.carolinaherpatlas.org](http://www.carolinaherpatlas.org).