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Birds & Butterflies

NEWSLETTER

2008-3

It has been an exciting spring watching migrating birds in our backyard. We have seen some birds for the first time and welcomed many that have stopped in our yard in previous years.

Many of the warblers were attracted to our water sources, since they are primarily insect eaters and don't use seed feeders. Some of the birds we saw this spring included Great-crested Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Wood

Thrush, Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of Birds & Butterflies Newsletter and have a very nice summer.

If you do not want to receive the newsletter please let us know by email at birdsbutterflies@geopolus.com.
If you know anyone else who would like to receive the newsletter please give us their email address.

WATER ATTRACTS WILD BIRDS

Having a source of water in a backyard is sure to attract a larger variety of wild birds than if it is not present. Many species of birds, like warblers, are primarily insect eaters so are not attracted to seed feeders. However, all birds need water for bathing and drinking and a water source in your yard will attract them. Water is important to birds 12 months of the year and not just during the warmer months.



A water source can be as simple as a trash can lid turned upside down or a commercially made bird bath. The water depth should be no more than 2 inches. If your water source is deeper than 2 inches placing some rocks or small pebbles in the birdbath will enhance the use by birds by giving them a more shallow place to enter the water.

Birds are attracted to running water. We have two water features with running water in our yard and the birds love them. You can also add a dripper to your birdbath to provide water movement and keep your birdbath full, even when on vacation. Water wigglers also provide water movement to attract birds. If you want more information on drippers or water wigglers stop by Birds & Butterflies.

Water sources should be placed within six to ten feet of some shrubs or small trees. This provides easier access



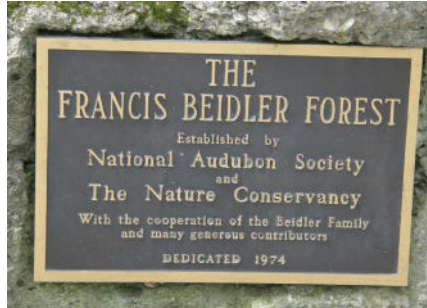
and escape for birds than a water source that is in a large open area. If you don't have a water source in your yard now consider adding one and we are sure you will see more and different birds.



PLACES TO VISIT - BEIDLER FOREST

The **Audubon Center at Beidler Forest** is located in the Four Holes Swamp, about a two hour drive from Aiken. The Audubon Society has protected more than 15,000 acres in the Four Holes Swamp area including 1,800 acres of old-growth cypress-tupelo swamp forest. It is the largest remaining forest of its kind in the world.

The **Beidler Forest** has a 1.75 mile boardwalk that takes you into the swamp past 1,000 year old cypress trees. It is a great area for bird watching, photography and just contemplating God's miraculous creation.

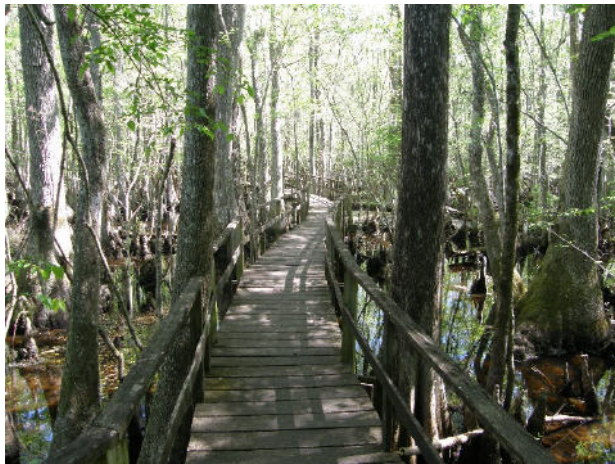
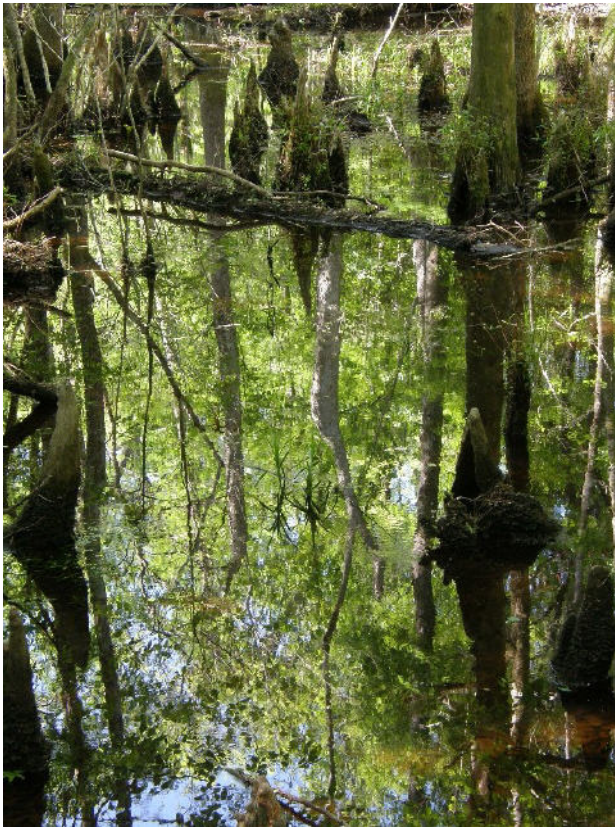


Dori and I visited the **Beidler Forest** in early May and there was an abundance of migrating warbler, tanagers and other birds. It is one of the better places in our area to view the stunning prothonotary warbler.



The **Beidler Forest** is open Thursday thru Sunday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. Admission is \$7.00 per adult.

The boardwalk is wheelchair accessible and there are picnic areas available at the Visitors Center. No pets are allowed on the boardwalk but kennels are available at the Visitors Center. Canoe trips are also available.



You can reach the **Beidler Forest** at 843-462-2150 or www.beidlerforest.com. We also have brochures available at **Birds & Butterflies**. We would highly recommend a visit to the **Audubon Center at Beidler Forest**.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD

This is the time of year when birds are nesting and baby birds are leaving the nest. If you find a baby bird or what you think is an injured bird here are some of the things you do and don't want to do.



- If a baby bird is well-feathered and hopping around on the ground – LEAVE IT ALONE. The parents are around and will feed the baby. If there are cats around you can place the bird on a small tree branch and if it is your cat keep it inside. It will take a couple of days for the baby bird to fly well.

- If a baby bird is not well feathered and is not injured place it back in the nest if you can find it and reach the nest. If not place it in a substitute nest made from a small basket lined with grass or pine straw. Hang it from a tree or place it in a shrub. Watch to see if a parent bird comes to feed the baby. It does not matter if you touch the baby bird. Birds do not have a good sense of smell so they will not be alarmed by your smell. **Do Not** give a baby bird water or food.

- If a baby bird is injured, bleeding or feels extremely cold to your touch, place it in a small box lined with tissue and place it on a heating pad set on low. Call a rehabilitator immediately. Do not keep the birds for a day or two to see if it will be okay. **Do Not** give a baby or injured bird water or food.

Raising young birds requires experience and the proper care. In addition it is illegal to keep a wild bird in your possession without a permit. Contact one of the following if you find a baby or injured bird and they will advise you what to do. Do not wait, make a call as soon as possible.

Marilyn Schroeder – 803-648-3351
Lavona Mason – 803-295-5243
Carolina Wildlife Care – 803-772-3994

BINOCULARS

Many people are confused by the numbers and nomenclature surrounding binoculars. We hope the following brief description will be helpful. Much of the information has been taken from a brochure produced by Vortex Optics entitled "All About Optics." Copies of the brochure are available at Birds & Butterflies.

EXAMPLE – 8 X 42 Binoculars

What does the 8 mean? The number 8 or 8X refers to the magnification that the binoculars provide or how many times larger an object will appear. If you are looking at a bird with 8X binoculars the bird will appear 8 times larger with the binoculars than looking at it with you naked eye.

What does the 42 mean? The 42 refers to the diameter of the objective lens (the lens farthest from your eye) in millimeters. The size of the lens (42 millimeters in our example) determines how much light the binoculars can receive and how bright and clear the image can be (the bird). A binocular with 42 millimeter lens will be brighter and clearer than one with 25 millimeter lens. The larger the diameter of the lens the larger and heavier the binocular will be. If you are using your binoculars in early morning or late evening (low light conditions) larger diameter lens will give you a brighter and clearer picture.

What is Field of View? The field of view is the widest dimension from left to right that you can see when looking through the binoculars. It is measured in linear feet at a distance of 1,000 yards. A wide field of view is good for fast moving action, i.e. a football game or horse race. For example, if your binocular has a 400 feet field of view, you could see an entire football field through your binoculars. If the field of view is only 200 feet, you would see only two thirds of the field. When magnification increases, i.e. 8X to 10X, the field of view narrows.

What is a diopter? Most binoculars have a center focus ring and an adjustment ring (diopter) on either the right or left eyepiece. The diopter adjusts for difference between your individual eyes. Most people have one eye that is stronger than the other. Once the diopter is set you can use just the center focus and both eyes will see clearly. If you need help adjusting your diopter stop by the shop with your binoculars and we will help.

At Birds & Butterflies we sell Vortex Optics and invite you to take a look at them if you are considering a purchase. Vortex offers a life-time, unconditional warranty. If any product should ever require service Vortex will repair the product absolutely free no matter the cause. You can't find a better warranty. We stock more than 10 models of Vortex Optics in a range of prices.

COLLECTION OF DEAD BIRDS

If you should find any dead birds that have inadvertently flown into your windows or doors or see a dead songbird along the highway please bring them to Birds & Butterflies. We have been included on the University of Georgia, SREL collecting permit, so it is legal for us to collect these dead birds. They will be turned over to Dr. Lehr Brisbin and used for scientific and educational purposes.

If you do find a dead bird put it in a zip lock bag and place it in your freezer or bring it to Birds & Butterflies immediately. We don't want any decaying birds. Please record the location where the bird was picked up and the date. It is always sad to see a dead bird, but at least in their death they will be helping to educate others.

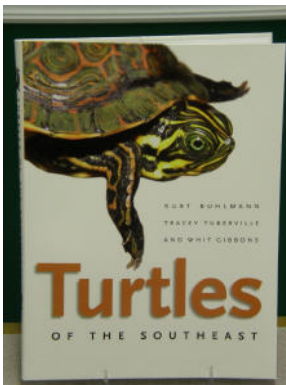
WILDFLOWER WALK

We had a very enjoyable wildflower walk on Saturday, May 17 in the Sumter National Forest.



The thunderstorms early on the morning of the 17th kept the attendance down, but those who attended had a good time and an enjoyable walk.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE



Turtles of the Southeast by Kurt Buhlmann, Tracey Tuberville and Whit Gibbons is another excellent book by the University of Georgia Press. It has a similar format to **Snakes of the Southeast**, with more than 400 excellent photographs, species descriptions, maps, conservation information and much more.

The book points out that “seventy-five percent of the turtle

species in the U.S. and Canada can be found in the Southeast,” and that, “the region (southeast) is second only to parts of Asia in the number of native turtles.”

The book is available at Birds & Butterflies for \$22.95.

If you have any interest in turtles this book needs to be in your library.

AIKEN DOWNTOWN AFTER 6

The second “Downtown After 6” of 2008 will be held in downtown Aiken on Thursday, June 19 from 6:00–9:00PM. The theme is “Beach Blast.” In addition to shops and restaurants being open until 9:00PM, there will be a Beach Party/Dance on the Newberry Festival site beginning at 9:15PM. There will be a deejay present and some shag demonstrations and instruction.

At Birds & Butterflies we will be holding our “Butterflies of South Carolina and Georgia” seminar that evening and the shop will be open until 9:00PM. The entire day we will have a 15% off storewide sale (some exclusions apply). If you wear some sort of beach attire you will get an additional 5% off for a total savings of 20%.

We hope to see you at our downtown “Beach Blast” on Thursday, June 19.

UPCOMING BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES SEMINARS

June 19 – Butterflies of South Carolina and Georgia, and Butterfly Gardening

July 17 – Raptors of South Carolina, Including Live Owls & Hawks

August 2 – Kid’s Program – Learn About Hawks & Owls

August 21 – Images of Africa and Antarctica by Forrest Roberts

For more details about the seminars you can pick up a schedule at Birds & Butterflies. To sign up for a seminar you can give us a call at 803-649-7999.

PHOTO SECTION

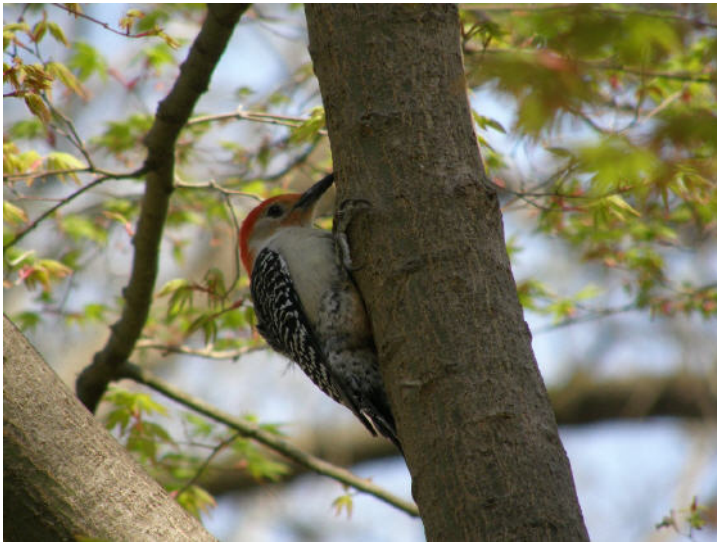


Showy Orchis



Morning fog in Dillard, GA

Red-bellied Woodpecker at Surrey Circle, Aiken



Mountain View near Dillard, GA



**Photos
By
Ron Brenneman**



Flame Azalea



Wild Columbine

If you would like to submit photos for inclusion in future Birds & Butterflies Newsletters please send email them to birdsbutterflies@geopolus.com. Please include a short description of the photo and your name. We can't promise to use all of them but we will try.