



Osprey

Photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire



The Piedmont Birder



Peregrine Falcon

Photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire

Linville Road Marsh

Oct. 16

We had a very good exploratory trip to the Linville Road Marsh near Oak Ridge on Saturday, October 16. The marsh is in the headwaters area of the Haw River located in western Guilford County. This is a new location for our club, having been discovered recently by Dennis Burnette and Doug DeNeve on an IBA survey of the Haw River. On this Saturday the day started cool, sunny, and breezy. Although the temperature warmed rapidly, it remained windy throughout the morning.

Since our club has never been to the Linville Road Marsh before, we scheduled this excursion as a scouting trip to see if it is worth adding to our list of local birding sites. At the end of the trip the consensus was that it definitely is. Our group of eleven PBC members spent almost an hour and a half scanning the little marsh from roadside. A highlight of this stop on the trip was that we saw every species of woodpecker possible in the county except one, the hairy. Thanks to co-leader Doug DeNeve, several of us also saw a migrating Palm Warbler. Winter birds that had arrived already included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow. We left the marsh around 10:30 and headed downstream along the creek-like Haw River to a couple of other sites noted by Dennis and Doug on their survey. We stopped at a wet meadow on Harrell Rd. that seems like it could have pretty good potential for birding, but we didn't see many birds during this visit. We continued across Hwy 68 on Harrell Rd. about a mile to a point where we could do some birding along the Haw in a heavily wooded wet

Nov. 2004-Jan.2005
Volume 15, Number 4

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

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The next deadline for newsletter items is Jan. 15, 2005.

Call Louise Brown at 685-5043 or e-mail at piedmontbirder@triad.rr.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

HAWK WATCHING

Part I - Sept. 19

Our hawk-watching trip to Mahogany Rock Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway was cancelled Saturday, September 18th due to bad weather. As an alternative, the trip leader, Philip Kellam, announced an impromptu hawk-watching trip to Pilot Mountain State Park on that Sunday. I got e-mails from members Doug DeNeve and Gregg Morris who reported a great day of hawk watching. Doug said that the day totals included 2700 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 migrating Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 1 Kestrel, 4 Ospreys, and 1 Bald Eagle by 5:30 when he and Pam left. I'm chagrined; I had to stay home and grade tests all afternoon!

-Dennis Burnette

Part II - Sept. 25

A group of T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon and Piedmont Bird Club members enjoyed a pleasant day of hawk watching at Pilot Mountain recently. The trip, which took place on

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From the President's Perch

by Bob Pellettier

Looking Ahead To a New Year

As we enter into our 2004 - 2005 year, the Club, along with all its usual activities, will be taking on additional new projects. One of these projects involves a request from the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park for our club to lead a monthly bird walk through the 220-acre woodlands that make up the park. Three of these monthly field trips are listed in the Yearbook as official PBC field trips. During the coming year, we will evaluate participation of local bird and nature enthusiasts to determine the interest of this venture in the community.

Another activity relates to the Education and Field Trip Committees which involves the Haw River Program (HARP), a camp and conference center located on 250 acres in Browns Summit which includes walking trails through forest and wetlands. HARP contacted the Club for assistance in developing a program to educate their personnel in bird identification as part of their ornithology program. In August, Dennis Burnette provided a training program on teaching bird-watching and Emily Tyler led a bird walk for them. Two PBC field trips have been scheduled at this location.

One item that has been in the making for a number of years and is now available on the PBC Web site is a guide to birding in Guilford County. Dennis Burnette has developed "Finding Birds in Guilford County" that has not only the locations but also directions on how to get to the "hottest" birding areas and what to expect to see at these locations. Thanks to Dennis, this is a welcome addition to our Web site and, although he tells us the guide is not complete, there is plenty of information available to keep one busy for many-a-day. (URL <http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/gcb/gcbgindex.html>)

In the coming year, various field trips will be joint ventures with the T. Gilbert Pearson Chapter of the National Audubon Society, as many of our members are also members of Audubon. This serves to eliminate conflicting dates and, where possible, combines the efforts of our club with those of Audubon.

- President, cont' on page 3.



Folks enjoying the birds and sharing the knowledge at GCNMP. L to R: Emily Tyler, John Barlow, Mutch son 1, Sharon Barlow, Don Allen, Mutch son 2, Trish Mutch. Photo by Dan Chambers.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, Oct. 9

Dan Chambers sent in a report about the field trip that he and Don Allen led at GCNMP. The day was partly cloudy, light breeze, and temperature around 60° F. There were sixteen participants in all, including six non-members. They saw and/or heard 22 species. For those tracking the movement of birds, the summer species seen were Chimney Swift and Gray Catbird, and the incoming winter birds were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and both the Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets. They also spotted a Great Blue Heron, a Red-shouldered Hawk, and an Accipiter as well as an assortment of more common year-round birds.



Warbler Walk, May 8

Carolyn Allen sent in a list from a bird walk last spring, to Fisher Park and Starmount Forest, primarily to look for warblers and other spring migrants. Jointly led by the Allens and the Links, it was a successful trip. They saw nine species of warbler: Black-throated Blue, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Black & White, and Pine. Other notable migrants were House Wren, Great Crested Flycatcher, Veery, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo and Scarlet Tanager. Thirty-eight species were sighted in all.



Magnolia Manor, Oct. 2

Eleven Girl Scouts and ten members of the Piedmont Bird Club enjoyed a morning of bird-watching on the new 92-acre Girl Scout Campus near Colfax.

Of course, we were unable to explore all 92 acres, but the birds found there during the first weekend in October, such as some migrating warblers, showed the potential that the property has for future field trips.

Experience made the difference in bird sightings. PBC member Lynn Burnette took the Girl Scouts out for their first-ever birding experience. She showed the girls a field guide and how to use it, showed the girls how to use binoculars, talked about types of habitats, discussed food preferences for birds, and other general Birding 101 topics. Consequently, the girls managed to see eight species of birds, including a Red-Tailed Hawk that the other group did not see.

Led by Dan Chambers and by impromptu assistant leader Henry Link, the PBC members saw 31 species. Migrants included Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Pine, Prairie, and Magnolia Warblers, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, White-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Everyone agreed that this place is worth a return trip.

-Lynn Burnette



Black-throated Blue Warbler
Photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire

-Hawks, cont' from page 1

Saturday, September 25, featured good weather, good companionship, and, unfortunately, not all that many birds. The peak of fall migration, at least in terms of Broad-winged Hawks, occurred the previous Sunday.

However, we did see a number of good birds, including eight Sharp-shinned Hawks, five Double-crested Cormorants, at least one Cooper's Hawk, four Ospreys, a couple of Northern Harriers, a possible Merlin and a lone Broad-wing. Of course, there was also the ever-present spectacle of lots of soaring Vultures (along with their nemesis, the vulture-harassing local Red-tail) and several acrobatic Common Ravens doing their Blue Angel imitation. There was also a possible Bald Eagle. Lynn Moseley and I both thought we saw one, but it was a long way out, "at the very limits of conjecture," as they say.

-Gregg Morris



- President, con't from page 1

The first joint trip was the Mahogany Rock trip on September 18 but it was rained out so the first actual joint trip was to Pilot Mountain on September 25. PBC and other clubs have been invited to join Audubon in November for an over-night nature-watching boat trip on the Black River.

When you include the many scheduled field trips and informative monthly programs, along with the above new endeavors, it makes for an exciting new year.

Next issue: Changes From Within.



-Linville, cont' from p. 2

bottomland. Henry Link and several others added some species of neotropical migrants to our list including Blue-headed Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and American Redstart. This site looks like it could be excellent for migrants in the spring.

The group's total number of species in 2.5 hours of birding these new sites was 43 species plus two more species seen by Dan Chambers before the rest of us arrived at the marsh. It was a fun morning of birding!

-Dennis Burnette



Holiday Dinner & Members' Slide Show

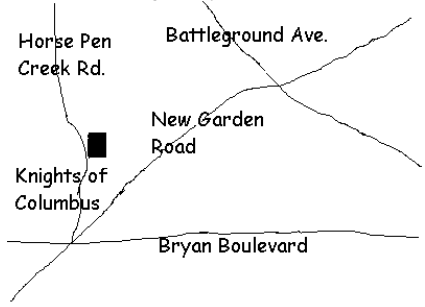


Our dinner will be Tuesday, December 7, 6:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Road. Members of the K O C Catering Committee will prepare a sit-down turkey dinner (dressing, salad, green beans, corn pudding, peach cobbler with ice cream, etc.) The price is \$16.00 (includes gratuity and tax.) Reservations are required. Please make them by Friday, Dec. 3. Contact Irene Ade: 656-9974 or irenenjosephade@netzero.net

For the slide show you may bring up to 25 slides of nature-oriented subjects. Dennis Burnette (299-4342, or e-mail deburnette@earthlink.net) is the slide show coordinator.

Mail checks for \$16 for the holiday dinner to the Piedmont Bird Club address (on the return address label), or give them to Susan Weimer at the next club meeting.

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 NewGarden/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!



"These new-fangled phones - things were much easier when we just flew with the messages!"

*-Lovey, the Rehab Dove
Photo © 2004 by Louise Brown*

Welcome new members

**Eugene & Lauren Blount,
Monica Macon**

Denis & Patricia Vigneault

Melissa Weston

HELP WANTED: BROCHURE STOCKERS FOR HIGH POINT

The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers who live in or frequent the High Point area to monitor and stock Piedmont Bird Club brochures in the following locations:

- Piedmont Environmental Center
- Gibson Park
- High Point City Lake & Marina
- Oak Hollow Park & Marina
- Price Nursery
- Wild Bird Headquarters

We have already obtained permission and stocked (50 copies) these locations in August, but would like someone to stop in occasionally to check the supply and restock if necessary. Contact Jean Murdick if you are able to help. 852-3952 or lonandjean@triad.rr.com

HELP WANTED: POSTER PUSHERS

The Membership Committee has designed and printed a small poster, which advertises the Piedmont Bird Club. We are asking members to help us get the word out about our club by putting these posters up on whatever bulletin boards they have access to - at work, church, the gym, the Y, university, etc. There are two sizes, full page 8-1/2" x 11", and quarter page, 4-1/4" x 5 1/2" - guaranteed to fit every board!

Posters will be available at Piedmont Bird Club meetings, or contact Jean Murdick.



-Calendar, con't from page 5

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 25-28 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

FIELD TRIP: Huntington Beach State Park and the Myrtle Beach, SC area. This is one of our club's favorite out of town trips. We will look for fall birds at several spots in Horry and Georgetown Counties over this four-day weekend. The group will eat Thanksgiving dinner together on Thursday evening at the Hanser House Restaurant in Litchfield Beach on US 17. Participants often stay at the nearby Litchfield Inn where we will meet Friday morning to go birding. Contact the leaders for other lodging suggestions and trip details. Leaders: Dennis & Lynn Burnette. 299-4342, deburnette@earthlink.net

Saturday, December 4

Field Trip: Alamance Battlefield, Cedarrock Park, and Lake Macintosh in rural Alamance Co. just east of Guilford Co. Leader: Lynn Moseley. 226-4353, lmoseley@guilford.edu

Tuesday, December 7 6:00 PM (Note change of day, time, and place.)

MEETING: Annual Holiday Dinner and Members' Slide Show at The Knights of Columbus, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Road. CATERED; reservations required. Details are on page 3.

Saturday, December 18

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: 273-4672 baddogi@yahoo.com; Compiler: Herb Hendrickson

Saturday, January 8

Field Trip: Winter Sparrow Hunt. We'll drive around Guilford County in search of sparrows at several sites where they have been spotted in past winters. Our sparrow "hit list" will include White-crowned, Swamp, Chipping, White-throated, Field, and Song, although a couple of those may prove hard to find. We'll meet in the parking lot of Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:45 a.m. to car pool. Leader: Dennis Burnette. 299-4342, deburnette@earthlink.net

Saturday - Monday, January 15-17 (M.L. King Holiday weekend)

FIELD TRIP: Burkes Garden, VA, for
-Calendar, Con't next column

-Calendar, Con't from last column

Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles. This will be an exploratory trip to a birding site that we have heard about but have not visited. Burkes Garden reportedly is a relatively flat valley in the midst of the high mountains of Virginia northwest of Wytheville where Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles are seen almost every year. We think it is a three-hour trip from Guilford Co. We'll meet in the parking lot of Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:30 a.m. to car pool, and we'll plan to spend Saturday night and possibly the next in a motel. Leader: Dennis Burnette. 299-4342, deburnette@earthlink.net

Saturday, January 15

AUDUBON BIRD SEED SALE. Contact Ann Walter-Fromson for information: 299-9494

walterfromsona@gborocollege.edu

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

MEETING: "Bird Brains" Ron Settle, Curator of Public Programs, Greensboro Natural Science Center.

For this month's program, members of the bird club will have an opportunity to participate in a "quiz show" developed by the Science Center staff to teach people about birds. Audience participation is central to this presentation, and we should expect to have fun while we learn some fascinating aspects of ornithology.

Bird of the Season: American Robin

Saturday, January 29

FIELD TRIP: Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge near Charlotte. We will drive south about an hour and 45 minutes to Pee Dee NWR. On past trips we have seen a good selection of waterfowl, huge congregations of herons, most of the woodpecker species, as well as typical Piedmont winter resident birds. Meet at Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. Leader: Phillip Kellam: 275-3692

Saturday, February 12

FIELD TRIP: Waterfowl on the Greensboro Lakes, Part #1. Meet at the parking lot of the CUCC 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. This is a joint field trip with T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon. Leader: Dennis Burnette. 299-4342, deburnette@earthlink.net



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.)



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.

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!

!!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.

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: 685-5043; piedmontbirder@triad.rr.com

Thursday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.

MEETING: "The Return of the Wild Turkey in North Carolina"

Mike Seamster, Upland Game Bird Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Wild turkeys have had their ups and downs in North Carolina during the past 100 years. Thanks to a successful reintroduction program, the numbers of wild turkeys have increased from a low of 2000 birds to over 130,000 today. In this program (conveniently scheduled for the week before Thanksgiving!), Mike Seamster will describe the factors that have accounted for the turkey population increase.

Bird of the Season: Hermit Thrush

Saturday, November 20

FIELD TRIP: The Summit Conference Center. We will search for winter resident birds along the wooded trails down to the lake and then along the boardwalk to the Haw River, which is just a small stream at this site. Contact the trip leader Emily Tyler; 375-5770, ettyler@triad.rr.com, for starting time and directions.

-see Calendar, con't on page 4



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



The Holiday dinner is sooner than you think!!
Tuesday, December 7, 6:00 PM
At the Knights of Columbus Hall
Make required reservations by Dec. 3
Read about it on page 3.