

2014 Field Trips

The Field Trips Committee, ably chaired by Brock Hutchins, has just listed walks available to both HPAS members and the public, free of charge, beginning this May. Be sure to check out the schedule below and mark your calendars to participate in several of our varied walks – you don't have to be an expert. Bring your house guests; we have binoculars to loan, field guides to share, and leaders to help you find the common and uncommon species in our area. As before, the first Saturday of each month, through August, will be geared specifically for beginners, with help in using binoculars and field guides, as well as identifying some of our more common birds by sight and sound. Saturday walks will carpool from the parking area behind Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM unless otherwise noted. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear if necessary. Walks will be cancelled in the case of rain or heavy fog, but a light bit of drizzle is often ideal for birding (they do need to eat, regardless!), so don't let that stop you! If the schedule should change, due to unforeseen circumstances, the latest information will be posted on our HPAS web site.

May 3, Saturday: Beginners' Walk to Edwin and Kay Poole's home & lovely native garden, Russ Regnery (HPAS President) will lead

May 10, Saturday: Trip down the mountain to Horse Cove and Chattooga River area to try to find the rarely seen Swainson's Warbler. Brock Hutchins will be your leader.

May 17, Saturday: Guest leader Rob Bierregaard will be joined by Russ Regnery and Avary Doubleday for a trip to Flat Mountain Road and the area near the Ranger Falls trailhead. Rob is a well-known Ornithologist and lecturer whom we are delighted to have available to lead this special walk.

May 24, Saturday: Joint trip with the Franklin Bird Club to the neighborhood of Ellen and Jim Shelton, where last year the group saw a Red-headed Woodpecker, not a common bird in Western NC, along with numerous Scarlet Tanagers, many warblers and lots of other goodies. Ellen and Jim will lead.

May 31, Saturday: Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Eco Tour to High Hampton Resort in Cashiers. Highlands's participants will carpool as usual while Cashiers residents and others may gather in the parking area of the New Cashiers Rec Center where the Highlands group will rendezvous with them.

NOTE: HCLT members are free of charge; others may either join HCLT (highly recommended!) or pay a minimal fee for this one walk. Watch the web site or call Julie, at 526-1111 for specifics. All participants must register in advance with HCLT so that lunches can be properly planned, so be sure to call Julie if you want to go! Romney Bathurst and Kyle Pursel will lead.

Saturday, June 7: Beginners' Walk to the Highlands Biological Station with Brock Hutchins leading.

Thursday, June 12th: Our annual Owl Prowl in cooperation with the Highlands Nature Center. Donations to the Carolina Raptor Rehab Center will be appreciated but not required. Bring a flashlight and plan to stay after dark as we hunt for owls in the area!

June 14th, Saturday: Back by popular demand, an outing to Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, with Romney Bathurst leading. This is a beautiful wooded canyon being sensitively developed by the Jennings family with conservation interests high on the priority list. The result is some fine habitat for migrant wood warblers which breed in our area, including the stunning Blackburnian Warbler – you won't want to miss it! Carpool from the parking area of the new Cashiers Rec. Center at 7:30 sharp.

June 21st, Saturday: We will drive to the Jones Gap access to the Bartram Trail looking for breeding warblers and Tanagers in this high elevation location. Be prepared to do some hiking on the trail to find the birds. Brock Hutchins will lead this trip.

June 28th, Saturday: Romney will lead a trip along Rich Gap Road, an excellent spot for tanagers and warblers, such as Black-and-White, Black-throated Green, Worm-eating, and Hooded.

There will be Beginners' Walk on both July 5th and August 2nd. See the June newsletter and our web site for details.

Additionally, there will be a bird walk in conjunction with Mountain Wildlife Days on Friday, **July 18th,** with Romney Bathurst leading. Stay tuned for meeting place and time.

Walks for September will be announced in the June issue of this newsletter!