



## **Bird Walks to Highlight Great Backyard Bird Count**

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society will sponsor five bird walks to highlight the Great Backyard Bird Count the second weekend in February.

Sponsored by National Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the GBBC is an effort to identify and count millions of birds across North America and beyond. Data gathered will help scientists spot bird-population trends. The count also heightens public awareness of birds' needs for places to safely feed and rest.

The GBBC takes place Friday Feb. 12 to Monday Feb. 15. Anyone is welcome to participate. There is no fee. If a bird walk doesn't work for you, you can bird on your own in your backyard, neighborhood or favorite birding spot. Just go on line to report your sightings. Go to the GBBC website for guidelines.

The five local walks will be led by expert birders in some of the area's best birding spots. Each walk begins at 9 a.m. and lasts about 90 minutes. They are as follows:

**Friday, Feb. 12** -- Sandy Mush Gamelands, western Buncombe County. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Leicester Post Office, on N.C. 63 nearly 7 miles west of Patton Avenue.

**Saturday, Feb. 13** -- Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary, on Merrimon Avenue about 2.7 miles north of downtown Asheville.

**Sunday, Feb. 14 (two walks)** -- 1. Charles D. Owen Park, in Swannanoa on Warren Wilson Road about 2.5 miles north of U.S. 70; 2. Sandy Mush Gamelands (meet at the Leicester Post Office at 8:45 a.m.).

**Monday, Feb. 15** -- Fletcher Community Park, off Hendersonville Road about 3 miles from the airport exit on I-26, via N.C. 280 and Fanning Bridge Road.

**For additional GBBC information, go to:**

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>