

*Southern Appalachian
Naturalist Certification Program*

Birds of the Smokies

May 8 – 10, 2009

Friday, May 8th

- 3:00-5:00 **Check-in**
6:00 **Supper**
7:00 **Welcome & Introductions**
7:30 **Introduction to Birds of the Smokies**
Physical characteristics, nesting, flight, distribution, families, migration, equipment

Saturday, May 9th

- 6:00 am **Birders' Breakfast**
- 6:30 **Field Identification**
Field trip to various areas of the park, focusing on hardwood forests. We'll focus on bird identification using site and sound as well as connecting birds to habitat types and niche preferences.
- 12:45 pm **Lunch**
- 1:45 **Bird Conservation Issues**
We'll wrap-up our early day with a discussion about birds, particularly neotropical migrants, and their conservation issues. Don't worry, we'll have snacks, too!
- 3:00-5:30 **Break - Time to Relax!**
- 5:30-6:30 **Supper**
- 7:00 **Resources and Review – Classroom Discussion**
References, guides, buying binoculars, birding groups, catching the "birding bug."
- 8:00 **Campfire Tunes & Tales**
Join us around the campfire for a relaxing evening of great songs and stories. Refreshments provided.

Sunday, May 10th

- 5:30 am **Dawn Chorus**
An early morning foray into the forest in search of the dawn chorus. This wonderful event happens every spring morning as each species of bird begins its day's song at a particular moment in time. We'll listen as the birds warm up and use our ears to better understand them.
- 7:30 **Breakfast**
- 8:00-noon **Bird Watching at Cades Cove**
This field trip will focus on identification of the birds of field and forest edge. We'll discover new species and review a few old friends. We will be in grassy fields and sunny areas. Dress appropriately.
- 12:30 **Lunch at Tremont**
- 1:00 **Wrap-up, Assessment, and Evaluations**