



The Mountain Warbler

Newsletter of The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society – August 2011

Cashiers - Franklin - Highlands - Scaly Mountain

www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org

The mission of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society is to provide opportunities to enjoy and learn about birds and other wildlife and to promote conservation and restoration of the habitats that support them.

Notes from the President

The National Audubon Society has new leadership and so does the North Carolina Audubon state chapter. Coincidentally, HPAS has recently undergone significant reorganization by adopting new bylaws and electing new officers this year. The over-riding motivation for the changes in the organizational structure of the HPAS board of directors and committees has been to make it possible for more individuals to participate in contributing to the successes of the organization. Each committee will be composed of an interested group of persons who participate in bringing new ideas to the committee and help to implement those ideas. And when committee chairpersons bring well vetted suggestions forward to the HPAS board of directors, it is anticipated that the already well thought-out committee recommendations will have a very good chance of gaining the approval of the board of directors with minimum further board involvement.

I often think of committee members as the ‘eyes and ears’ for their committee’s ongoing priorities, whether these be issues of local conservation importance, furthering environmental educational activities, communicating with the community, watching out for and organizing interesting new potential programs and outings, or helping facilitate the social events for the group. And by spreading the responsibility, hopefully the whole experience will be that much more rewarding for everyone.

So there has never been a better time to step forward and contact your friendly committee chairpersons or fellow HPAS member if you think you might be interested in contributing to your local Audubon Society chapter - see the listing of committees and contact persons on page 4 of this newsletter and on the HPAS website: <http://highlandsaudubonsociety.org/>! As you can see, one doesn’t necessarily need to be a ‘black belt birder’ to make significant contributions to many of the activities! Our core interests will continue to focus on studying and conserving birds and bird habitat, and I think we all hope to become better birders. We are, for example, looking forward to helping better understand our community’s natural resources by inventorying bird species on various tracts of land that have been set aside as environmental easements, in conjunction with the local land trusts. And along with Audubon NC, we are planning to participate in helping increase awareness for improving natural environments for birds, and other creatures, in our own back yards and properties. There is much we can and will do and we welcome you to join in!

Russ

Beaufort, SC Field Trip

Several of our members will be attending the Carolina Bird Club meeting in Beaufort, SC September 30 – October 1. You do not have to be a member to attend. It will be a fun two days of field trips led by excellent birders with interesting programs in the evening. And you don’t have to be an experienced birder to enjoy it! The leaders and everyone else are great and it is a wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge of birds and experience a quite different habitat than our beautiful mountains. For more information go to the CBC website <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/> If you have any questions, you can contact Brock Hutchins at 787-1387. We hope to see you there!

Changing Climate in an Economic Game of the Environment

7:30 p.m. Monday, August 8, Highlands Civic Center

Andy Wood from Audubon North Carolina will speak on the "Changing Climate in an Economic Game of the Environment." In recent years there has been discussion about how climate change will adversely affect our environment and what we need to do about it. Seemingly opposed to taking action to prevent climate change are some corporate, individual and political forces that are concerned about the economic consequences of trying to prevent climate change. Andy will try to help us understand the conflicting information from both sides that has caused confusion in the public's mind and inaction on climate legislation. His program is designed to help people think about economic and environmental stakes in play, and meaningful conservation actions required to keep us in the game.

Andy has been the education director for Audubon North Carolina for the past 13 years. He has a BS degree from Texas A&M University in Wildlife and Fishery Science.

Come early for refreshments and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

Sustainable Energy Solutions

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Thursday, August 4

Zahner Lecture Series, Highlands Biological Station

With the vast amount of information available on renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions, it can be overwhelming to figure out which options are actually feasible for your own space. This lecture will explore low and no-cost energy efficiency solutions as well as a wide range of residential renewable energy options, in order to help home and business owners mitigate their energy costs. Meet in front of The Nature Center to begin a tour of the Highlands Biological Station's green energy projects.

Jacob Sadler from the WNC Green Building Council will give the presentation, which is co-sponsored with the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance as part of their Sustainable Solutions Project (funded by the Highlands Community Foundation and Mountain Findings).

Birds of Western North Carolina

7:30 p.m. Monday, September 12, Highlands Civic Center

Our speaker for this program is Simon Thompson from Asheville, NC. Originally from Suffolk, England, Simon has lived in North Carolina for over 10 years and has also lived in Lebanon, Kenya, Yemen and Ghana, where his interest in birds and natural history began. As director and originator of Ventures Birding Tours - <http://www.birdventures.com/> - Simon has led many birding trips all over the world. But for our program he will concentrate on our birds of western NC and some of the places to see them. So mark September 12 on your calendar and come early for some refreshments. Simon will also lead us on a bird walk the following morning. See the field trip schedule for details.

Annual Picnic

Please join us on Sunday, August 14 at 5:00 p.m. for our chapter's Annual Picnic, which will be held at the Highlands Civic Center, south picnic shelter (below the swimming pool). For \$5.00 you will be provided with the main entree and drinks. Just bring a side dish to share. **To make reservations, phone or email (by August 10)** Michelle Styring at 743-9670 msty30005@aol.com or Mary Lou Waas at 743-3256 mlwaas@hotmail.com.

Help Wanted!

If you have experience with newsletters, HPAS can use your help!

Required Skills: computer knowledge, organization, punctuality, enthusiasm.

Additional Helpful Skills: experience with newsletter publishing software.

The Job: assemble information for "The Mountain Warbler" which is published bi-monthly; solicit information from Committee chairs, Board members and other members; be alert to information coming from other conservation organizations that would be of interest to our group. All you have to do is assemble the newsletter, email it to the assistant editor, and he will take care of getting it printed and in the mail.

Contact Edwin Poole or Avary Doubleday for more information.

Help Us Save a Little Money!

Many of you are receiving your newsletter via email and we appreciate this! It saves us money and also helps save a tree every now and then. If you would like to begin receiving your newsletter via email, contact Edwin Poole at kaywick@nctv.com

Add Highlands Audubon Website to Your Favorites

Have you looked at our excellent website recently? www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org It is the place to go to get the latest up-to-date information about what is going on with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. So check it out - frequently!!

2011 Calendar of Events

Programs

Programs are held at the Highlands Civic Center. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for conversation & refreshments, with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m.

August 8 – Changing Climate in an Economic Game of the Environment by Andy Wood, Educational Director for Audubon NC – See article on page 2

August 14 – Annual Picnic – **5:00 p.m.** - Highlands Civic Center, south picnic shelter - See article on page 2

September 12 – Birds of Western North Carolina by Simon Thompson of Ventures Birding Tours, Asheville, NC – See article on page 2

October – Doris Mager, The Eagle Lady, Sponsored by The Bird Barn of Highlands - Time and place to be announced later

Field Trips

Meet in the Parking Lot next to the Highlands Town Hall at **7:30 a.m.** (unless otherwise noted)

We will carpool to the various areas.

Beginners are always welcome on any of our field trips.

We will do our best to help you enjoy birding even more than you do now.

August 18 – **10:00 a.m.** - Bird walk with Curtis Smalling, Mountain Region Biologist for Audubon NC. **Meet at the Highlands Biological Station**

September 10 – **NEW DATE** – Highlands Biological Station and Sunset Rock for fall migrants

September 13 – Bird walk with Simon Thompson of Birding Ventures, Inc.

September 20 - Highlands School for Chimney Swift roosting spectacle

Meet at the Town Hall parking lot at 7:15 p.m.

September 22 - Blue Ridge Parkway for fall migrants (rain date on the 24th) **Meet at 7:00 a.m.**

Franklin Bird Club

Here are some more events that would be fun for us to participate in.

For further information you may contact Jean Hunnicutt at 524-5234.

August 8 - Franklin Bird Club meeting; 7:00 pm at the Macon County Public Library. Carolyn Krueger will give a program called “Hummingbirds / Butterflies: Comparison of Similarities and Differences.”

Walks on the Franklin Greenway – Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Check the blog: <http://franklinbcb.wordpress.com/recently-sighted-in-franklin/whats-new-with-the-franklin-birders/>

Treasure Highlands

Check out this website – www.treasurehighlands.org – It is about a new program to encourage learning and citizen involvement with our Highlands Plateau environment. This program is sponsored by Audubon NC and its partners, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands Nature Center, and your own Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Further details will be appearing in the local newspapers.

Highlands Plateau Audubon Society

Officers

President – Russ Regnery, 404-558-1085

Secretary - Cathi Mead, 787-1387

Vice-President – Avary Doubleday, 526-8414

Treasurer - Mike Kaiser, 526-5071

Directors

Communications - Avary Doubleday

Conservation - Russ Regnery

Education – Ann Campbell

Field Trips - Brock Hutchins

Finance - Mike Kaiser

Hospitality - Michelle Styring & Mary Lou Waas

Membership & Development - Pat Strickland

Nominating & Leadership Development - Open

Program – Don Shure

At Large – Romney Bathurst

George Kaye

Edwin Poole

Glenda Zahner

Black-throated Blue Warbler courtesy of Steven D'Amato



Highlands Plateau Audubon Society

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