

CHICKS: It's All Gone to the Birds

Opening Reception 6 – 8 PM, March 31 at The Bascom

The Bascom is presenting a bird-themed exhibit in partnership with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society and the Highlands Biological Station. Audubon North Carolina is a sponsor of the exhibit.

Until June 17, the Bunzl Gallery at The Bascom will be filled with a plethora of art works that portray an avian theme. Despite the focus on a single theme, the exhibition offers rich variety. Artists pursue the topic through a range of approaches and media. This exhibition, devoted to our feathered friends, provides a broad look into the world of contemporary and traditional art, letting divergent approaches take wing. From the traditional to the way out and wacky, visitors will experience a flight of fancy. During the exhibit period, HPAS will provide docents, a program by Mark Hopey on June 1, and Saturday field trips each week departing from The Bascom. Audubon NC's Curtis Smalling will present a program and lead a field trip.

Among the activities planned are the following. As more details become available they will be posted at www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org and www.thebascom.org.

HPAS kickoff field trip, May 5, meet at 7:30 am; followed by a special gallery tour for our group at 11:00 am.

Special outing to Southern Highlands Reserve, Lake Toxaway, May 8. Meet at 7:30 am to carpool. Bring a drink and lunch. A second meeting place will be behind Wendy's at the community center in Cashiers.

Curtis Smalling, Audubon NC Important Birding Area Coordinator and Mountain Program Manager, HPAS field trip, meet at 7:30 am to carpool to Lonesome Valley, Saturday, May 12. Watch for the announcement of a Cashiers meeting place.

Program: Curtis Smalling, Audubon NC Important Birding Area Coordinator and Mountain Program Manager, "The Birds of the Highlands Plateau: Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place," Saturday, May 12, 4:00 pm

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust joint field trip with HPAS, May 19th, meet at 7:30 am

Field trip, Saturday, May 26, meet at 7:30 am. Destination to be announced.

Program: Mark E. Hopey, Southern Appalachian Raptor Research, "Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS): Connecting birds and their habitat with people." This is a local bird monitoring project involving citizen participation that examines relationships between reproductive success, adult survivorship and the value of early successional habitat to birds on a regional scale. Friday, June 1, refreshments at 7:00 pm, program at 7:30 pm

Field trip Saturday morning, June 2, meet at 7:30 am to carpool to the Banding Station at Tessentee Farms, Otto

Program: Lloyd Newberry, conservator, “The Early Birders - Antique Nature Prints and Decoys,” Saturday, June 9, 4:00 pm

Program: John Yow, author of *The Armchair Birder* and the just released *The Armchair Birder Goes Coastal*, Saturday, June 16, 4:00 pm

All of these events are held at The Bascom; field trips meet at The Bascom.