

Life's Extras Birding Celebration

Saturday, May 2 Headliner Event

6 p.m. - Wings to Soar at Ferrell Hall

Join us for an unforgettable experience into the world of avian wonders, and discover what makes these winged marvels truly remarkable. This program offers you the chance to observe these live birds up close as they fly overhead and provides insights into their behaviors, habitats and the vital roles they play in our ecosystems. Free, but donations to Wings to Soar will be accepted and appreciated!

Friday, May 1

7:30 p.m. - Owl Prowl

Embark on a nighttime adventure with Hungry Mother Interpreters to learn how owls are specially adapted for life in the dark. As we call out to these fascinating birds, keep your eyes peeled; we might just catch a glimpse of one! Located at the Boat Ramp off of Mitchell Valley Road. Free

Saturday, May 2

7-9 a.m. - Early Bird Gets the Worm Bird Hike

What could be a better way to kick off your day than with a morning bird hike? Join our guides, Bob Riggs and Elaine Sharpe, for an engaging hike and discussion about all things birds and nature. Meet at the Beach. Free

Saturday, May 2

10 - 11:30 a.m. - Birding by Ear while Kayaking

It's great to know a bird by sight, knowing them by their calls can expand your birding skillset. This unique experience with VMN volunteer Melanie Smith allows you to connect with the natural world as you kayak around the lake listening for various songs of our favorite feathered friends. Meet at the Dock 'n Shop. Free

Saturday, May 2

11:30 a.m. Lunch

Take an hour and a half on your own to eat a bagged lunch you packed, head into town to eat at a local eatery, or continue to explore a part of the park for birds that you have not been to today. Meet back at Ferrell Hall to learn not only about birds, but native plants in the area also. Don't miss Ben Casteel.

Saturday, May 2

1 p.m. - A Symphony of Nature

Find out why native birds are so important to our native plants and why our native plants are so important to our native birds. Virginia Highlands Professor Ben Casteel will be here to discuss this very important relationship in our natural world. Meet at Ferrell Hall. Free

Saturday, May 2

1:30 p.m. - Hike with Mike

Take an afternoon stroll with Hungry Mother State Park volunteer Mike Evans at the Boat Ramp area off of Mitchell Valley Road. This area has a lot of edge habitat as various types of habitat come in contact and share the area. There are wetlands, meadows, lake, forest and pond habitats all on the backside of Hungry Mother State Park. A variety of birds can be seen in this area daily. Free

Sunday, May 3

8 a.m. - Saltville Bird Hike Field Trip

Join us at the Food City parking lot in Saltville to view various species of aquatic-loving birds. Join Holston Rivers VMN Monica Hoel and HMSP volunteers Bob Riggs and Elaine Sharpe as they take us on a stroll through this wonderful habitat. Bring binoculars and proper footwear. Free