Plans for the March meeting of the High Country Audubon Society have been made for Thursday, March 26 and include dinner plans followed by a lecture at Appalachian State University. Anyone interested is welcome to meet at Café Portofino in Boone at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. The evening’s activities will then move over to the Blue Ridge Ballroom at the Student Union on ASU’s campus.

MARCH MEETING-DINNER AND DARWIN

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jonathan Weiner will speak on his book The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time at 8:00 p.m. Weiner’s book profiled the research of Peter and Rosemary Grant as they carried out extensive studies of evolution on Darwin’s finches in the Galapagos Islands.

Weiner, now a science writing teacher at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, has also written His Brother’s Keeper and Time, Love, Memory: A Great Biologist and his Quest for the Origins of Behavior.

This lecture is part of ASU’s Darwin Bicentennial Celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth. During the 2008-09 academic year the school has been hosting a series of lectures and events focusing on Darwin’s ideas, their impacts on society, and his theory of evolution. All talks are free and open to the public.

Please make plans to join us March 26 for the dinner and lecture!

GET TO KNOW THE WILSON CREEK IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

An IBA, or Important Bird Area, is a site that provides essential habitat for one or more species of bird. Did you know one is located right in the High Country’s backyard? The Wilson Creek IBA covers the Wilson Creek drainage at lower elevations between HWY 181 and Edgemont Road. It was adopted in 2008 by the High Country Audubon Society. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. According to the National Audubon Society, a site must satisfy at least one of the following criteria to qualify as an IBA.

The site must support:

- Species of conservation concern (threatened and endangered species)

Continued on Page 2
Two field trips to the Wilson Creek IBA are planned Saturday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 25. During the visit the group will take a driving tour of the IBA via forest service roads in the Wilson Creek drainage. Stops will be made at some of the point count locations to do some bird watching, even though most of the summer migrants are still a month away from returning.

More information will come via e-mail the week of the trip. Those interested will carpool from Lowes Foods in Tynecastle to the IBA. A $5 donation is requested for field trip participation. Please consider coming out and experiencing the Wilson Creek IBA firsthand!

High Country Audubon Society Board

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jesse Pope</td>
<td>President, Field Trips &amp; Social Events Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita Clemmer</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Palmer</td>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
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<td>Bob Cherry</td>
<td>Conservation &amp; Education Chair</td>
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<td>Bettie Bond</td>
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An annual membership to the High Country Audubon Society is $10 per person and due June 1 of each year. Membership includes access to all meetings, the group’s listserv, and High Country Hoots, the HCAS e-newsletter. Mail check and information (name, address, telephone number, e-mail) to:

High Country Audubon Society
Attention: Janet Palmer
PO Box 3746
Boone, NC 28607

High Country Hoots is published six times a year by the High Country Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon. Local members receive the newsletter via electronic mail. It is also archived on http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highcountryaudubon.

April Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 21 - 6:30 p.m.
La Quinta Inn, Boone
The focus this month will be on the common butterflies and dragonflies that the group might encounter when out birding.
Bob Cherry will have a PowerPoint presentation and resources available to help novices.

Warblers on the Parkway Field Trip
Saturday, April 25 - All Day
The group will be birding from Moses Cone south along the Blue Ridge Parkway towards Grandfather Mountain. The search will be on for some of the early warblers that have made it back to the High Country in April! The various habitats create a wonderful diversity of birds that we hope to take a closer look at!

Is there a program topic you would like to hear about?
Let us know!

A Wilson Creek IBA field trip in 2008.
Photo by Jesse Pope