



Red-tailed Hawk  
Photo © 2004 by Lou Skrabec



# The Piedmont Birder

## Foster Falls State Park

Field Trip September 16

By Julien McCarthy

Excellent car-pooling narrowed us down to only three vehicles so we easily traveled about two hours up Rte. 77 N to Foster Falls State Park on the New River. We walked up to the Shot Tower Park and back on the New River Trail, about three miles total. There were a dozen club members, led by Julien McCarthy and Judith Pate.

The various water birds seen included the Great Blue Heron, Canada Geese, Mallard, Osprey, and Belted Kingfisher. Many Tree Swallows darted all over, chasing insects over the water and perching on wires.

We heard or saw five species of woodpeckers, including the Red-headed, Pileated and Northern Flicker. Raptors included Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk and Turkey Vulture. Dark-eyed Juncos were present, also Brown-headed Cowbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos and Chipping Sparrows.

We also enjoyed seeing other wildlife, including two unique wasps digging their burrows furiously into the trail. There were dew-laden spider webs, praying mantises, wonderful sheer cliffs, great river views and a decent floral bloom to experience, too. We found time to visit with saddle horses and to re-visit the Baltimore Oriole nest we discovered there on the WV excursion last June (although abandoned it was still quite well situated and firmly in place).

Visiting this park is scheduled for the final day of the WV field trip in May, 2007, during the peak of the spring migration and the peak of the floral bloom as well. Thanks to the wonderful "sharing of strengths" by everyone as we enjoyed this beautiful day !!!



## Pilot Mountain State Park

Hawk Watch 2006

By Dan Chambers



Osprey "kiting"  
Photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire  
(This image was used to make the "bullets" that appear in this issue)

In August, Phil Dickinson, president of the Audubon Society of Forsyth County, contacted me requesting help with the Pilot Mountain Hawk Watch. In memory of Ramona Snaveley, the chapter wanted to restart the work done by Toby Gordon for 14 years. Ramona was one of the first to notice the raptor migration over the Little Pinnacle at Pilot Mountain.

I am proud to say that our club members responded to my request for help in this important conservation event. Since 1938, Piedmont Bird Club (PBC) has studied and helped maintain records of occurrence and abundance of birds in our area. Twenty-two club members and friends helped count migrating raptors from September 15 through September 30. We had a total of 4,875 raptors observed during this time. Access the Web Site for more details:

[http://hawkcount.org/month\\_summary.php?site=306&go=Go+to+site](http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?site=306&go=Go+to+site)

Thanks go to members Don Alle-  
mann, Carolyn and Don Allen, Mike

*Hawk, cont.' on p 4.*

Nov. 2006 – Jan. 2007 Volume 17,  
No. 4

Newsletter of the

### Piedmont Bird Club

PO Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833

[piedmontbirdclub.org](http://piedmontbirdclub.org)

Editor: Louise Brown

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

1. Foster Falls SP\* FT\*\*
1. Pilot Mountain SP
2. President's Perch
2. Count: One, Two, Three
2. W-S Wastewater TP FT
2. Country Park Report
3. Thanksgiving Trip
3. Holiday Dinner
3. Slide Show
4. Historian's Corner
4. Education Com. Report
5. Welcome
5. Membership Form
6. Calendar

\*State Park

\*\*Field Trip

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

Contact Louise Brown: 685-5043;  
[piedmontbirder@triad.rr.com](mailto: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

Our club year got off to a great start with our Fall Picnic on September 9. Dane Hill had Shelter #4 cleaned and tables covered. Our Social Committee Co-chairs, Irene Ade and Clare McSwain, organized the drinks and utensils, and deserve our many thanks. Thirty-six members attended for a great time, enough people that we are requesting a larger shelter next year.

The minutes of that business meeting were sent to all by email. An important part of this meeting was the presentation of the new Yearbook. Each year, it is dedicated to a member who has performed good and long service to the Club. Emily Tyler did the honors, surprising Jean Murdick with the well-deserved honor for the many tasks she has performed as Membership Committee Chair and in general as a club member. Please see page 5 of the Yearbook for more details. Many thanks again to Jean for all that she does to help us be successful!

We have had members enjoy field trips to Foster Falls State Park, VA, Pilot Mountain State Park, NC, and Bur-Mil Park, Greensboro. As this article goes to print we will travel to the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center in Scotland Neck, NC. Thanks to our field trip leaders who make these outings winners!

The Education Committee displayed PBC materials and interacted with the public at Bur-Mil Park's Fall Festival on October 14. We did the same on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the New Garden Nursery Harvest Festival. The committee's posters are now displayed at the Bog Garden, Bur-Mil Park, Girls Scouts Tarheel Triad Learning Center and the new kiosk at Country Park. Look for these informative and colorful posters when you visit. You will have a sense of pride knowing that your club is responsible for these materials and being available to talk with the public at these events.

We had a successful renewal of the Hawk Watch at Pilot Mountain with many members involved in the count. We have another opportunity to collect conservation data during our Christmas Bird Count on December 16. Contact Elizabeth Link about participating.

*Perch, cont.' on p. 4*

## Christmas Count: One Little, Two Little, Three Little Starlings

Please help us count birds. The Piedmont Bird Club is once again participating in the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count, and we need counters. Some of our teams have only one member, which makes for a difficult task and takes some of the fun out of it. We can use both experienced and novice birders. New birders can contribute a valuable service by helping to spot birds and maintaining the checklist, or simply watching their backyard feeders and recording what they see. The field count is an excellent way to gain experience and learn your birds, as well as a good opportunity to become better acquainted with fellow club members. Plus, it is FUN; the day flies by.

This year we will be counting on Saturday, December 16. Please contact Count Coordinator Elizabeth Link at 273-4672 or baddogi@yahoo.com if you would be willing to help us with this activity. If you can't participate the whole day, you may want to volunteer to spend an hour or more on that Saturday watching your feeder and recording the birds you see there.

- Jean Murdick



Jean Murdick and husband Lon  
at the Yearbook dedication

Photo by Dan Chambers

## Country Park Report

By Cal Weimer

The turnout at Country Park for our Fall Cleanup day was fantastic. Besides Susan and me, at least thirteen other people were there. I thank you, and the park manager and his crew thank you.

I looked at the new Kiosk and discovered it is not rainproof. Our poster was slightly curled up. The Kiosk needs a shelter built over it. I'll look into that.



## Winston-Salem Wastewater Treatment Plant

Field Trip August 26

By Louise Brown



Wilson's Plover

Photo © by Dan Chambers

Dan Chambers called an impromptu field trip for the PBC board members to the Winston-Salem Wastewater Treatment Plant. Five members attended, including Dan. He was hoping that we would all get to see the Black Terns he had seen there on a previous occasion, but that did not happen. However, we were pleasantly surprised to see several "good" shorebirds; Wilson's Plover, Solitary, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, as well as a Wilson's (formerly the Common) Snipe. We had a startling experience with an immature Cooper's Hawk. It jumped up off the ground about 20 yards from us, and flew straight towards us, veering slightly off to the right just as we thought it was going to **!Whoa!** hit us in the face. Other good birds were a Downy Woodpecker feeding on a dried mullein stalk, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting and Field Sparrows. After the WWTP we cruised by the Greensboro Lakes where, at the Lake Higgins Marina, we saw an Osprey catch a fish on its third dive and a lone Laughing Gull. We observed 45 species in all.



Paul Morien and Cal Weimer inspecting  
birdhouses at Country Park

Photo by Dan Chambers

## Thanksgiving Trip

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and Bull's Island

Thurs., Nov. 23 – Sun. Nov. 26, 2006

Please contact **Don and Carolyn Allen, the trip leaders (288-3045) if you are interested in going.** We will stay at the Best Western, Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC, unless we (the Allens) notify otherwise. For reservations call: 888-865-5455. Phone # for the motel: 843-971-7070. We have negotiated group rates and plan to arrive on Wed., Nov. 23.

Tentative plan for **Thursday: The Pitt Street Causeway**, now called the "Pickett Bridge Recreation Area." Shore birding here is excellent when the tide is low. We will provide directions to this location.

**Sullivan's Island.** Bird in and around the Recreation Area. Possible late migrants, sparrows and Sedge Wrens in brushy, low, wet fields. Continue to **Fort Moultrie.** The marshy area on the "back" side of the parking lot offers some shore birding. The ocean beach may have sea ducks, loons, grebes, shore birds, and the rocky groins have turnstones and, rarely, Purple Sandpipers.

**Friday: The Bull's Island trip.** We will gather at 8 a.m. in ample time to reach the dock for the 9 a.m. trip. Two ferry trips are available from Garris Landing: Depart at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; leave Bull Island 12 noon and 4 p.m. The ferry ride cost for adults is \$30, payable at the dock with cash or checks, **NO** credit cards. They do **not** take reservations.

The terrain is varied with trails, ponds, ocean beach, and a viewing platform. There are restrooms but no water. Visitors must carry everything needed: appropriate clothing for warmth and rain, water, food, insect repellent, sunscreen and whatever else useful or needed. You can spend the day or make a half-day trip. For those who don't wish to make the Bull's Island trip, there are several alternatives for land birding.

**Saturday:** may lead to revisiting several of the other sites if the birding has been good. At least two locations on Charleston's immediate coast may be worth exploring, James Island and Folly Island. Magnolia Garden is another possibility but is pricey: \$14 per person and \$7 for each additional tour.

**Sunday:** "Birding on your own" with a possible stop at the Audubon Four Holes Swamp Refuge on the way home.

## Holiday Dinner & Members' Slide Show

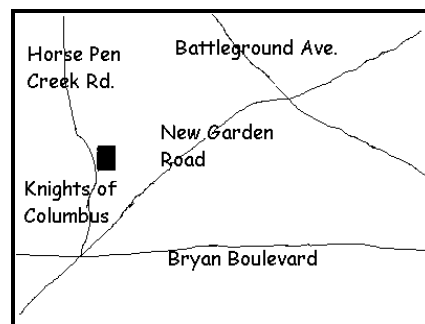


Our dinner will be on **Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Road. Members of the KOC Catering Committee will prepare a sit-down turkey dinner with dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, string beans, carrots, gravy, rolls and butter, peach cobbler with ice cream. The price is \$17.00, including gratuity and tax. **Reservations are required. Please make them by Friday, Dec. 1. Contact Irene Ade: 656-9974 or irenenjosephade@netzero.net**

For the slide show you may bring **about 20** slides of nature-oriented subjects. For details, please read the article on the next column. Dennis Burnette (299-4342, deburnette@triad.rr.com) is the slide show coordinator.

Mail checks for \$17 for the holiday dinner to the Piedmont Bird Club address (on the return address label of this newsletter.)

From downtown Greensboro, take Bryan Boulevard to the New Garden Road/Guilford College exit; stay in the middle lane and go straight through the light to Horse Pen Creek Road, continue 1½ miles to the Knights of Columbus Hall on the right. If coming from the west, take New Garden/Guilford College exit and turn left on New Garden at the light. Get in the left lane and turn left at the next light onto Horse Pen Creek Road. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



## Members' Photos for Holiday Dinner

At our annual holiday dinner we will again be entertained by photographs by our own members. Traditional film slides, photographic prints, and digital images are all welcome. Now is the time to select **about 20** of your best photos to share at the dinner. No matter what format you use for your photos, we need to know what equipment you'll need in order to show them. For digital photos we must reserve a computer and projector. We would appreciate it if you would avoid bringing a disk full of pictures and try to sort through them at the dinner. If you plan to bring traditional film slides, we must provide a slide projector. It would be most convenient if you could have them already loaded in a slide tray, but let us know if you want us to bring an empty one for you. There also is a place for members who have their photos made into prints. Please mount your photos in a small album that can be displayed or passed around.

Subject matter for your photos may be any nature or Club-related theme. Birds are always welcome, of course, as well as other creatures, flowers and plants, geological formations, etc. It is not necessary for them to have been made in the Carolinas or USA, so if you went on a fabulous birding trip this year, you could share 20 or so of your best photos with us.

If you plan to bring your pictures to the Members' Photo Show, please contact **Dennis Burnette: 299-4342, deburnette@triad.rr.com.**



1589-134 Skeet Club Road  
High Point, NC 27265  
841-2572

433 Pisgah Church Road  
Greensboro, NC 27455  
282-4458

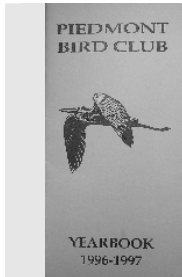
PBC members get a 10% discount on all regularly priced items in the store- mention your membership **BEFORE** you make a purchase!




## FROM THE PBC ARCHIVES

By Susan Weimer, *History and Archives Chair*


### 10 years ago - - -

	<b>President:</b>	Charlie Campbell
	<b>Vice President:</b>	Weslyn Strickland
	<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Sally Howell
	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Lynn Burnette
	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Chip Prarie
	<b>Members-at-Large:</b>	Sharon Eagan Delores Heiney

### 20 years ago - - -

	<b>President:</b>	Virginia Bell Vanstory
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	Emily Tyler
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	Jack Heath
	<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Carole Butenhoff
	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Helen Black
	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Darl Tipton
	<b>Members-at-Large:</b>	Herb Hendrickson John Schoonover

### 30 years ago . . .

	<b>President:</b>	Benjamin Lambeth
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	Tom Street
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	Virginia Bell
	<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Sally Howell
	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Lib Morrison
	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Helen Zuk
	<b>Members-at-Large:</b>	Kathryn Lambeth Marge Tays

## Education Committee Report

By Emily Tyler

The Education Committee is having a busy fall. On October 14 we staffed the PBC exhibit at the Bur-Mil Park Fall Festival. Estimates of visitors to our display ranged from 100 to 150 (it's hard to count a moving target!). Many children demonstrated a keen interest in birds and did very well on our bird trivia quiz.

Special thanks to members Janet Morien, Pat Bradley and Dan Chambers who helped me cover the five-hour period. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed sharing our knowledge and love of birds with like-minded people.

Another exhibit took place October 28 at the New Garden Nursery and Landscaping Harvest Festival from 10 to 5. In November we will be speaking to

the West Ridge Garden Club and we have other invitations for which we haven't pinned down a time yet. If you would be willing to help out with a presentation, please let me know.

Guilford College has donated 264 slides representing 244 species which increases our slide collection by 400%. We are grateful to Lynn Moseley for facilitating this gift and to Dan who is cataloging the slides.

Another beautiful poster developed by Melissa Whitmire has been posted, featuring the Great Blue Heron. Our educational posters are now in four places, the Bog Garden, Bur-Mil Park, Country Park and the Girl Scouts Tarheel Triad Learning Center.

*Hawk, cont.' from p 1.*

Collins, Scott DePue, Phillip Kellam, Lynn Moseley, Judith Pate, Liz Schmid, Jim Strickland, and Mary and Terry Woodrow for volunteering a day of their busy schedule to help count. Special thanks to the following members who were able to volunteer on more than one day: Phil Crisp [4], Herb Hendrickson [2], Julien McCarthy [3], Paul Morien [3], Gregg, Morris [4], Tara O'Leary [4], and Melissa Whitmire [4]. I apologize if I have forgotten to recognize someone.

Judi Durr led a joint field trip of PBC, Piedmont Land Conservancy and T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon to Pilot Mountain State Park on September 23. Some of the attendees came by to visit our hawk watch on that very foggy day. Lynn Moseley brought her class from Guilford College to observe our field work on September 21. Thanks to both Judi and Lynn for including the hawk count in their day's activities and exposing members of their groups to this important conservation effort.

It is rewarding, but not surprising, to know that club members are willing to add the observation of September raptor migration to their Christmas and Spring Bird Counts and the Great Backyard Bird Count data collection endeavors. We are continuing 68 years of bird conservation tradition. If you have not done so already, put one or all of these activities on your calendar. Come help us and join in the fun.



*Perch, cont.' from p. 2*

I hope you joined us for our October program at our new meeting place at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Library or for our cleanup at Country Park. We are trying to provide you with a variety of opportunities to enjoy your club. Take advantage of these chances to get outdoors and enjoy the environment. See what future events are offered in our Calendar and come join in the fun!



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS!**

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

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Lamy, Brenda**

**Persons, Debbie**

**Redmond, Lynne**

**Wheaton, George R.**

**RETURNING MEMBER:**

**Robertson, Kay**



Northern Flicker, Male  
Photo © by Melissa Whitmire

*Calendar, cont.' from p. 6*

**Saturday, December 9**

**Field Trip: Piedmont Environmental Center – South Preserve.** We will travel to this environmental education center to bird some of its eleven miles of trails through hardwood and pine forests along the shores of High Point City Lake. Leader: Dan Chambers, [instructus@aol.com](mailto:instructus@aol.com)

**Saturday, December 16**

**Christmas Bird Count** — Teams will count birds in assigned areas within the designated 15-mile circle. Some teams need new counters for all or part of the day, and new birders are welcome.

Mostly riding or mostly walking, depending on team assignment. Bring a hot drink and binoculars; dress for weather. The tally is the following afternoon at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Compiler: Herb Hendrickson; Assignments Coordinator: Elizabeth Link, 273-4672, [baddogi@yahoo.com](mailto:baddogi@yahoo.com). **Details on page 2.**

**Saturday, January 6**

**Field Trip: Winter birds, Greensboro Landfill at the end of White Street.**

The trip leader will make special arrangements for our birding group to enter this facility where her bird count team has spotted several species of sparrows, raptors, both species of vultures, and other interesting birds in past winters. We'll meet in the parking lot of Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:30 a.m. to car pool. This is important so that our birding group's cars will not interfere with the trucks that are the regular traffic at the landfill. We also will have an opportunity to consolidate further at the parking area at the landfill office. Please contact the trip leader if you plan to attend. Leader: Carolyn Allen, 288-3045, [texallennc@aol.com](mailto:texallennc@aol.com).

*Cont' next column*



**Saturday - Monday, January 13-15 (M.L. King Holiday weekend)**

**Field Trip: Audubon NC Pine Island Sanctuary and Outer Banks**

This will be a joint trip with T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon to the 6,000-acre sanctuary on the northern outer banks near Sanderling. The trip will not be restricted to Pine Island but will also feature other, perhaps better-known, locations on the outer banks. Leader: Gregg Morris. 883-3270, [gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov](mailto:gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov).

**Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.**

**MEETING: Eco-Quest Tours.** Eco-tourism and Conservation in Uganda and Rwanda: Tales from the Pearl of Africa by Dave Davenport. Dave is a herpetologist, an excellent birder, and the president of Eco-Quest Tours. He has visited every continent of the world as a leader of natural history tours, and has done research on species ranging from marine fish to mountain gorillas.

His presentation will describe the impact of ecotourism – specifically to see mountain gorillas – in Uganda and Rwanda. He will conclude with a visual safari emphasizing the mammals and birds of these two African countries.

*Bird of the Season: Horned Grebe*

**Saturday, January 20**

**Field Trip: Salem Lake.** We will travel to the largest body of water in Forsyth County to look for gulls, loons, ducks and other winter birds. Leader: Dan Chambers, [instructus@aol.com](mailto:instructus@aol.com)

**Friday January 26 – Sunday, January 28**

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.



## !! There is a change in our meeting place !!



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

### Saturday, November 11

**Field Trip: Bird walk at the Bog Garden.** Meet at the Garden at 8:30 a.m. To date, our club has identified 115 species at this great little wetland. Leader: Louise Brown. 685-5043, piedmontbirder@triad.rr.com

### Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.

**MEETING: Digiscoping and other uses of technology for birding.** Melissa Whitmire, PBC member and professional photographer, presents an entertaining and informative program revealing some of her secrets for capturing up-close and personal shots of our feathered friends.

*Bird of the Season:* Northern Harrier

### Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 23-26 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

**Field Trip: South Carolina Coast.** We will travel to the Charleston area to take advantage of the many birding sites along the coast. One highlight will be a day trip by boat to Bull Island National Wildlife Reserve. Leader: Carolyn Allen. 288-3045, texallennc@aol.com **Details on page 3.**

### ~~Saturday, December 2~~ - Sunday, December 3 – **Date Changed from Saturday because of hunting**

**Field Trip: Birkhead Mountains Wilderness Area.** We will travel to an area of the Uwharrie National Forest. Because of the Wilderness designation, the trails here are off-limits to all but foot travel. We will bird some of the trails and have lunch (**which you must bring, along with water and/or other drinks.**). This is a joint field trip with T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon. Leader: Dan Chamber,. Instructus@aol.com

### Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 pm

**MEETING: Annual Holiday Dinner and Members' Slide Show.** Dinner 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus on Horse Pen Creek Rd. Reservations required. Dinner coordinator: Irene Ade, 656-9974, irenenjosephade@netzero.net. Slide show coordinator: Dennis Burnette, 299-4342, deburnette@ triad.rr.com. **Details on page 3.**

-see Calendar, con't on p. 5



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

label here

 **DON'T FORGET!!**   
**Make your reservations**  
for the  
**HOLIDAY DINNER**  
 **December 5**   
DETAILS PAGE 3