



Saw-whet Owl  
photo by Henry Link



# The Piedmont Birder



Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
photo by Diane Rosenburg

## MOUNTAIN BIRDS

June 6-8 2003



Roger Tony Peterson  
Red Crossbill

Henry and Elizabeth Link led a wonderful trip to the higher elevations of the Appalachians along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Between the 10 members of the group, we saw 86 species of birds. The most exciting was the Saw-whet Owl. For several nights, members made forays to its territory, armed with a tape recording to draw the raptor closer in. The little fellow could be heard by its distinct call, a monotonous and rapid "toot toot toot," in the woods along the Parkway. One exciting moment was when we followed the little tooter as it traveled parallel to the road just a few feet inside the tree line. Armed with flashlights, we tried to spot it through the leaves and branches. Henry finally decided to go into the forest after it. A couple of us remained in the road, and suddenly the harried bird flushed across. I had it in the flashlight beam for the second or two it took to fly over our heads to make for more peaceful shelter. Henry and Deirdre, who had done the flushing, didn't get to see it. How unjust! But the next day, after most of the PBC had left to go back home, when Henry and Elizabeth went for a last walk in that vicinity "after making a fortuitous wrong turn on the way back," the Saw-whet Owl flushed and posed in clear view on a branch ahead of them. They were able to take a great picture of it, which they have been kind enough to share with the club.

Another target bird was the Red Crossbill, found at a campground

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Newsletter of the  
**Piedmont Bird Club**  
PO Box 38833  
Greensboro, NC 27438-8833  
www.greensboro.com/birdclub  
Editor: Louise Brown

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The next deadline for newsletter items is Oct. 15, 2003.

I prefer to include a phone # and/or e-mail address for leaders and coordinators of any events. Please let me know if this is unsatisfactory.

Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or E-mail at piedmont-birder@aol.com.

**PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES WELCOME!**

### ACE BASIN

April 18-20

Dennis and Lynn Burnette led a great trip to the ACE Basin in South Carolina. This is the area where the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto rivers converge, creating 350,000 acres of diverse habitats. In the last few decades various groups have collaborated to manage this unique area. One of the antebellum plantation houses survives as the visitor center for the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge. The live oaks surrounding it were frequented by beautifully singing Yellow-throated Warblers and elusive Parulas. We walked out to the former rice fields and saw many Red-winged Blackbirds, Boat-tailed Grackles, a Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, both Black and Turkey Vultures, and Tri-colored Herons.

We spent Friday afternoon at the Donnelly Wildlife Management Area, where we saw huge alligators and a turtle laying eggs in the road, as well as White-eyed Vireos, Egrets, and herons.

The next day, on the way to Bear Island, we paused at some wetlands populated by Tree Swallows, an Orchard Oriole singing in a tree, Tanagers, and Great Crested Flycatchers. At another spot we were excited to flush several Least Bitterns, displaying their orange wings as they vanished into the reeds.

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From the  
**President's Perch**  
 by Emily Tyler

Once again, the change of seasons will soon be upon us. Fall is one of my favorite seasons but, due to work constraints in years past, I haven't done a lot of fall birding, particularly during the warbler migration. According to Henry Link, the best times for observing passerines in migration are from September 20 through October 10. He'll be checking out Starmount Forest most mornings during that period if you'd like to join him.

Your Executive Board members have been meeting during the summer to make plans for the coming PBC year. I think you will be well pleased with the lineup of programs, field trips and other activities being planned. I have asked the committee chairs to develop some goals and objectives for their respective committees. I hope this will result in some innovative approaches to doing what we do and keep the committees focused on reaching their goals. With this information available, we will be able to share what the committees are doing and hopefully interest more of you in joining. Even though some committees complete the major part of their work in the summer, it is not too late to join a committee. We are in need of some "new blood" on our committees and the chairs have been asked to recruit at least one new committee member this year. They would be very pleased to have you volunteer. The Yearbook which will be distributed at the Fall Picnic (and mailed if you miss the picnic) will contain the list of committees and contact information.

Regrettably, we have accepted the resignation of Cal Weimer as chair of the Conservation Committee. He has done an outstanding job since he took over in 1998 and initiated the change from Adopt-a-Highway to Adopt-a-Park in 2000. It's time for him to have a break and time for someone else to step forward to coordinate this important committee. Please contact me if you are willing to consider a new role in the Club.

We are saddened by the death of Dr. Hollis Rogers, a long-time member of the Club. His numerous efforts to preserve nature, particularly through his interest in Carolina State Parks, will be long remembered. He was always willing to share his knowledge of nature,

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**STARMOUNT PARK**

4/26/03



Nashville Warbler  
 David Quinn

Henry Link and his wife, Elizabeth, are champions when it comes to spotting warblers and other challenging birds. Their keen ears and sharp eyes are major assets. They frequent Starmount Park in the spring. That area is consistently one of the best spots in Greensboro to find a large variety of warblers, thrushes and other migrants.

One bonus this spring was a pair of nesting Barred Owls. One would perch just outside the nest hole in the morning, giving us a real treat by letting us watch it. We saw two species of vireos, the Blue-headed and Red-eyed, and several species of warblers, Northern Parula, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird and the Common Yellowthroat. The Nashville Warbler was the "catch of the day," being a rare thing to spot. It was high up in the treetops and a challenge to find! Other migrants were the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager. We saw 34 species in all.



Barred Owl  
 photo by Rob Bennet

**Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Emily Tyler
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bob Pelletier
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Carol Pelletier
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Helen Black
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Susan Weimer
<b>Members-at-Large:</b>	Jane Lewis Judie Underkoffler

**ASHE COUNTY FLY-CATCHERS**

May 24, 2003



Great Crested Flycatcher  
 Roger Tony Robinson

Herb Hendrickson led his annual trip to Ashe County. It was a beautiful day, a nice break from the almost constant rain we had been having. Of the three species of the Empidonax Flycatchers targeted, we saw two, the Least and the Willow. The Acadian that used to be found in a certain spot is either no longer there or was elusive indeed the last couple of years. The Empids are a group of species of flycatcher, which are all very similar in size and appearance, with slight differences difficult for even the experts to spot. The main way to distinguish them is by their songs, which are only heard in the spring. They also have slight differences in habitat. The Willow likes brushy vegetation beside streams, and that's where we found a number of them, in willows and other shrubs along the New River. The Acadian likes streamside also, but prefers deeper forest. The Least likes a more open space around its trees. Other Flycatcher species we saw were the Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird.

The riparian habitat along the New River was also good for Orchard Orioles, Barn Swallows, and other birds.

After lunch we went to Mount Jefferson, where we saw and/or heard Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-Throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Veeries, and Scarlet Tanagers. We saw 58 species in all.

-Louise Brown



**new HONORARY MEMBERS**

The Executive Board voted on 8/21/03 to bestow on Jean McCoy and Grace Draper the title of Honorary Member. They both have been very active in the Piedmont Bird Club for many years, and richly deserve this higher status.



*-ACE Basin, cont' from p. 1*

Another place overlooked mud flats and river, where we saw hundreds of Wood Storks, Great and Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons, Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs, Willets, and Dowitchers feeding and resting on the mudflats. Surroundings trees were festooned with so many Egrets they were like Christmas trees. Truly awesome! Our leader had to drag us away.

We lunched on Bennett's island, a pleasant spot overlooking the Ashepoo River where we witnessed a pair of courting Eurasian Collared Doves, the male gently but efficiently treading his hen. Later we drove to Edisto Beach to see Brown Pelicans and Laughing Gulls.

On Sunday we went to the Francis Beidler Forest in Four Holes Swamp. They have built a wonderful boardwalk that allows access to the cypress swamp, where we saw a number of gorgeous Yellow-crowned Night Herons, as well as the tiny but very loudly singing Prothonotary Warblers. We got a glimpse of a couple of Parulas, and saw White-eyed Vireos, a pair of which had a lovely little nest hanging from a tree. Red-shouldered Hawks also had a nest there. We saw a total of 108 species on this trip.

*-Louise Brown*



*-Pres. Perch, cont' from p. 2*

which continued during his retirement. He influenced thousands of young people through his biology classes at UNCG and inspired them to admire and appreciate the natural world. Other deaths that have touched Club members include Jane Lewis's mother and Wally Foutch's brother. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to each of these families.

We congratulate Jean Murdick's daughter and her husband on the birth of their son Roscoe Dean Spence, born May 19 and weighing in at nine pounds, two ounces. This is Jean and Lon's first grandchild.



### Eagle update

Lynn Moseley was thrilled to report that "our" Bald Eagles successfully raised one baby, which fledged. This is a great event after several years of no eaglets.



## FALL PICNIC



Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, is the date of the Fall Picnic. It will be at Hagan Stone Park, Shelter #4. The new yearbooks will be distributed at this gathering. Every year, the yearbook is dedicated to a special club member who will be revealed at that time.

A nature walk will be at 5:30 p.m., the potluck (covered dish) dinner will begin at 6:00. Bring whatever inspires you of the four main food groups: meats, vegetables, breads or desserts; we are trusting chance that we will get a good mix of food! The PBC will provide beverages, soft drinks, iced tea, water, and paper and plastic ware. So, bring some food, bring your binoculars, bring a hearty appetite and be prepared to have a good time!

Coordinator, Ann Kelk. phone: 656-9879  
e-mail: Annkelk@aol.com



### Community Education is an important pbc Function

According to Article II of our Constitution, the primary purpose of the Piedmont Bird Club is "to promote the study and protection of birds and other natural resources." To expand our community outreach efforts, we are convening a meeting of interested members to consider the role of the Piedmont Bird Club in educating the community about the importance of protecting birds and other natural resources in the environment. If you have an interest in this subject or if you have had experience as an educator, we need your input and expertise. The Club's Education Committee, consisting of three members, is currently meeting requests for presentations and has ordered additional bird slides from which they will develop a new program. Building upon what this committee has traditionally done, and to lend support and

*-cont' next column*

*-Mountains, cont' from p. 1*

high on the Parkway. They were very cooperative subjects, allowing good looks by members. Black-capped Chickadees, a Ruffed Grouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creepers, Least and Alder Flycatchers were other high altitude birds seen on the trip.

Another focus was on warblers, many of which breed in the higher altitudes. We saw 17 species in all, the most notable being the Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blues and Greens, Blackburnian, Hooded and Canada Warblers. Quite a few members saw life birds on this trip.

*-Louise Brown*



Ringer Tony Robinson

*Black-throated Blue Warbler*

### THANK YOU'S

After Barbara Jones' death, the PBC collected \$210 from various members, which was donated in her name to the American Cancer Society. We received a very nice thank you note from them.

The club also donated \$200 to the Carolina Raptor Center to help them vaccinate the birds they care for, which are species particularly vulnerable to West Nile Virus. We also received a nice thank you note from them.



*-Education, from previous column*

assistance to their efforts, we need some people who would be willing to help map out a plan for the Club's educational activities for the future.

If you would be willing (1) to commit to attending just one meeting; (2) to brainstorm ideas for new approaches to delivering our educational programs; and (3) to explore new avenues of reaching various segments of the community, please call Emily Tyler at 375-5770 or email her at: ettyler@triad.rr.com The time, date and location of the meeting will be determined once we know who will attend.



-Calendar, cont' from p. 6

• **Thursday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.**

**MEETING: "Stories of a Bird Photographer"** David Disher.

David is a serious birder and amateur photographer with 599 species on his North American life list. He has visited many locations around the world that are famous destinations for birders. He will discuss some of his techniques and show slides of birds, other wildlife, and habitats of Alaska, Texas, Arizona, California, and other places, including local areas. Bird of the Season: Swamp Sparrow - Judi Durr

• **Saturday, October 25**

**Field Trip: Fall Leaves and Birds.** A day trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway to see song birds as well as the last of the glorious autumn colors. Bring a picnic lunch and a jacket. Easy walking. Leader: Dennis Burnette ph. 299-4342 e-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• **Saturday, November 15**

**Field Trip: The Bog Garden.** Meet at the garden at 8:00 a.m. You never know what birds you might find at the Bog Garden. We have seen owls, almost every kind of local woodpecker, waterfowl, and plenty of songbirds. The garden is always a delight. Leader: Louise Brown. ph. 274-3691 e-mail: piedmontbirder@aol.com

### Welcome new members

We wish to extend a warm welcome to these new members! Their addresses are in the new Yearbook, which will be given out at the Fall Picnic.

- Kay C. Carroll**
- Lisa Penland Hawkins**
- Rosalind Stanford & Chas McCarty**



From time to time members have donated photos of birds or club events for use in the newsletter or website. I surely would appreciate a few more!  
-Louise Brown

### WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

433 Pisgah Church Road  
Greensboro, NC 27455  
282-4458

PBC members get a 10% discount on all regularly priced items in the store- mention your membership **BEFORE** you make a purchase!

### New on our web site!

- Photos of the Pisgah Mountain trip in June:  
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/photogallery4.htm>
- Pics of cardinal and hummingbirds:  
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/photogallery.htm#ronmays>
- Some more photos of the ACE Basin trip in Easter:  
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/acebasin2.htm>

### NOTICE:

The Wild Bird House will be closing August 30<sup>th</sup> and will re-open in mid-November at its new location beside New Garden Nursery, which is now off Old Oak Ridge Road.

### It's not too late! for MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There are a few folks who have not paid their dues for the 2003-2004 season. If you are not sure who you are, call Susan Weimer at 288-2160 or e-mail her at: [sweimer@triad.rr.com](mailto:sweimer@triad.rr.com). Use the application form below.

### THE WILD BIRD HOUSE

3612 Spring Garden St.  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
Phone 336-294-7833

has generously offered members of PBC a 10% discount on bird seed and on anything in the store (except items already discounted.)



If you know anyone in the club who is sick or just under the weather, please contact Lynn Burnette at 299-4342 or [mlburnette@aol.com](mailto:mlburnette@aol.com). She will send a card on behalf of the PBC.

### PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \_\_\_ Family \_\_\_

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Note: One year's dues are payable from May through April, \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.  
Mail Payment to: PBC, Box 38833, Greensboro, 27438-8833

# Calendar

**Reminder:** If you are interested in going on a field trip, always contact the Leader prior to the trip. If the Leader receives no calls, the trip may be cancelled.

• **Saturday, September 13**

**FALL PICNIC, Hagan Stone Park, Shelter #4.** Nature walk 5:30 p.m.; picnic 6:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish; beverages will be provided. Coordinator: Ann Kelk. phone: 656-9879 e-mail: Annkelk@aol.com. Details on page 3.

• **Friday-Sunday, Sep. 19-21** (Last weekend of summer!)

**Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting.** Fall in the foothills; three days of field trips and evening programs in and around Hickory, NC and the Blue Ridge Parkway. This is the first time in a long while that the CBC has had a meeting close enough for a day trip, only 1.5 hours from Guilford Co., if you don't want to do the whole weekend. Information: Dennis Burnette. ph. 299-4342 e-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• **Saturday, September 20**

**Field Trip: Mahogany Rock,** Blue Ridge Parkway, for Hawks. We will join other birders from around the region at Mahogany Rock Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway in an area well known for migrating hawks. It is about 2 hours drive from Guilford Co. Bring lunch and a jacket. Call if you need directions or want to car pool. Leader: Phillip Kellam. ph. 275-3692

• **Saturday, September 27**

**Field Trip: Pilot Mountain Hawk Watching.** We will visit Pilot Mountain State Park, just 45 minutes away and the best spot in the Piedmont to observe fall hawk migration, and also look for migrating warblers on nearby trails. Meet at the Little Pinnacle parking lot at 9:00. Bring lunch, a jacket, and binoculars. Call if you need directions or want to car pool. Leader: Judi Durr. ph. 993-3197 e-mail: judi.durr@wolfehomes.net

• **Saturday, October 11**

**Field Trip: Triad Park.** 8:00 a.m. We will explore the Triad's newest park on the Guilford and Forsyth county line near Colfax for fall migrants. Leader: Dennis Burnette. ph. 299-4342 e-mail: burnetted@aol.com

*-Calendar, continued on p. 4*



**Piedmont Bird Club**  
PO Box 38833  
Greensboro, NC 27438-8833



**DON'T FORGET!!!**  
**FALL PICNIC**  
**SATURDAY SEPT 13th 5:30 PM**  
**HAGAN STONE PARK, SHELTER #4**  
**BRING A COVERED DISH!**

DETAILS PAGE 3