



Red-shouldered Hawk
photo © by Melissa Whitmire



The Piedmont Birder

Battleground Bird Walk Report

Aug 20, 2005

Dennis Burnette

Field Trips Chairman

We had a good turnout for the bird walk at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Our group of seventeen included a woman with two children, a person from Alamance County who was visiting the park and saw the announcement on the board, as well as thirteen members and friends of the Piedmont Bird Club.

As expected for this time of year, the number of birds was somewhat low; we saw and/or heard seventeen species. However, three of the species were new for our park list, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Brown Thrasher, and American Redstart, bringing our year total to fifty-three. We also saw a good number of butterfly species, and a large Praying Mantis. We noted as well quite a few wildflowers, including the native Cranefly Orchid.

This was number twelve in our monthly walks at the park for 2004-05. Our new program year begins in September, during which we will be conducting bird walks at the park on a quarterly basis. The dates are Oct. 8, Feb. 25, Apr. 1, and June 24. Check our 2005-06 Yearbook for details on these and other field trips and bird walks.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
© Ronald May 2003

Hawk Watch



Mahogany Rock Sat. 9/17/05

Phillip Kellam reported that there were twenty-six visitors, seven from PBC. Seen while PBC members were present: 4 Ospreys, 40 Broad-winged Hawks, 3 Kestrels, 2 Sharpshins, 2 Cooper's, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, a Tennessee Warbler, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Towhee, and other "regular birds."

Jim Keighton is the official tallier for Mahogany Rock. (You can read his reports on the Internet, at <http://hawkcount.org/index.php>.) His final count for the day was 4 Ospreys, 4 Sharp-shins, 2 Cooper's, 115 Broadwings, 2 Red-tails, 3 Kestrels and 12 Monarch Butterflies.

Pilot Mountain Sun. 9/18/05

Six PBC members, three of whom are also members of T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon, went to Pilot Mountain to view the hawk migration September 18th. The diversity was good, though the numbers were not great. This is from memory, but I think it's close: 3 Cooper's, a Sharp-shin, and 3 Red-tailed Hawks (probably residents), an Osprey, a Northern Harrier, a probable Merlin and 25 Broad-winged Hawks, plus the usual vultures, ravens and songbirds. The day was very pleasant, though quite hazy in the distance.

-Gregg Morris

Other birds, as reported by Phillip Kellam: 8 Black Vultures, 35 Turkey Vultures, 5 Common Ravens, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Great Horned Owl, as well as Pine Warblers, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, Chimney Swifts, Tufted Titmice, Blue Jays, and others.



Ringer Terry Peterson

Nov. 2005-Jan. 2006
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Piedmont Bird Club

PO Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833

piedmontbirdclub.org (new url)

Editor: Louise Brown

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

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The next deadline for newsletter items is Jan. 15, 2006.

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

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From the President's Perch

By Bob Pellettier

We are off to a very busy start to the 2005 – 2006 year. Attended by thirty-five members and guests, the Fall Picnic was the first Club activity of the year and it turned out to be a great social event. What was most memorable was the Dedication of the Yearbook to a very surprised Lib Morrison, who has been a Club member for almost 50 years.

Emily Tyler is to be commended on arranging for Lib to join us at the picnic and making sure the Dedication remained a secret until it was announced. A special thanks to Dane Hill, Hagan-Stone Park Assistant Manager and Club member, for making a golf cart available to transport Lib and others to and from the shelter. Dane also provided a special seating arrangement for our honored guests and provided covers for the picnic tables. Thanks again to Emily and Dane for making this a most memorable occasion.

Prior to December 2005, it was necessary for the Club to change its Website Host. Many thanks to Louise Brown for all the research and hard work that was required to make this happen. As of September 15, 2005 our new Website address is piedmontbirdclub.org.

The fall season always brings about many community activities. The Club has been asked to participate in three educational events during the month of October: Discovery Day at Price Park, Fall Festival at Bur-Mil Park and Harvest Festival at New Garden Nursery. Emily Tyler, Co-chair of the Education Committee, has coordinated the Club's involvement in these events, along with her committee and help from other Club members. Thanks to all involved for their participation. These types of activities are essential to accomplishing the Club's goals in being a service to the community.

Keep in mind that your 2005 – 2006 Yearbook contains a calendar of activities for the coming year, which includes field trips, programs, conservation projects and social events. Keep it handy to remain informed of upcoming Club events and activities.



Girl Scouts, Tarheel Triad Council at Magnolia Manor Sat. October 1

Lynn Burnette, who has recently started working for the Girl Scouts (for pay - she has been volunteering for them for years!!), led eight PBC members around the forested campus. The day was a little cool (actually a relief after a hot September) but we had a pleasant walk around the grounds of the new regional headquarters of the Tarheel Triad Girl Scouts. The birds were somewhat subdued, maybe due to the coolness, but gradually became active in the trees. We saw (and/or heard) Pine Warblers, a Redstart, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chickadees, Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Blue Jays, Bluebirds, Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, American Crows, Robin, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Canada Geese, and Cardinals.

We were not limited to observing birds only. Dennis Burnette was thrilled to find a young Fence Lizard, which he held in his hand for a few minutes. We also saw a few butterflies: Pearl Crescent, Gray Hairstreak, Monarch, and Tiger Swallowtail.

- Louise Brown



Monarch by Louise Brown



Brown-headed Nuthatch
photo by Judith Pate

Holiday Dinner & Members' Slide Show

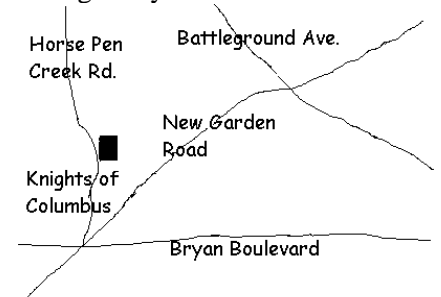


Our dinner will be **Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 pm** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Road. Members of the K O C Catering Committee will prepare a sit-down turkey dinner (dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, carrots, cranberry sauce, peach cobbler with ice cream, etc.) The price is \$17.00 (includes gratuity and tax.) **Reservations are required. Please make them by Friday, Dec. 2. Contact Irene Ade: 656-9974 or irenenjosephade@netzero.net**

For the slide show you may bring up to 25 slides of nature-oriented subjects. A slide projector will be provided; if you need a digital projector, please let Dennis know well in advance. Dennis Burnette (299-4342, or e-mail 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), or give them to Susan Weimer at the November 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 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!



Welcome New Members!

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

Allemann, Don V.

Carter, Robin and Douglas Davis

Erb, Stacy & Mike

Lancaster, Rosemary

Schmid, Liz & Tom

Stilwell, Carrie



Education Committee Activities

- *By Emily Tyler*

October was a busy month for the Club's Education Committee. There were three opportunities to exhibit at local events, Discovery Day at the Edwards Library October 8, Fall Festival at Bur-Mil Park on October 15, and Harvest Festival at New Garden Nursery and Landscaping on the 22nd. Altogether we estimated at least 200 people were reached, many of them children. It is encouraging to note how much interest there is in bird watching. Volunteers in teams of two or three covered the PBC exhibit from 2 to 7 hours each. Special thanks to Debbie Fleming, Judie Underkoffler, Mary and Terry Woodrow, Carolyn Allen, Peggy Ware, Kathy Gingras, Paul and Janet Morien, Beth Bur-suck, Ann Walter-Fromson, Dan Chambers, Elizabeth Link and Jane Ariail. They interacted with the public, answering their questions about birds, explaining what we do in the Club and offering handouts as appropriate.

Additionally, Elizabeth Link has been mentoring a NW High School student working on a birding project, and Jane Lewis has offered to help a Pfeiffer University professor who will be leading a group of students on a five-week field program related to biological sciences next summer near the Uwharrie National Forest. Jane also has volunteered her husband, Mark, to help with reptiles.



Cooper's Hawk

photo © 2005 by Dan Chambers



Pileated Woodpecker

photo © 2005 by Dan Chambers



Bog Garden Kiosk

How Many Nuts Can a Nuthatch Hatch?

How old did the oldest known White-breasted Nuthatch live to be (in the wild)? What clever use does a White-breasted Nuthatch make of a Blister Beetle? What's a creep (we're talking birds here)? Well, you will never know unless you check out PBC's newest "Bird in the Spotlight" poster at the Bog Garden. Verrrrrrrry interesting!

Jean Murdick



Website News!

At last we have our own domain name, **piedmontbirdclub.org** !! Type that into your browser window and it will take you to our site.

We have added a new section to the Website, which features a species list of birds, of Guilford County and the Carolinas, and has pages for many of them.

The URL of that page is:

<http://piedmontbirdclub.org/guilcobirdgallery.htm>

This is a work in progress, and is far from complete. The birds in blue have links to their respective pages. As members contribute photos of birds, we will add pages for those species. Some pages also have text information following the photos, and that material will be added as we develop it. Factual material about various species of birds has been compiled by members of the education committee, unless otherwise credited. If you are interested in contributing pictures, and/or information, or have comments or criticism, please contact Louise Brown at piedmontbirder@triad.rr.com



Country Park Report



L to r: Cal and Susan Weimer, Janet and Paul Morien, in front, Jean Murdick and Louise Brown. Not present for photo: Dan Chambers, Carol and Bob Pellettier, Lary Treanor, Peggy Ware

photo by Susan Weimer

10/22/05

Despite cool, misty and iffy weather, there was a great turnout of eleven PBC club members for the Country Park cleanup. We gathered quite a lot of trash. The Moriens and Dan Chambers deserve special kudos for their extra-ordinary effort at getting nasty stuff on the backside of the biggest lake. We managed to spot some good birds as well, my favorite being the pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets I saw in a pine tree. There were lots of Bluebirds (partially due to our efforts with the Bluebird boxes?!!) Someone heard a Pileated Woodpecker, and several heard Fish Crows. The total number of species was eighteen, not counting Muscovy Ducks and hybrid Mallards.

- Louise Brown



American Kestrel

photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire



Ruby-crowned Kinglet

photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire

Bird & Butterfly Meadow Dedication



L to R: Don and Carolyn Allen, Jean and Bob McCoy

photo by Dan Chambers

October 22

A unique collaboration between the Piedmont Land Conservancy, Greensboro Parks & Recreation and the American Hebrew Academy honored two couples who have been cornerstones for the Piedmont Bird Club (PBC), Jean and Bob McCoy and Carolyn and Don Allen. These groups are dedicating the Bird and Butterfly Meadow at Price Park to these four people who have been well connected and well committed to several nature-oriented organizations over the last four decades. Besides the PBC, they are very active members of the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Chapter and the Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC).

The dedication ceremony was attended by well over a hundred people which included members of the McCoy family, the PBC, the local Audubon Chapter and the PLC, as well as others. The McCoy's daughter, Lyn, announced that the occasion was very special to her family, in that, besides the dedication, it was the year of both her parents' 90th birthday and the year of their 65th wedding anniversary!

The ceremony was followed with a reception and tours of the new Meadow and grounds of the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library at Price Park. This is indeed a wonderful site with a story all its own, and so appropriate to the occasion.



Our Booth at the New Garden Nursery Harvest Festival 10/22/05

L to r: Elizabeth Link, Emily Tyler, visitors, Beth Bursuck, Dan Chambers

Photo © 2005 by Louise Brown

Getting the Word Out

In an effort to publicize our club and promote interest in birding, the Membership Committee, in conjunction with the Field Trips Committee, has been in touch with Greensboro's Neighborhood Associations. Several of the Associations are willing to run a brief mention of the club in their newsletters or to post a letter to residents via their e-mail listserv. The letter contains information about PBC and its functions and also offers to coordinate and lead a bird walk for any neighborhood that has a park or other suitable habitat.

- Jean Murdick



!! Attention Packrats !!

We are compiling a notebook of all the PBC newsletters since the first one in May 1989. If you have a set (or part of one) you would be willing to donate to the Club, please contact Emily Tyler at 375-5770.

Birding Tip from an expert:

Pete Dunne of the Cape May Bird Observatory and New Jersey Audubon offered this Birding Tip when I joined a three-day field trip with him in September: "It is recommended that you do not wear bright clothing, especially white, as many authorities hold that birds are startled by bright colors." Neutral browns, tans, grays and greens work well according to Pete and his tour guides. Some PBC members with whom I have shared this tip commented that they have noticed that even their feeder birds fly away when they approach their windows in white clothing. *-Emily Tyler*

-Calendar, con't from page 6

Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 PM

MEETING: Annual Holiday Dinner and Members' Slide Show. Turkey dinner 6:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus on Horse Pen Creek Rd. **MAKE RESERVATIONS BY DEC. 2!!** with Irene Ade.

Bring up to 25 or so slides of nature-oriented subjects. A slide projector will be provided; if you need a digital projector, please let us know well in advance. Slide Program Coordinator: Dennis Burnette, 299-4342, DEBurnette@triad.rr.com; Dinner Coordinator: Irene Ade. 656-9974, irenenjosephade@netzero.net

Saturday, December 10

Field Trip: Bird walk at Greensboro Country Park. We will walk around the lake to the wooded side to look for early winter birds. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot that can be reached by turning onto Orman Road from Lawndale, and then turning left at the intersection. Leaders: Cal and Susan Weimer. 288-2160, sweimer@triad.rr.com

Saturday, December 17

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, bad-dogi@yahoo.com

JANUARY

Saturday, January 7

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, texallenncc@aol.com

-see Calendar, con't next column

-Calendar, con't from last column

Saturday - Monday, January 14-16 (M. L. King Holiday weekend)

Field Trip: Burkes Garden, VA, for Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles. This will be an overnight trip to a birding site that we visited for the first time last winter. Burkes Garden is a relatively flat oval 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. It is about a 3 hour drive 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 in a motel. Leader: Dennis Burnette. 299-4342, DEBurnette@triad.rr.com

Thursday, January 19

MEETING: Conservation and Communication in Shearwaters and Tropicbirds in the Bahamas. Will Mackin, Ph.D. White-tailed Tropicbirds and Audubon's Shearwaters are declining seabirds living mysterious lives. Will Mackin recently completed his doctorate at UNC-Chapel Hill, and will describe his discoveries of the conservation status of these species, their vocalizations, and how knowledge of their behavior might prove helpful in their conservation.

Bird of the Season: Gadwall

Saturday, January 28

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

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 2 – Sunday, February 5

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting, Virginia Beach, VA. Join birders from both Carolinas for evening programs and day trips. See their web site for complete information: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>

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!



If you know anyone in the club who is sick or just under the weather, please contact Peggy Ware at 282-6553 or mjware@prodigy.net. She will send a card on behalf of the PBC.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We are very forgiving and if you have forgotten to renew for the 2005-2006 year, it's not too late! Thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions, call Treasurer 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 June through May, \$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, or cancellations, or the leader may need to modify plans according to the number of attendees.

NOVEMBER, 2005

Saturday, November 12

Field Trip: Bird walk at the Bog Garden. Meet at the garden at 8:30 a.m. You never know what birds you might find here; to date, our club has identified 112 species at this great little wetland. We have seen owls, almost every species of local woodpecker, waterfowl, and plenty of songbirds from the boardwalk, on the pond, and in the adjacent woods. The garden is always a delight. Leader: Louise Brown. 685-5075, piedmontbirder@triad.rr.com

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.

MEETING: Birds and Traffic Noise: Is there a Conflict? Emily Minor.

Recent evidence suggests that there are fewer bird species near noisy roads. But are some species actually responding negatively to the traffic noise, or are human observers just less likely to detect them over the rumble of a passing truck? Emily, a graduate student at Duke University, will provide a case study of forest songbirds in the Triangle region of North Carolina, and relate it to the larger issue of bird conservation in a developing landscape.

Bird of the Season: Ring-necked Duck

Saturday, November 19

Field Trip: Camp Guilrock. This site, a 220 acre Methodist Church camp, is just north of Guilford Co. It has a good mix of habitats with two ponds, farm fields and a nice trail through woods along the south side of the Haw River. Meet at Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. This will be a joint field trip with the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon chapter. Leader: Carolyn Allen. 288-3045, texallennc@aol.com

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 24-27 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Field Trip: North Carolina Outer Banks. On this three-day trip we will look for migrating waterfowl and other birds at Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, Bodie Island, Coquina Beach, and other good spots. Leaders: Dennis & Lynn Burnette. 299-4342, LBurnette1@triad.rr.com, DEBurnette@triad.rr.com

DECEMBER, 2005

Saturday, December 3

Field Trip: Cedarrock Park and Lake Macintosh in rural Alamance Co. just east of Guilford Co. Meet at Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. to car pool to Alamance Co. The trip leader will meet the group at the IHOP Restaurant, Exit 141 off I-40, at 8:45. Leader: Lynn Moseley: 226-4353, lmoseley@guilford.edu

-see Calendar, con't on p. 5



Piedmont Bird Club

PO Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833



DON'T FORGET
Make your reservations
for the
HOLIDAY DINNER
December 6
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