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Go birding with the Audubon Society

[By Dudley Brown](#)

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Birdwatchers are invited to spend a morning watching a variety of native birds and possibly catch a glimpse of some of them migrating through the Upstate. The Piedmont Audubon Society is leading a March 8 field trip at Croft State Park with Upstate Forever.

"It's just a great resource to have that much forest," said Carole Anderson, president of the Audubon Society. "A lot of birds, and especially the birds that spend their summers with us, are adapted to the interiors of forests."

Anderson said Croft has mature forests and open fields, which many birds prefer. Hawks, for example, like to swoop down in fields to catch prey.

She said a variety of woodpeckers will probably be seen, as well as bluebirds, robins and cardinals.

She said there will be discussions on what people can do to protect places like Croft State Park.

One goal, she said, is for people to be mindful of the plants in their yards. She warns against planting the Oregon Grape Shrub, an evergreen that produces a fleshy fruit that's eaten by birds. The plants' seeds are spread in birds' waste, and the plant is destructive.

Participants on the field trip must pay \$2 and are encouraged to bring cameras, binoculars, water, snacks and be prepared for any weather. It will begin at the boathouse at Lake Craig at 8 a.m. Space is limited, so register now.

Ned Barrett, program manager for Upstate Forever, said there's room for 20 people on the tour.

More information

Want to go?

When: 8 a.m. March 8

Where: Croft State Park

Contact: Call 327-0090 to register or e-mail Ned Barrett at nbarrett@upstateforever.org.

Cost: \$2 at the park's gates

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