Is it possible that spring might actually have arrived in the High Country? For sure, this means that one of our favorite times for birding – spring migration – is upon us! HCAS has a lot of activities planned for this exciting time, so please take advantage and come bird with us! Check the calendar in this issue of Hoots for dates and times, and then keep checking the website calendar for updates and added activities. Of course, the listserv will no doubt also be active, as new migrants are discovered and posted. Your board is also working on a fabulous new interactive map for the website which will let us click on a birding area for directions and the best time to visit each site. This should help new residents and new birders, and even experienced birders, better understand where and when to find our birds.

As we’ve discussed in the previous Hoots issue, HCAS is involved in more than just birding activities. A major part of our mission is the protection and advancement of bird populations. To that end, we applied for and received a $1,000 Burke Grant from National Audubon Society (NAS) to establish a native garden at Hardin Park School which will be utilized as a focal point for a correlated educational curriculum. This grant is part of NAS’s Plants for Birds program. Eventually, we’re hoping to expand the program throughout our region. We’re excited that NC Representative Jonathan Jordan will be with us to help announce the project at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3rd at the school. I hope many of you can attend.

In addition, HCAS received an Audubon Collaborative Funding Grant to plant native plants at Green Valley Community Park near Todd. Plan to attend our Bird Walk, Pot Luck, & Annual Meeting July 17th at the park, and you’ll be able to see the new plantings!

We’re also working on several wetlands projects which, in the long term, should greatly enhance the habitat for waterfowl in the High Country. HCAS is partnering with Blue Ridge Conservancy to create access for birders to the Eller Wetlands in Foscoe, fondly known internally as Betsy’s Bog. Stay tuned, as we will probably have a couple of workdays to build the trail into the wetlands. We’re also working with Watauga County to shape the planned wetland restoration at Brookshire Park. This project could attract large numbers of migrating and wintering waterfowl to our area. It’s an exciting time!!!!

With all the projects in the queue, we’re hoping that many of you become more involved with our chapter. We have some great times, as you can tell by reading about some of our field trips in this issue, plus we’re poised to make some serious impact on bird populations. We hope you’ll take part! As a reminder, Bill Dunson is available to help you create a more bird-friendly yard, so please take advantage of his expertise.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming activities. Happy Birding!

President’s Message
By Debbie Shetterly

American Bluebird Photo: Judi Sawyer
Prairie Warbler Photo: Bill Dunson
Come Bird @ My HotSpot

After the March bird walk in Wilkes County (elevation ~ 1100 feet) and the April bird walks at Powder Horn Mountain (elevation ~ 2000 feet), we’ll move higher to Ashe County and Todd at about 3000 feet. Then we’ll climb a little higher for a new destination near Roan Mountain (elevation ~ 3200-4000 feet). These are great birding spots, so come join us!

**Tues. May 8 (rain date Thurs. May 10)**
Sat. May 12
8:00 a.m. -11 a.m. both days
Martha Cutler & Doug Blackford (336-877-4031, cutford@skybest.com)
7932 3 Top Rd, Todd, NC 28684, USA (map)
Meet at the Cutler/Blackford house in Todd. We’ll walk around the property and perhaps go into Todd afterward to see what is along the river. Check the Yahoo group email for carpooling arrangements.

**Sat. May 26, 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
Judi Sawyer (423-481-1184, jsawyer105@gmail.com)
Hampton Creek Cove, Carter County, TN.
Judi will lead us around this Tennessee Natural Area near Roan Mountain, TN, where we hope to see Golden-winged Warblers among other species. Meet at Judi’s house, 197 Perkins Hollow Road, Roan Mountain, TN, at 7:30ish. She’ll have some fruit and snacks, but please bring your own coffee – Judi is an herbal tea-drinker, not coffee! We’ll try to leave at 7:45 and carpool from there to Hampton Creek Cove (about 10 minutes away). We’ll bird until 11 or 12. Plan on a decent hike, but the birding will keep us from moving fast. Read more information on their website Hampton Creek Cove. Check the Yahoo group email for carpooling arrangements to Judi’s house.

How many birds can be seen in one day all across the globe? You can help answer that question by submitting to eBird the birds you see on May 5, the 2018 Global Big Day. For more information: visit Global Big Day.
to plant shrubs, trees, and three wildflower-grass/pollination meadows. They also restored a wet meadow by diverting a channelized stream and built eight small ponds of different types, some with and others without fish.

The greatest threat to many of their plants was herbivory and horning by deer which was countered by use of 4-5-foot-tall cages and hunting. They maintained some forest gaps created by logging and found these definitely attracted certain birds such as chats and Kentucky warblers. They also conducted surveys of birds and insects and discovered a migratory pathway for nighthawks over the farm.

After selling their Galax farm, Bill and Margaret recently purchased a house and two acres just east of Boone where they will spend six months during the summer. In the winter they live in Englewood, FL, where they have a wildlife-friendly yard with about 160 species of plants selected to benefit birds and butterflies. Bill leads nature walks and presents programs on various ecological topics. He will lead his first Birds, Bugs & Blooms walk at the Boone Greenway on May 19 from 9–11 a.m. He also writes a nature blog Nature Notes by Bill Dunson, illustrated with his own photos.

Whooping Cranes and Hurricanes:
A Photo Tour of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Post Hurricane Harvey

Tuesday, June 19

Expect a visual treat when HCAS member Judi Sawyer presents the program at the June HCAS meeting. Judi will show photos of the Whooping Cranes that winter each year on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and many other bird species which are seen there. She will also talk a little bit about the effect that the hurricane had on the Whooping Cranes and other wildlife as well as the status of the endangered cranes.

Judi moved to this area from Austin, TX, two years ago and lives in Roan Mountain, TN. She is an avid photographer and is passionate about the natural world. She has been birding since 2014. Since moving here, she found her dream job working for Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation and is grateful to be a part of the mission of Grandfather Mountain.
For the seventh year, HCAS is offering a grant opportunity to support bird research in the High Country of North Carolina. The Sue Wells Research Grant awards up to $500 to a high school or college student to support research or field work in ornithology or in an area of study that will directly benefit birds or bird habitat in this area of North Carolina.

The Sue Wells Research Grant was created in 2012 to support local students involved in bird research in the High Country. Typically the recipient has used the funds to buy gasoline for all the traveling they have to do as they visit their research sites, but some have also bought special equipment or used the funds to pay for testing of samples. See the story on page by the 2017 grant recipient, Tyler Pyle.

The late Sue Wells was a driving force in the creation of HCAS and served on the Board of Directors until 2010. Sue was also instrumental in creating the National Bird-Feeding Society and led the movement to help make backyard bird feeding the successful hobby it is today.

If you know of anyone interested in applying for the grant, please refer them to www.HighCountryAudubon.org under the Grants and Scholarship tab where they can find more information and the application.
Tyler Pyle is a first-year graduate student working under Dr. Lynn Siefferman of App State and was awarded the 2017 Sue Wells Grant for his research with Eastern Bluebirds. Tyler graduated from App State in the spring of 2016 with a degree in Ecology/Evolutionary/Environmental Biology, but his research started long before. Here’s his story.

As an 18-year-old, I had the opportunity to study the effects of habitat fragmentation on the conservation of Howler Monkeys, White-face Capuchin Monkeys and Right-handed Spider Monkeys in the jungles of Costa Rica. Following my return, I spent the next two years working with Dr. Siefferman on the influence of pair personality in provisioning coordination and reproductive success in Tree Swallows for my honors thesis. Post-graduation, I traveled to Southeast Asia to conduct biodiversity studies in Vietnam’s national parks, and within 24 hours of my return to the U.S., I moved to South Dakota to conduct research on the effect of the Black Plague on the conservation of Black-footed Ferrets, Black-tailed Prairie Dogs, and other small mammals.

Through all these amazing experiences, I found that studying birds and diseases was my true research passion; hence, I began graduate school under the mentorship of Dr. Siefferman. I cannot describe how lucky I am to be able to work with Dr. Siefferman once again, because without her mentorship I would not be the scientist I am today. My current project is determining how personality in birds and breeding density influence disease prevalence. I am studying the pathogen Mycoplasma gallisepticum in the Eastern Bluebird populations of the High Country. Mycoplasma gallisepticum is a pathogen that does a lot of damage each year to the poultry industry by spreading and infecting chickens with a chronic respiratory disease.

I am in the midst of finalizing my results, and I am excited to share them at the HCAS meeting on October 16th. For this upcoming breeding season, I will be collecting data again at our field sites to back up my findings as well as incorporating additional methods that will help further the understanding of the dynamics of bird personality, breeding density and disease. Ultimately, I hope to provide insight on how to prevent and control emergent avian diseases. Hence, don’t be surprised this summer when you see someone running in Valle Crucis Park, checking all the nest boxes, with birds in their hands. Feel free to ask myself or anyone on the field crew any questions as well, but I respectfully ask that you make sure it is not in the midst of an ongoing experimental trial.

After I earn a master’s degree, I hope to continue my education and earn a Ph.D. in my field of expertise, eventually becoming a professor. I hope to one day have my own lab with graduate students, thus shaping the next generation of scientists. In my free time, I ski as much as I can during the winter months, but once the weather warms up (and I’m not in the field or lab), I enjoy various outdoors activities including, backpacking, fly fishing, and birding of course. I have been birding for about two years now and am trying to learn as much as I can. I definitely struggle with identifying warbler and flycatcher species, but I’m very enthusiastic about learning from the more experienced birders in the community. I will definitely join in on the bird walks in Valle Crucis Park as well as other birding get-togethers this summer whenever I have free time.
On February 19, a Good Samaritan in Raleigh found an adult Northern Flicker on the ground at Wilkerson Nature Preserve in Raleigh. She took the injured woodpecker to a local emergency veterinary clinic; the emergency clinic in turn transferred the patient to Ann Rogers, a rehabilitator with Wildlife Welfare in Durham. Rogers, also a member of the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC), admitted the injured bird, placed a wing wrap, and provided temporary housing.

By February 24, the injured woodpecker was on her way to Banner Elk for treatment at the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (MWRC). Suspecting a fracture of the coracoid, a stout bone that braces the shoulder during flight, staff administered pain medications and housed the bird in a small dog crate. Coracoid fractures, although they can be repaired surgically, will often heal well by limiting the bird’s activity and offering increasingly larger spaces for flapping (and eventually flight) as the fracture heals. Dr. Amber McNamara (also a WRNC board member) removed the Flicker’s wrap on February 28 and performed physical therapy on the left wing. She felt comfortable to leave the wrap off at this time, allowing the woodpecker more freedom to stretch and exercise the wing on her own, but not yet enough room to fly.

On March 20, just 4 weeks after the initial trauma, the Flicker was ready to move to a small (8-feet by 8-feet) outdoor flight enclosure. Here, she could hear other birds, acclimate to the still chilly temperatures, and start to rebuild her stamina. Two weeks later, she was moved to a 20-foot by 8-foot space; flight was undulating and strong, and staff could tell that with spring fast approaching, she was starting to get antsy.

Unfortunately, winter wasn’t finished and snow delayed the Northern Flicker’s release until early April. On April 6, MWRC director and former WRNC Board president Nina Fischesser released the Flicker in a beautiful habitat just off the mountain. Per the director regarding the release, “She flew like a champ!”
This January, ten of us joined former High Country resident Al Hooks for a long weekend of birding on the NC coast. Friday at dusk we met on Milltail Road in the Alligator National Wildlife Refuge to watch as Short-eared Owls took over from (and occasionally scuffled with) Northern Harriers hunting low over the fields.

The following morning we started out with a visit to the Bodie Island Lighthouse and Pond where we got good close looks at a very cooperative King Rail and counted 7 species of ducks. (We'll be happy to share our trip lists with anyone who is interested.) We followed this up with stops at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center – a nesting Great Horned Owl – and the Bonner Bridge (South Rock Jetty) – a Purple Sandpiper.

Pea Island NWR North Pond was our final stop for the morning. We were lucky enough to locate a female Common Goldeneye amidst the hundreds of waterfowl on the pond.

Lunch at Jennette's Pier was followed by birding off the pier. Of course, many of the birds were not as close as we would have liked. We were hoping for a Murre but no such luck.

Bodie Island - Coquina Beach. On our way back to Boone Monday morning, four of us stopped at the Observation Tower area of the Pocosin Lakes NWR – Pungo Lake Unit. The stop We did see a couple of Razorbills, which was a life bird for at least a few of us. We finished the day with a stop at the Roanoke Island Marsh Game Land.

Sunday we returned to the Alligator River NWR and spent over 5 hours driving through the reserve where we added a Northern Bobwhite to our trip list. After lunch we birded was well worth it for the incredible spectacle of thousands of Snow Geese taking off and circling around before dispersing to feed for the day.

Al was a great host, finding a place for most of us to stay and planning our birding locations. The weather was reasonably good and the trip was a definite success. We hope to return next winter.

Kudos Corner

Welcome to new HCAS member, Charlie Sykes, Boone, NC.

Thank you to the following who have supported HCAS with donations:

Jim Haselton
Debbie & Jimmy Shetterly

We appreciate the continuing support this year of HCAS sponsor Daniel Boone Native Gardens

Special thanks for the following grants to HCAS which support our Plants for Birds initiative:

National Audubon Burke Grant
NC Native Plant Society B. W. Wells Grant
Audubon Collaborative Grant
I lived in the “high desert” of eastern Oregon, a sometimes austere and grand landscape full of sweeping vistas and harsh weather between 2006 and 2009. My home was in a town at the edge of a great complex of freshwater marshes and alkaline lakes. Each spring around late March, vast flocks of Snow, Ross’s and Greater White-fronted Geese mixed with thousands of Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes at the edge of town. They crowded the fairgrounds and filled the hayfields and pastures that would become flooded by the Silvies River. It is quite a spectacle to behold, and I will always remember that time with great fondness and awe.

As much as I enjoyed this show, another avian family caught my attention and changed the way I watch birds. It started when I noticed the dramatic display and amazing sounds of male Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds on thousands of fence posts that lined roads along the flooded pastures. These guys really know how to entertain and persuade with their red epaulettes and bright yellow hoods! These displays encouraged me to pay attention to their less dramatically-colored relative, the Brewer’s Blackbird.

Brewer’s Blackbirds are almost the “background noise” of bird communities around Oregon. I had watched them scramble for picnic scraps that escape tourists along the rocky basalt coast. I observed them lurking among cars in Walmart parking lots, dodging pedestrians while chasing spilled popcorn pushed around by the wind. I saw them calmly graze among livestock and catch flies that hovered over manure piles. One day, while driving to the summit of Steens Mountain, I watched the same inconspicuous, mundane, pedestrian species foraging for prey near the top of this extremely wild and remote 9,000-foot massif.

This realization truly impressed me. Brewer’s Blackbirds don’t have any boldly contrasting colors, don’t have melodious or even interesting songs, and don’t have particularly interesting courtship displays. What they do have is tenacity… they can thrive in the harshest habitats from the coast to the high mountains; they can subsist on a huge variety of foods; and they can co-exist with people. They disappear in plain sight because they are everywhere.

So I began to pay extra attention to the many species of blackbirds. In North America, we refer to some of them as meadowlarks, grackles, cowbirds, bobolinks, and orioles, but they are all in the family Icteridae, and they all belong to the New World. North Carolina provides breeding habitat for just eight of the 97 species that mostly inhabit tropical and subtropical places. There, they go by such names as Cacique, Oropendula, Troupial, Baywing, and Marshbird. Beautiful names and beautiful sounds… they are a grand family, and deserve our appreciation and respect.

So I say, salute the Red-winged Blackbird when he shows off his beautiful epaulettes. Cock your ear to the Halloween-colored Baltimore Oriole. Bid safe travels to the Rusty Blackbird on its way to boreal forests. Give them respect and appreciate them as good neighbors. Celebrate the blackbird!
Recap: Carolina Bird Club, Wrightsville Beach, NC, January 26–28 2018
by HCAS Birding Scholarship Recipient, Nate Watkins

I was awarded the privilege of a scholarship that allowed me to visit Wrightsville Beach for a weekend with the Carolina Bird Club. I had an unbelievable weekend for so many different reasons. I was exposed to all types of birders and got to go out on field trips with fellow birders of various levels of experience. I only started birding about a year ago, and it has led me to some amazing and crazy places. When I started I never would have expected that I would’ve had an opportunity like this. It’s really something special to be surrounded by other people who have the same passion as you. As a young birder in college I have very few friends who enjoy birds on the same level I do, so it’s really refreshing to be with others. I feel like I had a big smile on my face the whole weekend.

I was able to explore Greenfield Lake, Wrightsville Beach, and Oak Island/Fort Carswell. All of them were amazing sites for birds and in total I saw 26 life birds. That was much more than I anticipated to come home to the mountains with! My favorite of the whole weekend was the Loggerhead Shrike - this bird and I have a short history. It was one of three birds that I set as a goal for myself while I was in Texas for a week last summer. I got the other two, but the whole week as I was studying up and watching for this neat bird, it unfortunately was a dip*… that is, until I went to Fort Carswell.

We had been there for about an hour or so and were heading back to move to another location. Jon, our field trip leader, had mentioned the possibility that one might be there, so we kept reminding ourselves “check every Mockingbird”. Even with that in mind, I never would have expected I’d see one just across the way. I heard someone shout “Shrike” and I quickly jogged over to the open area where, not one but two, Loggerheaded Shrikes were in different trees in the grassy common area of some houses. It was an exciting time for all of us on the trip and was a life bird for many of us. I even managed to get a photo through the spotting scope. I thought I was going to have to revisit Texas to see this bird, but thanks to the High Country Audubon Society I was able to get him in the state I call home!

* dip - 1) n. An attempt to see a reported (often rare) bird and fail to see it. 2) n. The actual bird that one has missed. http://earthdesign.ca/dict.html. For more birding “slang”, check out the Audubon Dictionary for Birders. http://www.audubon.org/news/the-audubon-dictionary-birders
One of the trips I signed up for, the Holly Shelter Gameland trip, was an all-day excursion to an area frequented by Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWO). I had never seen one before and was quite anxious to see one. But, first…it was about 33 degrees outside, and we arrived there about 7:30 -so the sun wasn’t very high in the sky, or providing much warmth. So, of course, the birds decided to sleep in, despite our presence. While we were waiting for an appearance, we examined the habitat. They prefer old-growth pines. In this case, we had long-leaf pines, which are a species that requires fire to further the habitat. There was plenty of burn evidence around - some had green buds at the top and would continue growing. Others had too much fire, and were totally blackened. There were also some young long-leaf pines.

The RCWOs use the pines to keep out predators. They drill many holes up and down the nesting tree to allow sap to flow down the tree. The very sticky sap gums up the works, sticking the scales of snakes together so they can’t move and making it very uncomfortable for other climbing predators. So the sap provides natural protection for the RCWOs. However, the Eastern Bluebirds also value those nice nest cavities that the RCWOs make in the trees. They compete for them and are not adverse to killing baby RCWOs or messing with their eggs.

The RCWOs need trees with heartwood rot, so that they can more easily drill out a cavity. There have been studies to determine whether the RCWOs bring the fungi to the trees to start the rot or whether they harbor all the fungi because of their proximity to the trees with fungi, but our biologist guide had not seen any convincing results yet.

Around 9 a.m. or so, we started hearing the RCWOs, and shortly after that, found two together. They were happy to let us take photographs, and then they moved on. They generally nest in colonies and, perhaps, travel together.

Also on this trip, we ran into many carnivorous plants: pitcher plant, Venus flytraps, and some butterworts. As soon as we started seeing some, we kept seeing more. Once one knew what to look for and were in the right habitat, they just popped out all over. It was winter, though, so they probably would look much more exciting in their spring plumage.
Several bird species look so similar to us that we often identify them on our eBird list as part of a group rather than as an individual species. The *Empidonax flycatchers* and *Lesser/Greater Scaup* fall into this group with identification sometimes made just to the genus level. For birders, figuring out the difference is part of the fun of birding. For the birds, it can be a matter of survival.

Many birders have a hard time telling a *Black-capped Chickadee* from a *Carolina Chickadee* without having a range map or a checklist from the area in front of them. The differences between the birds’ bibs, greater coverts, and outer tail feathers are often so subtle that a confident identification is difficult, and sometimes impossible.

The areas where the two species both exist, the hybrid zone, generally runs from New Jersey to northern New Mexico, with Black-capped Chickadees to the north and Carolina Chickadees to the south. But the hybrid zone also has an altitudinal line in the Central and Southern Appalachians with Black-capped Chickadees at the higher elevations above roughly 4,500’ to 5,000’. It’s in this zone where the two species might mate and produce offspring with genes from the two different species.

Sometimes hybridization, which occurs in about 10 percent of animals, produces an offspring that is better able to adapt to conditions than either of its parents could do. The result can be a brand new species that continues into the future. But more often hybridization creates offspring that are weaker than the parents and are less able to survive or produce young of their own. In these cases, mating with members of your own species has long-term survival and reproductive benefits.

Pd.D. candidate Michael McQuillan of Lehigh University’s Biological Sciences Department conducted a memorization experiment for the hybrid offspring of Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees. The experiment looked at how well chickadees remembered where seeds were hidden, using hybrid birds as well as purebred birds of the two original species. This is a trait that wild birds need to have so they can hide seeds during the summer when food is abundant and then find the food again during the winter when food is scarce.

McQuillan hid a seed in one hole in a board with 60 holes drilled into it. Each hole was covered with a cotton ball so the seeds were not visible and each bird was allowed to pull out the cotton balls to find the hidden seed. The next day the experiment was repeated with a new seed put back into the same hole.

At the end of the nine days, McQuillan found that the purebred birds were able to improve the speed at which they found the hidden seeds. The hybrids, however, learned much more slowly and never got much faster than the average random speed. In the wild, this could mean trouble for the bird’s survival or reproductive health if they are unable to find enough seeds to get them through the winter.

After releasing the birds back to their capture sites, McQuillan continued to follow the birds. He noted that the hybrid chickadees had a lower hatching success rate than purebred birds, but that’s another study and another story.
Update: Somewhere Warmer Than Boone
Article by Martha Cutler, photos by Richard Gray

The desire to bird somewhere warmer than Boone led us to head farther south than ever for the 2018 spring break birding trip. Some of you, especially those who were there (!), may remember how cold South Carolina was for our last spring break trip. Inspired by Debbie Segal’s September 2017 HCAS meeting presentation on the development of the Sweetwater Wetlands Park, we decided to head to Gainesville, Florida, to bird at Sweetwater.

Debbie and Jimmy Shetterly, Richard Gray, and Martha Cutler headed south, stopping the first night just past Savannah, Georgia, in order to spend the following morning at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge. We stopped at several spots in the refuge and were treated to large colonies of Wood Storks, and Great and Snowy Egrets.

In Gainesville we were hosted by Debbie Segal and her husband Bob Knight, both members of Sweetwater’s design team. Debbie spent the better part of two days taking us around Sweetwater as well as getting us access to the Lake City Treatment Wetland, a restricted area. We were joined at Sweetwater by HCAS members Cindy and Chuck Darling and Beverly Saltonstall, winter residents of Florida.

A highlight of our two visits to Sweetwater, and a life bird for several of us, was a Snail Kite which we were able to observe as it ate a large Apple Snail. Additionally, we had good looks at a very cooperative American Bittern and several opportunities to make side-by-side comparisons of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. We saw numerous waterfowl and wading birds and will be happy to share our eBird lists with anyone who is interested. Follow link for Sweetwater for more Information. Those of us who went highly recommend a visit to this area. Perhaps we will even return next spring as we head again to somewhere warmer than Boone!

Birds, Bugs, & Blooms

Bill Dunson will offer his first Birds, Bugs, & Blooms interpretive nature walk at the Boone Greenway on May 19 from 9–11 a.m. Come learn about the birds along the Greenway and the ecological communities that support them. We will walk a leisurely two-mile loop on trails with some gentle inclines. Meet at the Clawson-Burnley Park parking area on Hunting Hills Lane at 9:00 a.m. In order for all to be able to experience nature at its best, we ask that people refrain from smoking or bringing their pets.

Boone Greenway Trail Map
Directions
High Country Audubon Society

PO Box 3746
Boone, NC 28607

E-mail: contactus@highcountryaudubon.org

www.HighCountryAudubon.org

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High Country Audubon Society Board of Directors

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Support Our Birds and High Country Audubon Society!

$10 / year / person

Please renew your support by July 31st of each year.

HCAS appreciates any additional contributions you make to support our local efforts related to protection of birds, their habitats, and our environment.

The High Country Audubon Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Donations to the High Country Audubon Society are tax-deductible as allowed by applicable law.

For sponsorship information, please email contactus@highcountryaudubon.org

Make your donation online at www.HighCountryAudubon.org

or

Mail your check, name, address, telephone number, and email address to:

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

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Donate with PayPal

You can now make donations to HCAS on our website, www.HighCountryAudubon.org, through PayPal.

You do not need a PayPal account to take advantage of this convenient way to donate.

You can donate using a credit card or using your PayPal account. Just go to the Join/Donate tab on the website, and you’ll see three “Donate” buttons: Annual HCAS Membership; Sue Wells Research Grant; and Other.

Choose a button and just follow instructions – it’s that easy!

Support Our Sponsors

Please support our sponsors and let them know of your support!! For example, if you have dinner at Vidalia’s, tell them you’re from HCAS and that you appreciate Vidalia’s sponsorship of HCAS!
### Calendar of Events May–July 2018

Please check HCAS Yahoo group email regularly for changes/additions to the calendar.

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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Jordan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>20 Tues.</strong> HCAS monthly meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come Bird @ Brookshire</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Express, Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip leader: Guy McGrane</td>
<td>Program: Whooping Cranes &amp; Hurricanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet at parking area near the picnic shelter</td>
<td>Presented by: Judi Sawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directions [HERE]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>8 Fri.</strong> Spring Bird Count, Grandfather Mountain For info &amp; to register, email <a href="mailto:amy@grandfather.com">amy@grandfather.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 Tues.</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 Wed.</strong> Come Bird @ Valle Crucis Park</td>
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<td><strong>12 Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 Sat.</strong> Come Bird @ Brookshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 Tues.</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 Tues.</strong> HCAS Bird Walk, Pot Luck, &amp; Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18 Fri.</strong></td>
<td><strong>19 Sat.</strong> Boone Greenway Nature Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19 Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>21 Sat.</strong> Birds, Bugs, &amp; Blooms</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>26 Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Global Big Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCAS Monthly Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Express, Boone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program: A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presented by: Bill Dunson, Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring Bird Count, Grandfather Mountain</strong> For info &amp; to register, email <a href="mailto:amy@grandfather.com">amy@grandfather.com</a></td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Boone Greenway Nature Walk</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trip leader: Bill Dunson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet at Clawson-Burnley Park parking area</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hardin Park School Workday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Come Bird @ My HotSpot</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton Creek Cove, Carter County TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trip leader: Judi Sawyer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Black necked stilt, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Female red-breasted Merganser, Snowy Egret, White Pelicans, white winged doves, yellow throated warbler  Bill Dunson

Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk  Grayson Patton ?
Grasshopper Sparrow

Bobolink
Through Our Lens

Green-winged Teal, Dowlan

MoDo, Song Sparrow, RBWP, Photo: Drew Sumrell

King rail, Wes

American Wigeon, Wes

Bittern, Wes McNair

RTLO Sheryl
Hooded Warbler Male, Dunson

Prothonotary Male, Dunson

Black—throated Blue Warbler Dunson

Prairie Warbler Dunson

Orchard Oriole on Silk cotton Dunson

Female Northern Pintail, McGrane
Eastern Blue Bird, Snow Goose, Canada Goose walking on water (actually landing).

Blue-winged Teal & Northern Shovler in flight, male & female Northern Shovlers. Monty

Adult Cooper’s Hawk, Photo Stever Dowlan

Anhinga chick, black crowned night heron, great white heron, cindi darling