



Mississippi Kite
photo © by Melissa Whitmire



The Piedmont Birder



Red Crossbills
photo by Dan Chambers



Banding a Carolina Wren
photo by Louise Brown

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Newsletter of the
Piedmont Bird Club
PO Box 38833
Greensboro, NC 27438-8833
www.greensboro.com/birdclub
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Inside This Issue

1. Blue Ridge Mountains
1. Bird Banding
2. President's Perch
2. Randolph County
2. Mississippi Kites
3. Butterfly Count
3. Fall Picnic
3. Country Park
4. Welcome
4. Membership Form
5. Calendar

The next deadline for newsletter items is Oct. 15, 2004. I prefer to include a phone # and/or e-mail address for leaders and coordinators of any events. Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or e-mail at piedmontbirder@aol.com.

PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES WELCOME!

Officers 2004-2005

President:	Bob Pellettier
Vice President:	Peggy Ferebee
Recording Secretary:	Carol Pellettier
Corresponding Secretary:	Lynn Burnette
Treasurer:	Susan Weimer
Members-at-Large:	Dan Chambers Steve Summerford

Blue Ridge Mountain Trip June 4-6

For the second year in a row we took a weekend trip up to the Blue Ridge Mountains, staying at the lovely Pisgah Inn. Although Henry and Elizabeth Link could not accompany us this time, they armed us with maps and tips.

Two Overlooks north of the Pisgah Inn turned out to be the jackpot for the Saw-whet Owls. A discordant effort between others and me turned up one, which perched on a branch and stared at us from just a few feet away. It was an awesome heart-stopping experience! We saw the Peregrine nest at Devil's Courthouse, with an adult guarding a nearby downy chick. We also saw a Cerulean Warbler at the Bull Creek Overlook north of the Folk Arts Center in Asheville. It stayed not too high up for at least a couple of minutes. A record length sighting for everyone involved! There were quite a few other birds at that spot as well, including nesting Redstarts, and Eastern Pewees.

The Balsam Mountain Campground had no Crossbills, but there we had a really good look at a Blackburnian Warbler, and observed Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Black-throated Green Warbler, and a Black-capped Chickadee.

We saw a variety of birds along the road up to the campground -- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Least Flycatcher, and Canada Warbler among others.

We came across Red Crossbills quite

-Pisgah, con't on page 3

Bird Banding Trip

by Dennis Burnette

Those who missed the bird banding demonstration on Saturday, April 17, missed a very enjoyable and informative morning! This field trip was the follow-up to our April program on the topic of bird banding. Both the program and the demonstration were presented by Tom Mowbray, ornithologist and Professor Emeritus from Salem College. Our group car-pooled to Dr. Mowbray's beautiful home and property in rural western Forsyth County where we found him already out collecting birds from four mist nests that he had erected in different habitats.

Of the 28 species of birds that we saw and/or heard during the morning in the vicinity of Dr. Mowbray's property, we had very close views of 13 in the hand as they were being banded. We were able to study individual American Goldfinches and Yellow-rumped Warblers in various stages of molting their feathers; closely compare Carolina and House Wrens; see the brood patch on a female Blue Jay; and note the similarities and differences between a Brown Thrasher and an American Robin. In fact, everyone was given the opportunity to hold and examine some of the birds after measurements had been taken, sex and age had been determined, and a leg band had been attached. There were

From the President's Perch

by Bob Pellettier

In the last "Piedmont Birder," Past President Emily Tyler reviewed many of the activities, along with changes within the organization that have taken place during her three-year tenure. As was noted, the Executive Board, Committee Members, along with regular members, put in many hours and much effort to insure the Club's success.

In revisiting the Club's achievements over the past year, I found a number of significant accomplishments that should not go unnoticed.

It became necessary to assign a new chairperson for the Conservation Committee. Not an easy position to fill. Dan Chambers has fulfilled the responsibility with enthusiasm and in doing so, we have signed an Adopt-A-Park Agreement with the Greensboro Country Park relating to bird box monitoring, repair and cleaning and trash pickup.

Through the efforts of Lynn Burnette, it was brought to the Club's attention that the Girl Scouts Tarheel Triad Council were in need of financial support for their conservation projects, which include nature trails, bird boxes, planting of trees and shrubs and erecting a bird blind. The Club voted to give financial support, along with Club member assistance in physically accomplishing these projects.

Carolyn Allen indicated that the Raptor Center in Charlotte was in need of contributions to help inoculate birds against the West Nile Virus. A donation was made by the Club to further that cause.

Carolyn also attended two County Commissioner's meetings regarding the proposed Military Landing Field near Lake Mattamuskeet in Pocosin Wildlife Refuge. Carolyn kept the Club apprised on the progress of the opposition and through the efforts of many like ourselves, a preliminary injunction has been put in effect, so further studies can be done. As Lake Mattamuskeet is a frequently visited site by Club members, this was of importance to us all. We cannot overemphasize the importance of the Club's involvement in the above activities, as we show concern for the preservation of nature and wildlife and because of this involvement, have established a positive image and exposure for our Club in the community.

Other noteworthy achievements include the Club obtaining 17 new members this past year. This influx of new members indicated that positioning our Club Brochure in strategic locations, Club involvement in educational fairs and exhibits and our great Web site, shows that we are moving in the right direction.

In addition, the Social Committee selected the Knight's of Columbus Hall as a new location for the Club's Holiday Dinner. Although the weather did not cooperate, as a major

- President, con't on page 4.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

photo by Dan Chambers

Randolph County Trip

Apr. 24, 2004

A remarkably large group (25) of Piedmont Birders went on a wonderful trip to the lovely solar-powered home of Jane and Mark Lewis, where they shared the treasures of their vast acreage in southern Randolph County. Well off the main road as well as the grid, their property includes woods, streams and adjacent fields and open areas, providing a wide variety of habitats for birds, reptiles and other creatures. Over the course of the day we accumulated a list of over 60 different species of birds, including 12 of warbler, 4 of vireo, both tanagers, and an Acadian Flycatcher. Ovenbirds were heard in the woods and on the way out, one car full of birders actually got a good look at one. A Kentucky Warbler was spotted on a walk through the woods along a stream, a rare treat. Quite a few species were easily seen in the very bird-friendly yard, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (proving to be the most photogenic,) Parulas, hummingbirds, Indigo Buntings and others.

A number of birds were in a family way- Jane had spotted a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher's nest in a branch high over the driveway, and a Louisiana Waterthrush had a nest on a nearby stream bank. After a great picnic lunch, largely provided by the Lewises, we walked to the edge of neighboring property that had been logged a few years ago. There we were treated to a quick glimpse of a Chat, a Red-headed Woodpecker working a far-off dead snag, and several Prairie Warblers among other species.

-Louise Brown



Mississippi Kites – Adult Feeding an Immature

photo © by Melissa Whitmire

Mississippi kites

Three adult Mississippi Kites were first seen on Thursday, July 29 by birder Scott DePue while working in a Greensboro suburban neighborhood. He ID'd them (without binoculars!) and told Henry Link, who confirmed the sighting and informed other PBC birders. The first immature was seen the next day and, on the 5th of August, Melissa Whitmire spotted the second juvenile.

Herb Hendrickson, an ornithologist, offers this expert opinion:

"To the best of my knowledge, these are the first Mississippi Kites recorded in Guilford County. The nearest known nesting site in recent times was in Laurinburg, NC, about four or five years ago. Mississippi Kites are one of the few birds of prey that are known to use "helpers." That may explain the presence of three adult-appearing birds."

There is little doubt according to Lynn Moseley and Herb Hendrickson that the kites hatched here because the immatures were very dependent when first seen, unable to fly and being fed frequently by the adults. This is an exciting find for local birders!

-Emily Tyler, Louise Brown



"I don't care that I'm not a bird!"

-Angel, the Rehab squirrel

photo by Louise Brown

Butterfly Count at Hagan-stone Park



Cecropia Moth Caterpillar

photo by Dan Chambers

July 31, 2004

Dennis Burnette led a very interesting trip to Hagan-Stone Park, primarily an event for the Carolina Butterfly Society but a joint event for the PBC and Audubon groups as well. It was an eclectic group, including some scientific professionals. People were naming dragonflies, butterflies and birds, as well as wild flowers and other plants. If you have no idea what it is, what thing would you say a **Horace's Duskywing** is? A **Pondhawk**?

Quite a few species of butterflies were counted: Tiger, Spicebush and Pipevine Swallowtails, Red-spotted Purples, Buckeyes, American Ladies, as well as numerous members of the vast Skipper family. Ones that were identified included the obvious Silver Spotted Skipper, the similar Hoary-edged Skipper, the Fiery, the Horace's Duskywing and the Little Glassy-winged.

We didn't do too shabbily with birds, one of the best being a quick glimpse of an elusive Yellow-billed Cuckoo as well as a surprising Redstart. A couple of hawks were spotted -- a Red-tailed and a Sharp-shinned.

Pondhawks and Calico Pennants were among numerous Dragonflies. But one of the most remarkable things we saw was a giant caterpillar. The picture above does not do it justice in this black-and-white medium. The creature was about six inches long and had the circumference of a quarter. Bright chlorophyll green, it had on its head four black-spotted orange knobs, followed by a double row of yellow knobs down its back. There was a row of tiny blue knobs down each side. We are talking bright crayon colors, nothing subdued. It looked like a cartoon. Fortunately there was a person present who knew what it was -- a Cecropia Moth caterpillar.

-Louise Brown



Fall PICNIC



Saturday, September 11 Hagan-Stone Park, Shelter #4. Nature walk 5:30 p.m.; picnic 6:00 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 tableware. Come by 5:30 for a bird walk.

So, bring some food, bring your binoculars, bring a hearty appetite and be prepared to have a good time!

Coordinator: Irene Ade 656-9974, e-mail: irenenjosephade@msn.com



-Pisgah, con't from page 1

by accident as we descended Forest Service Road 816 (where we saw Alder Flycatchers as well as Black-throated Green Warblers). We saw several cars stopped and people with scopes. They had spotted a flock of 50 or more Red Crossbills, which were flying around the spruce trees there. We got great looks at lots of them!

We would not have found the Saw-whet Owl or the Cerulean Warbler without tips from Beth Brinson a mountain birder, whom the Club met last year. Those were two of our main target birds. It was a very fulfilling experience! Altogether 68 species were sighted.

-Louise Brown



-Banding, con' t from page 1

plenty of photo opportunities, too, not only of the banding process but also of close-ups of each bird species.

This definitely was one of our most interesting, educational, and fun club activities in recent memory.

-More photos from this event can be seen on our website, <http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/birdbanding.htm>



Country Park

Dan Chambers has been doing a great job of keeping up with the Country Park project. He has organized clean-ups and has taken on monitoring the nest activity. Excerpts from a few of his reports:

5/17/04

Bad News: We lost 5 Bluebird nestlings to House Sparrows today. I'll spare you the details, but it wasn't pretty.

Good News: We had 2 Bluebirds and 8 Chickadees fledge. I removed both of these nests and cleaned out the nest boxes for the next cycle.

I did not visit the 2 other Bluebird nests that had hatchlings last week, to avoid premature fledging. That would make another 10 Bluebird fledglings to report next week.

There are 2 twig nests with a total of 6 maroon-speckled eggs thought to be wrens.

5/25/04

It has been almost two months since we picked up trash at the park and watched Bluebirds visiting a nest box. Since then we have had 12 Bluebirds fledge, lost 5 hatchlings to House Sparrows, had 2 eggs not hatch, and have a current nest with 4 blue eggs.

The Carolina Chickadees have fledged 8 and have lost a total 9 eggs out of 2 nests.

The Carolina Wrens have lost a total of 6 eggs out of 2 nests.

All egg losses are in the same general area with easy access by predators.

Ten of the 19 birdhouses have been used for nests and egg laying. Four birdhouses have been successful fledgling sites.

6/15/04

The second nesting may be happening. Two of the birdhouses that had nests with hatchlings are occupied again. One was the birdhouse we watched back at the March cleanup. Those Bluebirds eventually fledged 5 Bluebirds. It was cleaned out and now has a new nest with 4 blue eggs.

The only other nesting activity is that 3 of the 5 blue eggs have hatched in another birdhouse. Hope the other 2 eggs hatch and are not infertile.

8/01/04

We have 11 new fledglings, bringing the season total to 23 so far. There are 3 hatchlings still in a nest. All boxes have been cleaned and are awaiting the final nestings of this year.

-Thank you, Dan!!



-Calendar, con't from page 5

Saturday, October 16

FIELD TRIP: Linville Road Marsh. This is an exploratory trip to check out a newly discovered (by us) marsh near Oak Ridge, as well as a nearby wet meadow along the Haw River. Meet at Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. Leaders: Dennis Burnette (299-4342, burnetted@aol.com) and Doug DeNeve (769-1102, deneved@hotmail.com)

Thursday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

MEETING: "Ten Years with Eagles"

Lynn Moseley, Professor of Biology, Guilford College.

A pair of Bald Eagles has nested at the city lakes of Greensboro since January of 1994. Members of the Piedmont Bird Club have been actively observing these birds and working to ensure their protection. Lynn Moseley will provide a summary of the birds' successes and the challenges they have faced.

Bird of the Season: - Gray-cheeked Thrush

Saturday, October 23

FIELD TRIP: Fall Leaves and Birds. This is our annual 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. Leaders: Lynn and Dennis Burnette; 299-4342, burnetted@aol.com, mlburnette@aol.com

Saturday, October 30, 9:00 a.m

ADOPT-A-PARK:, (rain date Sunday, October 31)

The Club will pick up litter and do maintenance on bluebird boxes at Greensboro Country Park on Lawndale Drive. Bring binoculars for birding as we work. Coordinator: Dan Chambers; 286-9735, Instructor@ aol.com.

Friday-Sunday, November 5-7

SPECIAL AUDUBON EVENT: Black

River Boat Trip. We have been invited to join T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon for this nature-watching boat trip. Participants will travel to Wilmington on Friday afternoon in order to be able to board the boat on Saturday morning for a half-day trip. The cost per person is about \$40. Those who wish to stay after the boat trip will go birding on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Contact Gregg Morris for information. 883-3270, gregg.morris@ci.high-point.nc.us

Saturday, November 13

FIELD TRIP: The Bog Garden. Meet at the garden at 8:30 a.m. You never know what birds you might find at this great birding site. We have seen owls, almost every species of local woodpecker, waterfowl, and plenty of songbirds. The garden is always a delight. Leader: Louise Brown; 274-3691, piedmontbirder@aol.com.

Welcome new members

Michael & Faye Collins
Allen Davis
Doug & Pam DeNeve
Terry & Mary Woodrow

Their addresses and other information are in the new yearbook, which members will be receiving in September!



- *President, con't from p. 2.*

rainstorm erupted, we had a good turnout, with Dennis Burnette coordinating a great slide presentation by members.

The Club also embarked on making changes to its Constitution. These included the addition of a Past President to the list of officers, for the purpose of assisting the Executive Board through past knowledge and experience. The Member at Large positions lacked definition regarding duties and responsibilities. These have now been established and have been added to the Constitution.

Although mentioned in the last Newsletter, I would be remiss if I did not mention the great efforts of the Membership Committee in initiating and administering the Club's first T-shirts and sweatshirts, which also turned out to be a successful fund raising project.

When we include the field trips that were organized and the monthly programs that were presented, we can only conclude that it was a great year!

-*Bob Pelletier*

Next issue: Looking ahead to a new year.



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!

THE WILD BIRD HOUSE

New Garden Village.
Greensboro, NC 27407
Phone 336-664-8020

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



Our Booth at the Lake Higgins Environmental Education Fair on 6/12/24

Photo by Dan Chambers

!!RENEW your MEMBERSHIP!!

It's not too late to pay your dues for the 2004-2005 season. If you have any questions, call Susan Weimer at 288-2160 or e-mail her at: sweimer@triad.rr.com.. Use the application form below.

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. That way you will be informed of last minute changes, cancellations, or the leader may need to modify plans according to the number of attendees.

Saturday, September 11

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. Details on page 3. Coordinator: Irene Ade; 656-9974, irenenjosephade@msn.com

Saturday, September 18

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 raptors. It is about a 2- hour drive from Guilford Co. Bring lunch and a jacket. Call if you need directions or want to car pool. This is a joint field trip with T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon. Leader: Phillip Kellam; 275-3692

Saturday, September 25

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. This is a joint field trip with T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon. Leader: Gregg Morris; 883-3270, gregg.morris@ci.high-point.nc.us

Saturday, October 2

FIELD TRIP: Bird Walk at Magnolia Manor, the new 92-acre forested campus of the Girl Scouts' Tarheel Triad Council. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the new Girl Scout Learning Center. From Greensboro, take West Market Street west past NC 68 toward Kernersville. After you see Pleasant Ridge Rd, turn at the next right on Frances Daily Court, pass the main Magnolia Manor building, and go to the end of the road. Leader: Lynn Burnette; 299-4342, mlburnette@aol.com

Saturday, October 9

PBC FIELD TRIP: Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Meet at Tour Stop #6 next to the rest rooms at 9:00 a.m. We will explore the meadow-like Schenk's Field and the surrounding woodlands in this 220-acre forested national park in the middle of the northern Greensboro suburbs. Leaders: Don Allen (288-3045, texallenn@aol.com) and Dan Chambers (286-9735, Instructus@aol.com)

Saturday, October 9

AUDUBON BIRD SEED SALE. Contact Ann Walter-Fromson for information; 299-9494, walterfromsona@gborocollege.edu

-see Calendar, con't on page 4



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



DON'T FORGET!!!
FALL PICNIC

Saturday, September 11
Hagan-Stone Park, Shelter #4.
BRING A COVERED DISH!

DETAILS PAGE 3

