



David Quinn

Tennessee Warbler



The Piedmont Birder



Roger Tory Robinson
Broad-winged Hawk



Holiday Dinner & Members' Slide Show

This year our dinner will be Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:00 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Road. Members of the Knights of Columbus Catering Committee will cater a full turkey dinner with all the fixings from salad to dessert. The price for this lovely feast is \$17.00 (includes gratuity and tax.) Reservations are required. Please make them by Sunday, Nov. 30. Contact Irene Ade:

Phone: 656-9974

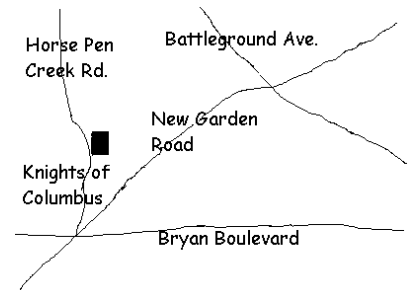
E-mail: irenenjosephade@netzero.net

Our program will have a theme this year: *Holiday Birds in the Tropics*. We will feature slides made by our members during their trips to the tropical parts of the Americas, the Caribbean, and even south Florida. If you have visited any of these areas, bring up to 25 or so slides of nature-oriented subjects. Dennis Burnette (299-4342, or e-mail burnette@aol.com) is the slide show coordinator.

Mail checks for \$17 for holiday dinner to the Piedmont Bird Club address at the top left of this page, or give them to Susan Weimer at the next club meeting.

Take Bryan Boulevard south 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 1/2 miles to the Knights of Columbus Hall on the right.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Nov. 2003-Jan. 2004
Volume 14, Number 4

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 Jan. 15, 2004. 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 piedmontbirder@aol.com.

PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES WELCOME!

Officers

President:	Emily Tyler
Vice President:	Bob Pellettier
Recording Secretary:	Carol Pellettier
Corresponding Secretary:	Helen Black
Treasurer:	Susan Weimer
Members-at-Large:	Jane Lewis Judie Underkoffler

HAWK WATCH PART I: Mahogany Rock 9/20/03

The trip to Mahogany Rock, led by Phillip Kellam, was not a great one for hawks, who were apparently taking the day off after Hurricane Isabel, but we had other good birding adventures. The weather was beautiful, as Jim Keighton reported "A cold front stalled right on the ridge and became a stationary front producing a clear sky with light southeast winds but much drier air."

Jim Keighton, the official counter for the Mahogany Rock site, reported 40 Broadwings and one Bald Eagle and 2 unidentified raptors for the entire day. Daily reports for all the hawk counting sites (Well over 100!) can be found on the Hawk Count web site, <http://hawkcount.org/index.php>. One must admire the dedication of the official counters, for they spend long days watching and counting the migrating hawks, mostly tiny dots in the sky, and logging in their information!

Back to our excursion, we stayed at the hawk observation point for a while, getting to see a number of Broadwings (mostly tiny dots) as they cruised south. One club member got there way before the bulk of us and got to see a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Restless with the low activity of raptors, we took a hike up to the top of Mahogany Rock, a short, steep climb, and were rewarded with a flurry of birds. There were quite a few Tennessee, Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers, feeding in the short trees up there, so we got fairly good looks at them. Other warblers sighted were Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Black-and-White. Other migrants seen included Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a Scarlet Tanager.

-Hawk, cont' p. 3

From the President's Perch by Emily Tyler

Fall has arrived and we are into our new season of programs and field trips. Thanks to Lynn Moseley and Dennis Burnette, respectively, and their committees, for planning and arranging such an array of exciting events for the coming year. Our Fall Picnic on September 13 at Hagan-Stone Park was well attended and the delicious dishes were enjoyed by all. During the brief business meeting which followed, the 2003-2004 Yearbook was dedicated posthumously to Barbara Jones.

Fall migration is nearly complete. Notable birds passing through Greensboro included a Wilson's Warbler spotted by the Links in their back yard. They also located a very cooperative Black-billed Cuckoo in Star-mountain Park on October 4th. The first-year bird, at eye level, remained in full view for more than an hour, long enough to get a photograph. Henry reports that the fall migration in Starmount was not outstanding this year. Over a period of about ten days, however, he saw five Philadelphia Vireos, which was rare. On a couple of days he saw up to nine species of warbler when, in previous years, it was as high as fifteen. Other species observed were most of the thrushes and vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and both tanagers.

Did you observe a decline or absence of some of our summer residents this year? I have had Wood Thrush, and Scarlet and Summer Tanagers singing and nesting in my yard and nearby woods for the twenty-one years I've lived here. This year I heard them calling a time or two in the yard. Occasionally they were heard from quite a distance. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo also has been a reliable bird in the woods adjacent to my neighborhood. Only a couple of times this summer did I hear its distant call. It is very sad indeed to think this might be a permanent population shift. What can be done to (at least) slow down the decline of neotropical migrants? To think that future generations may not see and hear these magnificent creatures is a thought too grim to bear.

The Club exhibited at two recent events, an Environmental Education Fair at Lake Higgins and the Audubon Chapter's Discovery Day at the Audubon Natural Area. The latter drew perhaps 70 biology students from several local high schools as well as a few families with children. Many thanks to all who helped increase the visibility of the Club and educate the public about birds and the environment.

Damage from Hurricane Isabel may affect our Thanksgiving weekend trip to Lake Matamuskeet and Plymouth. It may be canceled or shifted to another location. Dennis Burnette will keep us informed. Stay tuned.



PBC T-SHIRTS

The Membership Committee has plans underway to offer a Piedmont Bird Club t-shirt and sweatshirt for sale. Jean Murdick, Membership Chairman, sent out an e-mail cry for help with the design and among the many excellent suggestions she received was an offer from a professional graphic designer, Jessie Lester of Lestergraphics, to create the design. Jessie is the son-in-law of PBC member Judi Durr. (Thanks, Judi.)

Look for more about this soon, and plan to buy one for yourself and some for your friends!

-Jean Murdick



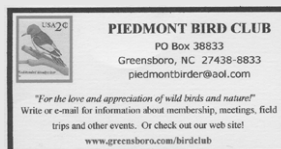
Jean Murdick contact information:
Phone: 852-3952
E-mail: lonandjean@triad.rr.com



PBC Business Cards Available

The Piedmont Bird Club now has business cards, designed and printed by Louise Brown, which contain our address and Web address. They provide an opportunity to promote our club should it come up in conversation (and it will as soon as folks see you in your stylish new PBC SHIRT).

If you would like to carry a few, they are available at the nametag table at club meetings, or contact Jean Murdick or Louise Brown. The cards are in color.



Triad Regional Park

10/11/03

By chance members of the Piedmont Bird Club, led by Dennis Burnette, met up with those of the Forsyth Audubon Chapter on this outing. Liz Schmid was the leader of that group. Triad Regional Park is fairly new, located near Colfax, on 421 west of Greensboro, a perfect meeting spot for the neighboring clubs. It includes a variety of habitats: hardwoods, pine woods, open areas and some wonderful marshy spots. 25 species of birds were observed, including a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia, Palm and Cape May Warblers, a Swamp Sparrow and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.



NEED A RIDE?

If you are missing out on PBC meetings because you no longer drive or no longer drive at night, check out the following list. These PBC Members have indicated that they would be happy to provide a ride to club functions that they are attending. Look for a driver who lives near you and give her/him a call to make arrangements.

Ann Walter-Fromson 27408 - the Green Valley neighborhood

Jean Murdick 27408 - the Green Valley neighborhood (I don't mind going out of my way if you don't live close.)

Mary Hess 27405 - the Aycok Historic District

Judie Underkoffler 27301 - McLeansville, NC

Dierdre Poe 27410 - off Fleming Rd.

Susan & Cal Weimer 27455 - Lawndale Dr., Country Park area

If you would like to add your name to the list of volunteer drivers, please contact Jean Murdick.



Saturday, December 20

• **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. Assignments Coordinator: Elizabeth Link; Compiler: Don Allen; Computer Recorder: Lynn Moseley.

Saturday, January 10

• **FIELD TRIP: Here's Something Different** - let's go look for sparrows in western Forsyth County. We'll explore the interestingly-named Dinkin's Bottom along the Yadkin River in search of White-crowned, Swamp, White-throated, and Song Sparrows. We'll meet in the parking lot of Congregational United Church of Christ at 7:45 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Royce Hough of Forsyth Audubon. Ph. 765-8946, E-mail: Crhough@aol.com

Thursday, January 15

• **MEETING: Birds of England and Wales**, Dennis and Lynn Burnette. Our very own members (and former presidents) will present a slide show on some of the 85 species of birds that they saw during their recent trip to the British Isles. **Bird of the Season:** Fox Sparrow - Lynn Burnette

Saturday - Monday, January 17-19 (M. L. King Holiday weekend)

• **FIELD TRIP: Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.** We will take advantage of the long weekend to head for the coast of Virginia for sea ducks such as Harlequin Ducks, Long-tailed Ducks, and Eiders. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

Friday-Sunday, January 30-February 1

• **Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting.** Winter birding on the southern coast of SC; three days of field trips and evening programs in and around Beaufort, SC. Information: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

Saturday, February 14

• **FIELD TRIP: Waterfowl on the Greensboro Lakes.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. Ducks, geese, grebes, mergansers, and gulls are our target birds on this tour of the lake overlooks. Dress warmly and bring a thermos of something hot; the wind off the lakes can be chilling. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. No walking. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

HAWK WATCH PART II: PILOT MOUNTAIN

By Judi Durr

Saturday, Sept. 27 was a beautiful day for bird watching at Pilot Mt. - for everyone except the birds. We actually had more members than we did birds! However, the birds that put in an appearance did so spectacularly. A total of ONE broad-winged hawk flew right overhead. There were two sharp-shinned hawks, male and female showing their disparity in size very nicely, playing right over our heads. Then two immature red-tailed hawks started harassing a raven or two right on Pilot Mt. and also flew overhead to show their markings very clearly. A red-shouldered hawk flew so low over us as to show us his "elbow" markings and very distinctive "belly band". Then a wind-buffed red-headed woodpecker made two very nice appearances. Of course, the resident TV's and ravens were there - and at a very nice tailgate lunch shared by a dozen PBC members, a kettle of black vultures played around the parking lot. Add to this "many" chimney swifts, one pine warbler (perched right next to the lookout) and a half-dozen blue jays and you have the day!



**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. Use the application form beside. →



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. She will send a card on behalf of the PBC.



FIRST BIRD RECORDS

Piedmont Birders:

Again this year I will be keeping a record of the first sightings of winter birds. Since we have members in Alamance, Randolph, and Rockingham as well as Guilford, I'll maintain lists for all four counties. All I need is the species name and the first date you saw the bird. Please don't assume that I have dates. For instance, we know that a few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows are in our area already, but I don't have the earliest dates on any of them yet.

If you kept a record (or can remember the date), I am still collecting last dates of summer species.

Thanks, Dennis Burnette

Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

**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!

**PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB MEMBER-
SHIP 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 make plans according to the number of attendees.

Saturday, November 1

- **Adopt-a-Park**, 9:00 a.m.

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. Interim coordinator: Emily Tyler . Phone: 375-5770 E-mail: ettyler@triad.rr.com

Saturday, November 15

- **FIELD TRIP: The Bog Garden.** Meet at the Garden at 8:30 a.m. 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.

Thursday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.

- **MEETING: A Birder's Travels in Alaska**, Doug DeNeve. Doug, a birder from Forsyth County, will show and describe slides of the birding trip that he and his wife Pam took through Alaska. We'll see great scenery, rustic towns...and birds, of course.

Bird of the Season: White-crowned Sparrow - Susan Weimer

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 27-30 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

- **FIELD TRIP: Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.** We also will visit other birding spots such as the Pungo and Pocosin refuges. The headquarters for the trip probably will be in the town of Plymouth. Leaders: Dennis & Lynn Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

Thursday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. (Note change of location and time.)

- **MEETING: Annual Holiday Dinner and Members' Slide Show** at The Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Road. Catered; reservations required. Our program will have a theme this year, Holiday Birds in the Tropics. We will feature slides made by our members during their trips to the tropical parts of the Americas, the Caribbean, and even south Florida. If you have visited any of these areas, bring up to 25 or so slides of nature-oriented subjects. Slide Program Coordinator: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com Dinner Coordinator: Irene Ade. 656-9974 e-mail: irenenjosephade@netzero.net . More details on page 1.

Saturday, December 6

- **FIELD TRIP: Alamance Battlefield, Cedarock Park, and Lake Macintosh in rural Alamance Co.** just east of Guilford Co. It has been several years since our club has visited this park. While at the lake, we will check for ducks and eagles. Leader: Lynn Moseley. 226-4353 e-mail: lmosley@guilford.edu



Piedmont Bird Club

PO Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833



The Holiday dinner is sooner than you think!!

Thursday, December 4, 6:00 p.m

make reservations by Nov. 30

At the Knights of Columbus Hall

Reservations required

Read about it on page 1.