

## Here's your chance to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count!

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society will sponsor three bird walks as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. The GBBC is a continent-wide event overseen by the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada.

On their own or in groups over a four-day weekend Feb. 17-20, birders count birds in parks, neighborhoods and reserves and in their backyards and then report data online to GBBC. The data are intended to provide a snapshot of where the birds are across the continent.

The local walks, all beginning at 9 a.m., will be Saturday Feb. 18 at Warren Wilson College, Sunday Feb. 19 at the Sandymush Gamelands in northwestern Buncombe County, and Monday Feb. 20 at Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary on Merrimon Avenue.

For details on the GBBC, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

### Directions to local walks:

Warren Wilson College is in Swannanoa north of U.S. 70. Park on Warren Wilson Road near South Lane.

Sandymush Gamelands (Cedar Hill Rd. access): From the traffic light on N.C. 63 in Leicester, follow Alexander Rd. for 2.9 miles, then turn left onto Tipton Hill Rd. Drive 1.9 miles to stop sign. Turn left. (Several road signs have been missing in this area, so follow the mileage directions or use GPS or a map.) Drive 2.0 miles to the end of Cedar Hill Rd. The last 0.4 miles are gravel.

Coordinates: +35 43.588 -82 39.547

Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary is on Merrimon Avenue about 2.25 miles north of I-240. If sanctuary parking lot is closed for construction, park on Midland just northwest of the sanctuary.

If you have questions, feel free to email [emas@emasnc.org](mailto:emas@emasnc.org).