



American Bittern with Crayfish
 Guilford Co. Apr. 2007
 Photo © 2007 By Melissa Whitmire

The Piedmont Birder

JORDAN LAKE Field Trip, 2/24/07

By Louise Brown

Dan Chambers led a great trip to Jordan Lake with about a dozen club members. We saw forty-seven species there. On the wonderful Indian Creek Wildlife Trail, thanks to a number of sharp eyes, we saw a number of winter birds, including the elusive Brown Creeper and Hermit Thrush. There were Golden-crowned Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos in abundance. At the edge of the lake we got a look at a distant Bald Eagle nest through a spotting scope, and could see presumably the mother sitting on it. A variety of water birds included a Horned Grebe, in its crisp winter plumage, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, a Great Blue Heron, and a Pied-billed Grebe. As we looped back to the parking area, Dan took us to an area flooded by a beaver dam where we had the good fortune to see a Red-headed Woodpecker in its element, lots of dead trees. We also spotted a Yellow Warbler and a Phoebe there. There was a marina at Ebenezer Church Point where we had lunch and watched Ring-billed Gulls. After that the group went to Farrington Rd where they saw a White Pelican. Along the way we saw Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Cooper's Hawks, Pine and Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Ruddy Ducks and Gadwalls as well as a host of "regular birds."



Red-cockaded
 Woodpecker at
 Nest Cavity

Photo © 2007 by
 Emily Tyler

EASTER 2007 TRIP TO HBSP AND ENVIRONS

Field Trip, 4/6-8/07

By Emily Tyler

Our annual trip over the Easter weekend for the second year in a row was to the Litchfield/Huntington Beach State Park/Georgetown area of coastal S.C. There were twelve participants who made a very congenial group with a lot of expertise, not only in identifying birds but other animals as well as plants. Space will permit only a few highlights of the birds we saw. Friday morning was cool (about 40 degrees) and windy which had an impact on the number of birds seen and heard. We started bright and early at Huntington Beach State Park and spent most of the day exploring the various habitats there. Hanging out in a bare tree top near the Camp Store/Office was a flock of about 60 Cedar Waxwings warming themselves in the morning sun. They were magnificent. A walk along the Atalaya Trail produced a Black-crowned Night Heron along with a variety of shorebirds and passerines. After a picnic lunch half the group hiked the 1.2 miles to the jetty and were rewarded with Purple Sandpipers, lifers for some, as well as Common Loons and a Glossy Ibis. Others chose to spend the afternoon visiting different trails in the Park or Brookwood Gardens. Late in the afternoon we headed to nearby Waccamaw Middle School where we had fabulous views of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker excavating a nest hole just 30-40 feet off the road. What a great way to end the day's birding.

Saturday we went first to Georgetown's Sewage Treatment Plant where there was nothing extraordinary but we enjoyed watching a pair of Wood Ducks, and an assortment of shorebirds and gulls and a distant Egret rookery (both Greats and Snowies). We traveled on to the Samworth Wildlife Management Area north of Georgetown and picked up several warblers, including Perulas, Prairie, Palm, Pine (the 4 Ps), Yellow-throated and Black and White, and Yellow-throated and Red-eyed

- Easter, cont' p. 3

May – July, 2007 Volume 18, No. 2
 Newsletter of the

Piedmont Bird Club

PO Box 38833
 Greensboro, NC 27438-8833

piedmontbirdclub.org

Editor: Louise Brown

Committee Members: Diana Bowman,
 Dan Chambers, Emily Tyler, Denise
 Poulos, Melissa Whitmire

1. Jordan Lake FT*

1. Easter FT*

2. President's Perch

3. DUES !!!

3. Spring Picnic

3. Whitacre's Farm FT*

3. New Officers

4. PBC archives

4. Greensboro Lakes FT*

4. Eagle Update

5. Welcome

5. Membership Form

6. Calendar

*Field Trip

The next deadline for newsletter items
 is Aug. 15, 2007

Contact Louise Brown: 685-5043;
piedmontbirder@triad.rr.com.

OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

President:	Dan Chambers
Vice President:	Judi Durr
Recording	
Secretary:	Diana Bowman
Corresponding	
Secretary:	Peggy Ware
Treasurer:	Lary Treanor
Members-at-Large:	Beth Bursuck
	Terry Woodrow
Past President	Bob Pellettier

From the PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Dan Chambers

This was the sixty-ninth year of the Piedmont Bird Club. As we come to the close of another fun and informative club year, thanks go out to you, the members, who made it possible. There are so many things that members contribute; only a few are highlighted here. We can only do the things we do because you volunteer to be officers, committee chairs and committee members.

For the price of your dues, you get the following in no special order:

The activity we do most is to go birding. The Field Trip Committee scheduled 27 field trips for our members this club year. Four of the trips were out of state. Nine more trips were in state but out of Guilford County. Fourteen trips were scheduled in Guilford County. Trip leaders scout these trips once or twice before the field trip day in an effort to make attendees have a good experience. Thanks to Carolyn and Don Allen, Louise Brown, Judi Durr, Herb Hendrickson, Jane Lewis, Henry Link, Julien McCarthy and Judith Pate, Gregg Morris and Emily Tyler for their time and effort to provide members with diverse birding opportunities.

Our Program Committee provided another year of six great speakers and subjects to increase our interest in the conservation of birds. Thanks to Lynn Moseley and her committee members for making these wonderful informative evenings. Secretary Diana Bowman has taken detailed minutes at these meetings as well as our board meetings. These minutes have been distributed to our membership by Jean Murdick through email. So if you missed the meeting, you can read what happened.

We also had three social functions so we could get together and talk and relax. The Fall Picnic, Holiday Dinner and Spring Picnic are planned by our Social Committee. Thanks to Co-chairs Irene and Joseph Ade and Clare and Mike McSwain for these fun events.

Some of our community involvement is by our Education Committee with displays staffed at four festivals, as well as numerous presentations to groups. An Educational Bog Garden sub-committee plans and produces beautiful, informative bird posters for various places around the county. Thanks to Education Committee Chair Emily Tyler and her



Pres. Perch, con't

committee members, especially Melissa Whitmire who provides the photos and layout for the posters.

We helped improve the environment of our adopted Country Park twice this year. The events are coordinated by the Conservation Committee Chair Cal Weimer. He and his committee also monitor Eastern Bluebird nest boxes within the park. Thanks to committee members for their work.

Continuing with conservation efforts, some of you participated in the Christmas and Spring Bird Counts coordinated by Elizabeth Link and compiled by Herb Hendrickson. Some of you participated in the Hawk Count held at Pilot Mountain State Park. And many of you participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count where your checklists made North Carolina second among the states, reporting the most checklists and ninth in reporting the most species seen. You made Greensboro fourth in the state with the most checklists, more than doubling last year's endeavors. Thanks to each of you for participating in these conservation counts. Data collection is becoming more important as man's environmental impact continues to impact bird populations.

Our Membership Committee Chair Jean Murdick and her committee members have distributed club brochures around the county. Publicity Chair Janet Morien has kept a monthly meeting notice posted at the library as well as a notice in the newspaper. Web site Editor Louise Brown has kept membership applications available online. Members have invited friends and family. Joyce Bartlett and her Telephone Committee helped us keep in contact with members who do not have computers. Secretary Peggy Ware has sent out cards to members when needed. We have 51 new members and 31 new memberships since June 1, 2006. Making new nametags has become a full-time job. With your help we will continue to grow.

For your dues, you receive a Yearbook full of the year's calendar, members' contact information, and a copy of the club's constitution. You receive four newsletters a year with articles and pictures of club activities. You have access



THANK YOU, SCOPE OWNERS!

Our heartfelt thanks to all Piedmont Bird Club spotting scope owners, who so willingly and eagerly share their scopes with the rest of the group on field trips. Everyone gets to have a good look. We who have not had to incur the expense of purchasing a scope or the cumbersome task of carrying it around are extremely grateful for your generosity.

Pres. Perch, con't

to a Web site full of birding information and pictures. Thanks to Louise Brown and her Newsletter/ Website/ Yearbook Committee members for making all of that information available.

The Finance Committee Chair Judi Durr and her committee members kept us on budget and able to pay for the things we need and make donations to speakers' organizations. Treasurer Lary Treanor balances our bank statements and writes the checks.

Next year will be the Club's seventieth anniversary. We have already seen articles and pictures from the past, shared by Susan Weimer and her History and Archives Committee. I know you will look forward to seeing more and next year's celebration.

Sally Howell and her Nominating Committee have presented a fine slate of officers which have been elected to serve, starting at the end of the Spring Picnic. Thanks to each of the officers for being willing to serve our membership. Each of these officers performs duties which allow this club to continue to function and you to enjoy the benefits of membership. Volunteer to chair or join a committee.

Once again, a special thanks to all of the members of the Executive Board and all committee members for the jobs they do to make the Club function. As you can see it takes many people to make the club run. I apologize if I have neglected to thank someone for their contributions. Thanks to each of you members for choosing to join the Piedmont Bird Club.

Good birding,

Dan Chambers



TIME TO PAY DUES !!!

The due date for PBC membership renewal is coming up on June 1, 2007. Honorary Members, Full-time Students, and certain new members* (see below) do not need to pay dues. All others please fill in the membership renewal form located in this newsletter (on page 5) and include it with your check, which can be either mailed to our post office box or given in person to our Treasurer Lary Treanor at the Spring Picnic in May.

Individual Membership... \$15.00

Family Membership... \$20.00

Honorary Membership...no charge

Full-time Students...no charge

Members who have not paid their dues by July 15 will be notified in writing by the Treasurer that their membership will terminate on August 15 if payment has not been received by that date.

This is also an opportunity for us to update our records so that information will be correct in the upcoming Year Book, so please include new phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or any other changes!!

***A MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED PBC SINCE JANUARY 1, 2007**

PBC membership renewal fees are due on June 1, 2007, the beginning of our fiscal year. However, because we made changes in the policy last year, not all new members will owe dues at this time.

- If you joined PBC after January 1, 2007 and paid full dues- \$15 individual, \$20 family - your membership is considered paid through until June 1, 2008.

- If you joined PBC after January 1, 2007 and paid half-rate dues - \$7.50 individual, \$10.00 family - your membership needs to be renewed again by the June 1 deadline.

In order to help eliminate confusion, Treasurer Lary Treanor has sent notices to all new members who need to pay dues. If you are unsure of your status or have any questions, please contact him at ltreator@aol.com, 855-7789; or Membership Chairman Jean Murdick at lonandjean@triad.rr.com, 852-3952.

SPRING PICNIC



The Spring Picnic is on Saturday, May 19th at Shelter #1 in Country Park. The Park is off northbound Lawndale Drive, on the left just past Lake Jeanette Rd. Turn into the entrance marked "Natural Science Center" and drive to the parking lot on the left. Shelter #1 is at the far end of that parking lot.

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. 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!

Coordinators: Clare and Mike McSwain:
282-2834; velvetcrush@triad.rr.com



-Easter, cont' from p.1

Vireos as well as many Blue-grey Gnatcatchers including one pair building a nest. There also were Wild Turkeys and a Pileated Woodpecker to charm us.

On the way back to the Litchfield area we had a great opportunity to study gulls and terns on a sandbar off the south end of Pauley's Island. Several of us then returned to the Middle School before dinner to watch the same Red-cockaded Woodpecker continue her excavations.

Sunday saw most of us at Brookgreen Gardens where we added some new trip birds including a Least Bittern and Marsh Wren. We saw an Anhinga flying over and a large flock of Tree Swallows showing a beautiful blue as they tipped their wings flying back and forth across the marsh. Another amazing sight was of three Wood Duck hens tending their broods of little Woodies. At one time we counted up to 25 ducklings.

This became the trip of the almost-lost hats which were blown off a boardwalk and a bridge to the marsh below. Elsa Bledsoe was the brave and sure-footed soul who rescued Ann Walter-Fromson's new Audubon hat by using a log and a board, moving one ahead of the other, and a stick for balance, to walk out gingerly across the marsh without

- Easter, cont' p. 5

WHITACRE'S FARM

Field Trip, 3/17/07

By Louise Brown

Carolyn Allen led the group to the lovely property of Trudy and David Whitacre in northwestern Guilford County. They were delightful and eager hosts, sharing their property with our Club again. The land provides a variety of habitats, open fields, lots of shrubs and trees, and a small pond. Adjacent to the Lake Higgins buffer, there was also a nice trail through the pine and mixed hardwood forest. We saw a variety of birds, newly emerging wildflowers, several kinds of fungi and other intriguing natural wonders. Our list included Great Blue Herons, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Northern Flickers, Eastern Phoebe, both Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches, Juncos and Pine Warblers as well as a number of other more common birds. After a nice walk through the woods we had coffee and snacks provided by our hosts.

Congratulations New Officers for 2007-2008!

At the April meeting, Sally Howell presented the following slate of officers, who were duly elected with no "nays!"

President:	Susan Weimer
Vice President:	Beth Bursuck
Recording Secretary:	Diana Bowman
Corresponding Secretary:	Peggy Ware
Treasurer:	Lary Treanor
Members-at-Large:	Don Allemann Jim Strickland
Past President	Dan Chambers



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Nest
Photo © 2007 by Emily Tyler



FROM THE PBC ARCHIVES

By Susan Weimer, *History and Archives Chair*

Excerpt from a presentation to Piedmont Bird Club of Greensboro, North Carolina, February 17, 1983 entitled "The Birds and I" by Etta Schiffman

[MY] CARDINAL

I had a habit of giving peanuts to some of the birds, and one day I gave several to a titmouse who came flying in when I called to get the nuts I threw to him. A beautiful male cardinal watched from a fence post nearby, he fluttered toward me several times. It was plain he was asking for a peanut. So I dropped one at my feet, and sure enough the cardinal retrieved it. That was the beginning of a friendship between the bird and me. I was teaching at that time, and in the afternoons when I came home and backed my car into the garage, he would flutter around my shoulders. Of course I knew what he wanted, so I would go in the house and return with a peanut for him. This routine was not unobserved. One day a young boy about 12 stopped by to tell me he knew where my cardinal roosted every night – under the awning of the house diagonally across the street, he said.

Once my cardinal hopped upon the back porch and stretched himself up enough so that he could peep over the bottom of the kitchen screen door. Yes, there I was, just as he thought I would be. Of course he got his reward. He must have thought I had forgotten him.

One day it started snowing in the middle of the morning and school was dismissed at noon so students and teachers could get home. Ordinarily I could drive home in about 15 minutes, but by the time I got around all the stalled traffic that was slipping and sliding in the snow, it was well into the afternoon and the snow must have been more than an inch deep. My home was on the corner of Washington and Eugene Streets and I was going south on Eugene. As I crossed Washington, I decided not to try to drive up my rather steep driveway, so I parked on Eugene, across the street from my house. My cardinal friend evidently had been watching for me. I guess he recognized my car. At any rate, before I could get out of the car, there he was fluttering at my shoulder. "Wait for me in the garage," I said to him, and that is just what he did. He was rewarded with a whole handful of peanuts.

That was in the winter of 1958. The day after Christmas I moved to my present home on Bluemont Drive. But I could not desert my bird friends in the middle of the winter, so I made regular trips back to my old home to fill the feeders and put out goodies for the wildlife. I do hope my cardinal friend fared all right. Some folks say he followed me to my new home. But he couldn't, could he?



Greater White-fronted Goose

Guilford Co. Feb. 2007

Photo © 2007 By Lou Scrabek

GREENSBORO LAKES

Field Trip, 3/24/07

by Elizabeth Link

We had a great turnout for the trip, and while some of the hoped-for waterfowl weren't to be found, we had a total of 57 species, including a Common Loon in breeding plumage, a surprise Great Egret and Green Heron, and of course the Bald Eagles and Osprey, tending nests.

Other notable species: Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Pine Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco.

EAGLE UPDATE

Apr. 23, 2007

As of mid-April, two very large eaglets were still in the nest, but practicing their flying skills and preparing for departure. Fledging should occur before this newsletter reaches club members, but the young birds will remain in the immediate area of the nest for some weeks to come.

-Lynn Moseley



Immature Bald Eagle

Photo © 2007 By
Dennis Burnette



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841-2572

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!



Osprey

Photo © 2007 By Dennis Burnette
(This image was also used to make the "bullets" found after several articles in this newsletter)



**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS!**

We look forward to sharing our upcoming activities with these newest new members!

NEW MEMBERS

- Benson, Cynthia R**
- Fraddock, Chris**
- Icenhower, Katie Jo**
- Jones, Robert**
- Kopack, Peter & Carol**
- Mock, Melinda**
- Morris, Ron & Judy**
- Outhwaite, Fran**
- Robbins, Earl & Suzanne**

More new Members!

Sarsfield, Betty K & Patrick
45 Creswell Court 27407
sars@bellsouth.net

CHANGES

Bowles, John and Gay New e-mail
johnandgay.bowles@gmail.com

Shafer, Eric New e-mail address:
janeric@bellsouth.net



-Easter, cont' from p. 1

sinking in the mud. While lying on the bridge Linda Langworthy used two long Phamites canes like tweezers to carefully lift Emily's Cape May cap from the muck at Morgan Park. Just a little brushing after the mud dried and the two hats came out unscathed. How nice it is to have such resourceful people on our trips!

Despite the weather which was most unspring-like and the fact that Easter this year was a week earlier than last year we felt very fortunate to have seen 111 species while birding as a group. Another five species were added by individuals or couples after the group split up Sunday afternoon and headed their separate ways, giving us a grand total of 116 species.



Calendar, cont.' from p. 6

Saturday, August 4

Field Trip: Greensboro Lakes, Part #3 for shorebirds and Black Terns. Depending upon rainfall and manipulation of water levels by water authorities, this could be a good time to find shorebirds on mud flats around the Greensboro reservoirs and feeder creeks. We also will look for migrating Black Terns. Details of this trip will be announced via e-mail prior to the trip, or contact the trip leader. Leader: Henry Link. 273-4672, linkh@bellsouth.net

Saturday, August 25

Field Trip: Archie Elledge Wastewater Treatment Plant, Winston-Salem. We will travel west to look for migrating shorebirds. This trip is now accessible to our Club again. It has been described as "the best site in the Triad for migrating shorebirds." Leader: Dan Chambers. Instructus@aol.com

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 8

Fall Picnic: Details later



Sora Rail
Guilford Co. Apr. 2007
Photo © 2007 By Melissa Whitmire

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Individual (\$15.00)___ Family (\$20.00)___ New___ Renewal___

Our fiscal year is from June 1st to May 31st. Mail payment to:

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB - PO Box 38833 - Greensboro, NC 27438-8833

Calendar

Reminder: If you are interested in going on a field trip, always contact the trip leader prior to the trip. That way you will be informed of last minute changes or cancellations, or the leader may need to modify plans according to the number of attendees.



Programs (unless otherwise noted) are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, October -- April, at the **Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library**, 1420 Price Park Road, Greensboro



Saturday, May 5

Spring Bird Count. Help is needed! Novices are welcome for all or part of the day to count within the designated 15-mile circle. Birding is mostly by car and short hikes. The tally is the next day at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Compiler: Herb Hendrickson; Assignments Coordinator: Elizabeth Link. 273-4672, baddogi@yahoo.com

Thursday, May 10-Sunday, May 13

Field Trip: West Virginia. Due to health issues, this trip has regretfully been cancelled, with the intention of trying again next year.

Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20

Carolina Bird Club Spring Meeting, Flat Rock, NC. Join birders from both Carolinas for evening programs and day trips. See their Web site for complete information: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>

Saturday, May 19

Field Trip: Warblers and other spring migrants, Fisher Park and Starmount Forest/Hamilton Lakes Park; We will begin the morning at Fisher Park at 7:30 a.m. This old-style city park in a residential area just north of the central business district of Greensboro traditionally has been one of our best spots for neotropical migrants. Fisher Park Leaders: Carolyn & Don Allen. We will then continue the trip at Starmount Forest/Hamilton Lakes Park. This community-owned heavily wooded park in a local residential section of Greensboro has become the best spot in the county for neotropical migrants. Starmount Leaders: Henry & Elizabeth Link. 273-4672, baddogi@yahoo.com, linkh@bellsouth.net

Saturday, May 19

SPRING PICNIC, Greensboro Country Park, Shelter #1. Bird walk, 5:30; dinner, 6:00. Bring a covered dish; beverages will be provided. Park at the end of the Natural Science Center Parking Lot. More details, p. 5. Picnic Coordinator: Clare McSwain. 282-2834, velvetcrush@triad.rr.com

Saturday, May 26

Field Trip: Flycatchers in Ashe County and on the New River. This is an all-day trip to look for Empidonax flycatchers as well as orioles and warblers in the best area for these species near the Triad. Meet at 7:15 a.m. to car pool; contact the leader for the location. Leader: Herb Hendrickson. 288-0271, hhendrickson@triad.rr.com

-see *Calendar*, con't on p. 5



Piedmont Bird Club

PO Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833

Label here



**DON'T FORGET!!!
SPRING PICNIC**

**SATURDAY May 19th 5:30 PM
COUNTRY PARK, SHELTER #1
BRING A COVERED DISH!**

More details page 5

