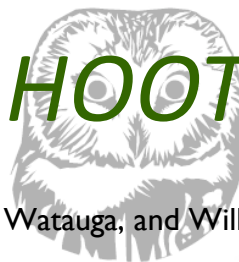


HIGH COUNTRY HOOTS



High Country Audubon Society - Serving Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties

May-June-July 2016

Volume 8 Issue 2

President's Message

By Bob Cherry

I had the pleasure recently to meet with our state Representative Jonathan Jordan to talk about birds in the High Country and other issues important to HCAS members.

The meeting was set up with help from Audubon North Carolina as part of its program to connect Audubon chapters with their elected officials. Curtis Smalling, ANC's Director of Land Bird Conservation and HCAS member, and I worked with ANC staff to prepare information about ANC and HCAS to provide to Rep. Jordan.

Curtis and I spent an hour with Representative Jordan discussing ANC and HCAS programs, explaining what we do for Audubon members (and his constituents) to get them outside enjoying our area's birds. We provided him with our newsletter and other printed materials describing our Sue Wells Research Scholarship, field trips and other programs. And we in turn learned of Rep. Jordan's appreciation of the natural world, especially for butterflies and other insect life.

I mention this meeting because I think it's important for HCAS members to remember that we don't watch and enjoy birds in a vacuum. What we do or don't do, and what Representative Jordan does or doesn't do, has an impact on our birds.

It's great that we have an active chapter that offers many field trips and other activities to get members out birding, but please remember that it's also important that we do what we can to protect bird habitat and the health of our birds. Working with our elected officials and making sure that they know what we do and what it's important for them to do is vital to our birds and something we all need to think about.

Thanks to Representative Jordan for taking time to meet with me and Curtis. And thanks to all the ANC and HCAS members who are letting our elected officials know how they can help the birds of the High Country.

Bob

Watching for Warblers!

By Martha Cutler

Now is the time to begin *Watching for Warblers* since warbler species are beginning to arrive in the area. You can download a checklist of species found in our 5-county area as well as a list of suggested places to look for specific species at the HCAS website, <http://www.HighCountryAudubon.org/>

If you will email me either at home or at contactus@highcountryaudubon.org with "Warbler Watch" in the subject line, I will post the sightings on the HCAS calendar. I will create a fictitious event called "Warbler Watch" for 3 p.m. to let people know what



#1 (Photo: Richard Gray)

warblers are around. There is a sample of this on the calendar already for 1/1/2016. In your emails please include species, location and date, plus (briefly) any other information of interest.

Name That Warbler!



#2 (Photo: Don Mullaney)

Since we are all "watching for warblers", we thought we'd provide a little quiz to sharpen warbler identification skills. You will find numbered photos of warblers throughout this issue. Try to identify them and then check page 10 to see if you're right. Then get outside and name that warbler!

Beyond Casual Birding: Jesse Pope & Mickey Shortt

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express, Boone

In late December of 2014, a challenge was struck between two High Country birders for the upcoming year. The challenge quickly turned into a mutual effort to see as many species as possible and reasonable in one year across North Carolina. They made several trips to the coast, chased rarities and kept in touch with one another to total 250 species in a year. Join Jesse Pope and Mickey Shortt for a photographic journey exploring what it's like to go beyond casual birding. You'll also learn who won this competition!

Stand Up That Mountain:

The Challenge Continues

Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express, Boone

Photo: Elizabeth Kiser



Jay Leutze, who will be presenting the program at the June HCAS meeting, is a long-time trustee for Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, author of the book *Stand Up That Mountain*, and a national spokesman for the Land and Water Fund Coalition. He has testified before Congress on the need for increased federal investment in public land and lectures around the country on conservation policy and the challenges facing wildlife in a rapidly developing world.

Jay was an outdoorsman and writer living a simple life in the mountains of Avery County. His life changed dramatically when he joined with his mountain neighbors to fight a legal battle to save their beautiful surroundings (and the view from the nearby Appalachian Trail) from the plans of a mining company for an open-pit gravel mine. *Stand Up That Mountain* tells that story, but similar challenges to conservation continue, and on June 21 we'll learn more about the legal battle in Avery County and the future of conservation in the High Country.

Come Bird @ My HotSpot

Martha Cutler & Doug Blackford, Todd, NC

We birded in Wilkes County at 1100 feet, then at Powder Horn Mountain at 2000 feet, and now we'll head to Todd to bird at 3000 feet.

You have two opportunities to join us at our house in Todd this May: **Tuesday, May 10** (rain date Thursday, May 12) and, for folks who can't get away during the week, **Saturday, May 14**. If the weather seems less than ideal, be sure to give us a call at 336-877-4031 since conditions can vary from one side of the hill to the other.

As in the past, we will start by birding from the deck at **8:00 a.m.** with Stick Boy goodies and coffee, then walk up the back yard and down the driveway. If there is

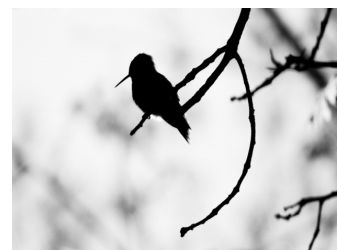


time and interest afterward, we can go along the river in Todd and look for Acadian Flycatchers and Northern Parulas on our way to Curtis Smalling's property on Meat Camp Creek. Keep an eye on the Yahoo group email and the HCAS calendar for updates on details and directions.

The Come Bird @ My HotSpot at Powder Horn Mountain provided beautiful weather, beautiful birds, beautiful butterflies and beautiful flowers. A total of 31 birders enjoyed the two bird walks! Photos: Monty Combs.



Fringed polygala identified by Mark Rose



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Scarlet Tanager

Barred Owl Goes to College – Literally

by Dr. Amber McNamara, Veterinarian,
May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Barred Owl #16-0036 in the MWRC's 60-foot outdoor flight enclosure.

Photo: Dr. Amber McNamara, DVM.

On the morning of February 25, May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Director Nina Fischesser received a cell phone call from a gentleman who had rescued an ailing owl three days earlier. Professor Fischesser, away from the clinic delivering a presentation, suggested the gentleman (with sick owl in tow) head to Banner Elk. Knowing that he would likely arrive when Dr. McNamara was teaching her Advanced Clinical Wildlife Rehabilitation class, she directed him to the Bowman Science building on Lees-McRae's main campus, where he found not only the veterinarian, but a classroom full of wildlife students.

Taking a brief break from teaching, Dr. McNamara and two wildlife students completed an initial evaluation. Hunkered down in the box was an adult Barred Owl. Having been offered hamburger for three days, the owl was emaciated, dehydrated, and extremely weak; fortunately, he did not have any wounds or fractures of wings or legs. Immediately after class, the students took the owl to the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to weigh him, administer subcutaneous fluids (under the skin), and set him up in a dark, quiet crate. He weighed only 560 grams, or just over 1 pound.

For the next week and a half, Barred Owl patient #2016-0036 was given supplemental fluids daily and was hand-fed carefully so as not to give him more than he could handle in his fragile state. On March 1, the owl ate on his own for the first time. A fecal examination revealed at least one reason why he was so thin: he had numerous intestinal parasites. Once successfully treated, he began to put on body weight steadily, climbing to over 700 grams.

When ready to leave the clinic's Intensive Care area, the Barred Owl moved into a cage in the Raptor room, where he would have more space and privacy. Also healing in the Raptor room was another Barred Owl (patient #2016-0033), who had been admitted to the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center just 3 days earlier than #0036. After flying into a car's roof rack, Barred Owl #0033 suffered a fractured beak and an injury to her right eye; the beak injury required a surgical fixation. On multiple occasions, these two owls could be heard talking to one another across the room during the evening hours.

On April 11, alert and active, Barred Owl #0036 was moved to an outdoor flight enclosure. His flight was quiet but cautious, consistent with not having flown for roughly 6 weeks. The clinical staff is confident that his flight will continue to improve in strength and speed with time and practice. He should be ready for a release evaluation within two weeks.

Barred Owl #0033 is also healing well. Her beak splint and hardware now removed, she is eating well on her own and tips the scales at nearly 800 grams. Her eye is healing nicely, and staff is hopeful that she will be ready to move outside soon, perhaps in time to join Barred Owl #0036. If only we knew what they were saying...



Barred Owl #16-0033 recovering from surgery with beak splint and hardware in place to repair the fractured beak. Photo: Brandi Clark, Lees-McRae student who assisted Dr. McNamara with the surgery.



#3 (Photo: Don Mullaney)

Counting Important Birds

by Bob Cherry

As we have done for the last eight years, birders from HCAS will be conducting bird counts in the Wilson Creek Important Bird Area (IBA) located on the south slope of Grandfather Mountain below the Blue Ridge Parkway. IBAs are areas that have been identified by the National Audubon Society as sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds. They must meet at least one of these criteria:

Species of conservation concern (threatened and endangered species),

Restricted-range species (species vulnerable because they are not widely distributed),

Species that are vulnerable because their population is concentrated in one general habitat type,

Species that are vulnerable because they occur at high densities due to their congregating behavior.

In 2007 HCAS adopted the Wilson Creek IBA and entered into an agreement with Audubon North Carolina to help with the site. Since then we have done point counts at about thirty locations during the spring, recording every bird seen or heard during the survey. These data are used to detect trends in bird abundance or community over the years and will help managers better care for these important areas.

Information about when and where the surveys take place will be posted on HCAS's Yahoo group email. Because this is a research project, the number of people that can come along is limited in order to reduce noise and distractions. If you'd like to join one of these surveys, look for the emails and contact the leader for more information.

Sue Wells Research Grant – 2016

By Bob Cherry

For the last four years, HCAS has presented cash awards to graduate students who have been doing research on our birds here in the High Country. We are pleased to announce that we will once again offer this opportunity in 2016.

The Sue Wells Research Grant will award 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. Only undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled in degree-seeking programs or high school students may apply. High school and undergraduate students who are graduating seniors must plan to complete their research prior to graduation.

The Sue Wells Research Grant was created in 2012 and is named for the late Sue Wells who was a driving force in the creation of High Country Audubon Society and served on the Board of Trustees 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.

More information about the grant and how to apply will be posted on the HCAS website soon. Applications are due by July 1, 2016, and the winner will be announced July 19 at the HCAS annual membership meeting.



#4 (Photo: Richard Gray)



#5 (Photo: Richard Gray)



6 (Photo: Doris Ratchford)

Science of Birds: A Bird's-eye View

by Bob Cherry

I'm sure you've all heard about birds with great eyesight. While humans are generally happy to have 20:20 vision, several birds do better than that. Eagles, the birds with the sharpest vision, have an estimated 20:5 vision. An equally important visual trait is the ability to see things rapidly. And here humans are again less capable than many birds.

A study done by researchers at Uppsala University, Stockholm University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences found that small songbirds are able to see more than twice as fast as humans. In fact they see faster than any other vertebrate.

The researchers set up a series of experiments to test the number of changes per second the bird was capable of perceiving. The birds were rewarded for recognizing a flashing light versus a steady light. In the experiments, the flashing light was set to flash faster and faster until the birds could not tell the difference between the steady light and the flashing light. This was the threshold rate used to determine how rapidly the birds could see.

For humans this rate is about 60 hertz (Hz). The fastest rate for vertebrates besides the small birds that were tested is approximately 95 Hz. For the three songbirds tested the rate averaged between 129 and 137 Hz, more than twice the speed of our eyes.

Why have these birds evolved to have such quick vision? The world in which they live is a dangerous place. Being able to see things quickly helps the birds survive, whether it's chasing fast-moving insects or fleeing a predator. Fast vision helps the birds track the insect's flight and makes it more likely the birds will catch their meal and seeing quickly allows them to see, and avoid, branches as they dart through vegetation flying for their lives.

So the next time you're out birding and it seems all of the birds see you before you see them, take a moment to appreciate their visual skills. While it might cause a frustrating day in the field for you, it allows the birds to survive for another day.



7 (Photo: Richard Gray)



#8 (Photo: Doris Ratchford)



9 (Photo: Richard Gray)

Birding Texas with the McNairs

by Sheryl McNair, photos: Wes McNair

My husband, Wes, and I registered for a March 2016 *Bird Watchers' Digest* Readers Rendezvous (RR) to Hidalgo County, in the southeastern corner of Texas. Never having birded in that area of the country before, we felt this RR would give us knowledgeable guides and a taste of several different places. We were NOT disappointed! We drove there, allowing ourselves time to bird along the way.

Our first day was spent in McAllen at the Quinta Mazatlan Wild Bird Center, with 55 of our closest friends! There, we could do 2 of 3 events--a bird tour, a garden tour, or the house/estate tour. We did the bird tour, and then elected to walk the grounds on our own. We saw new birds right off the bat--Common Pauraque, sitting on the ground sleeping. Plain Chachalacas, flying all over. Olive



Plain Chachalaca

Sparrow, hiding in the grass. Curve-billed and Long-billed Thrashers. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird buzzed us and disappeared. Green Jays, Lesser Goldfinches, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. The latter's song is very similar

to a Red-bellied, so they were easy to identify. When we went off on our own, I lucked into the sight of a Buff-bellied Hummingbird trying to pull a bug out of a spider's web, and then resting after the fruitless exertion. And, we got several more pictures of the Common Pauraque, without having to scramble through a crowd.



Family Portrait: Green Parakeets

telephone wires. We learned that they spend their day apart in family groupings then gather together at dusk to discuss the best feeding spots, and anything else of importance.

The next day was a blur--we went to several areas within Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park as well as Anzalduas Park and Santa Ana NWR. Almost the first sightings of the morning were Hooded and Altamira Orioles. Later, we had an Audubon's Oriole. The Plain Chachalacas were all over the feeders and throughout the grounds. About 20 Cave

Swallows decided to perch on overhead wires for us. We got views of the swallows with the sun behind them and views with the sun behind us - guess which were best??!

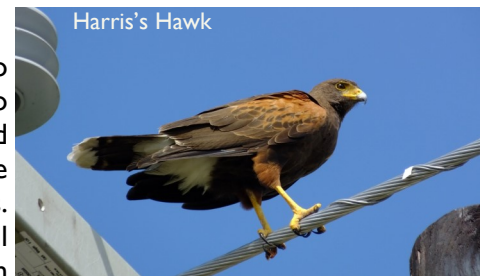
We were really surprised by a non-bird sighting - among these 55 birders in our group, we ran into 2 guys we'd met on our Carolina Bird Club trip to Ecuador in December. They just happened to be in Texas when we were! We had several raptor sightings--Gray Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and Zone-tailed Hawk (we were told to check the Turkey Vultures carefully, since one never knew when it might turn into a Zone-tailed Hawk).

At Anzalduas Park, we had lunch and also enjoyed views looking across the Rio Grande to Mexico. Along the river, the Green and Ringed Kingfishers hunted, and the Green posed for a photo. There were several warblers spotted in the trees, including Black-throated Grays. We also saw Black-crested Titmice--they look just like Tufted, but with a black tuft--so cute!

At Santa Ana NWR, Wes and I went separate ways (the group split up for manageability and different coverage). Of course, he saw the Northern Jacana and Fulvous Whistling Duck--and got a great view of some male Cinnamon Teal. I didn't see any birds that he didn't, but got a good look at a Least Grebe alongside a Pied-bill Grebe. The size difference wasn't apparent, but the bills were very different. And, I was eaten up by chiggers, although I didn't realize it until 4 days later!

The next morning, at Estero Llano Grande State Park, we saw most of the same waterfowl--including several Cinnamon Teal. Nice sightings but not at the same angle as Wes had the day before, which really showed off their coloring. This was another place where everyone went in different directions, and I was able to track down a Bewick's Wren by myself! I could hear them singing all over, and had just given up when one flew into a cactus nearby. I also had a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher zoom past. And 2 Black-chinned Hummingbirds posed for me, separately.

It was time to head back home, so we drove east and then started up the Gulf Coast of Texas. Having heard about all the great birds seen



Harris's Hawk

on the "pre-trip" to Laguna Atascosa NWR, that was our first stop. We missed the Aplomado Falcon but got good looks at White-tailed Kite, White-tailed and Harris' Hawks; found a Roadrunner sitting in a tree (!) and waited patiently, but productively, for a Crimson-collared Grosbeak. Oh, on the road

(continued on page 7)



Great Horned Owl

into the NWR, Wes wanted to drive on in--but I said "we're here, we need to stop and watch". That's how we saw the Roadrunner, and some of the raptors. Also, many, many Savannah Sparrows.

We had great weather for Captain Tommy's boat out of Fulton to view the eastern shore of Aransas NWR. During the 3-hour tour, we had views of 35 bird species, including close-ups of Whooping Cranes, Spoonbills, a Great Horned Owl, coyote, dolphins--but no Aplomado Falcon.

Finally, we stopped east of Houston at Anahuac NWR about 5 p.m. and enjoyed the spectacle of thousands of waterfowl on the marsh. We found at least 100 Fulvous Whistling Ducks, so I could finally add them

to MY list. Did I mention all the "Glossy" Ibises we saw in Texas? Except that they were really White-faced Ibises. I'm not sure if it's possible to tell the difference, except by location.

Another highlight of the trip--the Gulf Coast has excellent seafood! Irresistible! While I grew from all the great food, my bird list grew by 42 species. Can't beat that!



Whooping Crane



10 (Photo: Richard Gray)



#12 (Photo: Doris Ratchford)



#11 (Photo: Doris Ratchford)

Kudos Corner

We want to express our appreciation to Ralph Wells for his continuing generous support of the Sue Wells Research Grant which was established in memory of his wife. Also, thank you to Martha Cutler for her generous gift to HCAS and to Van and Margaret Joffrion for their donation to HCAS.

Please welcome our new members:

- Lynn Gregory, Associate Professor of Communication at Appalachian State University
- Alyson Browlett who has just moved to Banner Elk from Linden, VA, near the Shenandoah National Park's north entrance. She wrote, "I am excited to be a NC resident, as I've always felt at home here, from attending soccer camps at NC State through high school to my time spent at Davidson College."

Recap: Wings & Wine 2016

by Brenda Combs. Photos: Monty Combs



Monty and I led the group on our Wings and Wine tour and were joined by Janet Palmer, Betsy Murrelle, Van and Martha Joffrion, Martha Cutler, and Doug Blackburn. We chatted and watched for birds as we drove to Shiloh General Store, an Amish store in Hamp-tonville. Along the way we spotted Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, Eastern Bluebirds and American Crows. After wandering the aisles and ordering sandwiches, we continued to bird outside the store. There were lots of American Goldfinches, a few Carolina Wrens, European Starlings, Eastern Meadowlark, and other typical species around the store. We had a total of 16 species on this segment of the trip.

After loading up our goodies we took off for Laurel Gray Winery. The day was getting warmer as we progressed. We started off with a clear blue sky and started adding a few fluffy clouds at Laurel Gray. We found a total of 18 species at Laurel Gray, several of which we had already seen. We enjoyed a sample of their wines and then picnicked in the sun. The group then headed on to Dobbins Creek Winery which is located on a mountain close by. At Dobbins Creek we had views that included the Brushy Mountains, Pilot Mountain, Sauratown Mountain and the skyline of Winston-Salem. We tasted the wine and enjoyed the birds and views at Dobbins Creek. We are already planning the 2017 "Wings & Wine" trip.



Butterfly Highway

by Janet Paulette

A friend recently shared with me an article from Raleigh's April 26, 2016, *The News & Observer*. Although the monarch butterfly's plight has been brought to public attention, this article describes a unique conservation effort. Angel Hjarding is a doctoral student at UNC Charlotte where she is pursuing a doctoral degree in geography with a focus in geographic information science. Hjarding says "The Butterfly Highway started as part of my research at UNC Charlotte in biodiversity monitoring." For the Charlotte urban area, she wanted to map out the locations of land which would support butterflies and other pollinators. Then she wanted to fill in the gaps by getting individuals and groups to pledge to provide native plant green space where the butterflies could rest and refuel. There are already 250 sites registered in the project. According to Hjarding, "Our goal is to cover the state, from the far western corners of the mountains to the coast." This is all welcome news for birds, bees, and other wildlife! For more details on the project, see the article at [*Butterfly Highway takes off in North Carolina*](#).



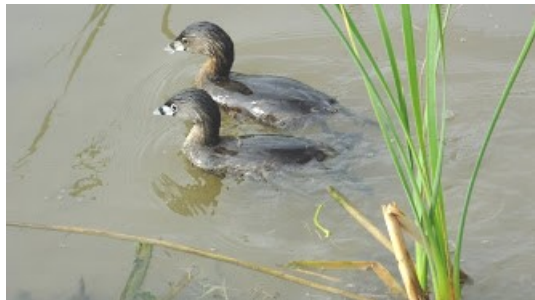
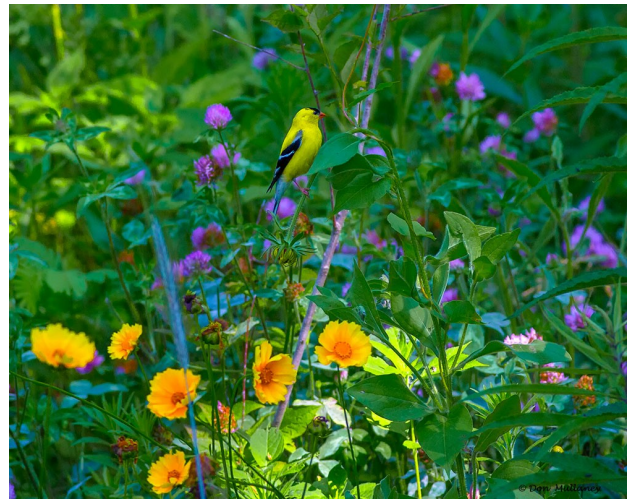
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly on a dogwood tree on the Powder Horn Mountain bird walk. Photo: Beverly Saltonstall

Through Our Lens



Doug Blackford hiked up Snake Mountain on March 28 and took this photo of these baby **Common Ravens** in their nest.

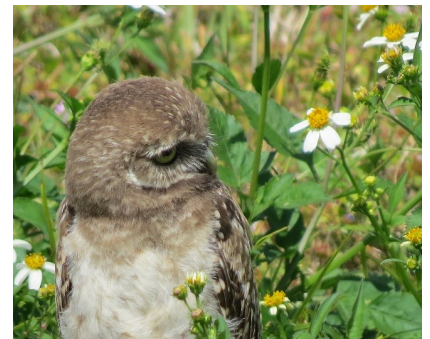
American Goldfinch and flowers. Photo: Don Mullaney



Pied-billed Grebes. Photo: Wes McNair



Red-winged Blackbird. Photo Monty Combs



Juvenile Burrowing Owl.
Photo: Beverly Saltonstall



Bonaparte's Gull, Bass Lake, March 15.
Appears to be the first reported in about 9 years for Watauga County.
Photo: Guy McGrane



Osprey building nest. Photo: Richard Gray



American Black Duck, Mulberry Fields, Wilkes County, March 4. Photo: Guy McGrane

Black Skimmer. Photo: Richard Gray



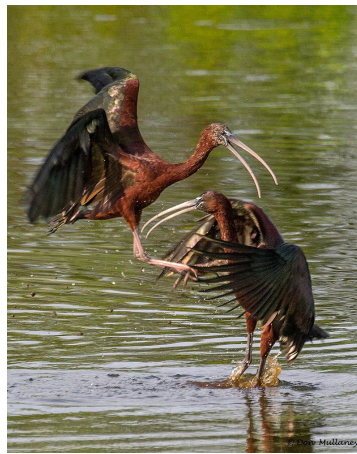
Eastern Phoebe



Monk Parakeet gathering nesting material.

Photos: Beverly Saltonstall

Roseate Spoonbill. Photo: Don Mullaney



Glossy Ibis. Photo: Don Mullaney

Warbler ID Quiz Answers

- #1 Yellow-throated Warbler
- #2 Black-and-white Warbler
- #3 Canada Warbler
- #4 Common Yellowthroat
- #5 Orange-crowned Warbler
- #6 Chestnut-sided Warbler
- #7 Nashville Warbler
- #8 Hooded Warbler
- #9 Tennessee Warbler
- #10 Prairie Warbler
- #11 Wilson's Warbler
- #12 Black-throated Blue Warbler

HCAS Helping VCCP

By Bob Cherry

Last fall HCAS received a Toyota Together Green grant to help us address climate change impacts on our birds in the High Country. We requested \$500 to assist Valle Crucis Community Park, one of our local birding hotspots, with planting native vegetation.

VCCP has been busy this year repairing stream banks, building a new Welcome and Environmental Education Center (EE) and lots of other work to improve the park. As a result there has been a loss of trees and shrubs, but this also presented an opportunity to add many new ones. HCAS has adopted the area behind the EE Center and will replant the site with native, bird-friendly vegetation.

Organized by Board member Richard Gray, a few HCAS volunteers joined others from throughout the community at the park's Spring Volunteer Work Day in April. HCAS volunteers planted shrubs and flowers that were purchased with some of the funds from the Together Green grant. Trees will be coming shortly to add to mix, and we will continue to add plants and help the park maintain this area.

The next time you're out for one of the Wednesday morning bird walks at VCCP, be sure to stop by and take a look at the new plantings. They might not look like much now, but as they grow we hope you and our birds will enjoy them for years to come.

HCAS has been also been helping rid VCCP of the invasive garlic mustard. On April 20, six birders, including four HCAS members and two who are interested in joining HCAS, stayed after Curtis Smalling's weekly bird walk to pull garlic mustard. Only six bags this year (so far) – not the 20+ bags when we first started doing this. Our actions do make a difference!



Alyson Browett, Richard Gray, Chris Souhrada. Photo: Bob Cherry





High Country Audubon Society

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High Country Hoots is published four times a year by the High Country Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Group email members receive the newsletter via electronic mail. There is also access to the newsletter on our website, and it is archived at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highcountryaudubon>

Visit our website at www.HighCountryAudubon.org
to join our group email.

A \$5 donation is suggested for
field trip participation.

All events and meeting times are subject to change.

For updated information please visit

www.HighCountryAudubon.org.

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\$10 / year / person

Field trips: \$5 suggested donation for each field trip you attend

OR

\$25 / year / person

(includes donations for all field trips you attend)

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.

For sponsorship information, please email

contactus@highcountryaudubon.org.

Make your donation online at www.HighCountryAudubon.org

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

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Boone, NC 28607

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

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 four "Donate" buttons: Annual HCAS Membership; Annual HCAS Membership & Field Trips; Sue Wells Research Grant; and Other.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May-June-July 2016

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

May			June		
1 Sun.	Golden-Winged Warbler Field Day Shady Grove Gardens 2278 Peak Rd., Creston, NC 28615	- 6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Weekly Wed.	Valle Crucis Community Park Bird Walk Leader: Curtis Smalling Watauga Birding Hotline 828-265-0198	8:30 a.m.– 11 a.m.
7 Sat.	Brookshire Park Nature Walk Trip leader: Guy McGrane Meet at parking area near the picnic shelter	8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.	4 Sat.	Brookshire Park Nature Walk Trip leader: Guy McGrane Meet at parking area near the picnic shelter	8:00 a.m.– 10 a.m.
Weekly Wed.	Valle Crucis Community Park Bird Walk Leader: Curtis Smalling Watauga Birding Hotline 828-265-0198	8:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.	TBA	Point counts Wilson Creek IBA Check Yahoo group email for details	
10 Tues.	Come Bird @ My HotSpot Todd, NC Trip leaders: Martha Cutler & Doug Blackford Rain date: Thursday, May 12	8:00 a.m.	21 Tues.	HCAS monthly meeting Holiday Inn Express, Boone Program: <i>Stand Up That Mountain: The Challenge Continues</i> Presented by: Jay Leutze	6:30 p.m.
13-15 Fri.-Sun	Audubon North Carolina 2016 Annual Meeting, Winston-Salem, NC http://nc.audubon.org/landing/about-us/landing/annual-meeting-2016				
13 Fri.	Spring Bird Count, Grandfather Mountain Contact: Jesse Pope naturalist@grandfather.com	All day			
14 Sat.	Come Bird @ My HotSpot Todd, NC Trip leaders: Martha Cutler & Doug Blackford	8:00 a.m.			
17 Tues.	HCAS monthly meeting Holiday Inn Express, Boone Program: <i>Beyond Casual Birding</i> Presented by: Jesse Pope & Mickey Shortt	6:30 p.m.			
			July		
			2 Sat.	Brookshire Park Nature Walk Trip leader: Guy McGrane Meet at parking area near the picnic shelter	8 a.m.– 10 a.m.
			Weekly Wed.	Valle Crucis Community Park Bird Walk Leader: Curtis Smalling Watauga Birding Hotline 828-265-0198	8:30 a.m.– 11 a.m.
			19 Tues.	HCAS Annual Membership Meeting Details TBA	TBA