



Bluebird and sumac
Photo by Judith Pate



The Piedmont Birder



Red-cockaded Woodpecker



Northern Shoveler
BOG GARDEN
NOV. 20 2002

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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 **Apr. 15, 2003**. 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!

Huntington Beach State Park

Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2002

Dennis Burnette did a great job organizing this very exciting and productive trip. Our composite list numbered **123 species**, seen and/or heard by various club members during the course of Thanksgiving weekend at Huntington Beach State Park (HBSP), SC and the surrounding area.

There were several good candidates for "**best bird of the trip.**" One was the **Red-cockaded Woodpecker**, a life bird for a number of folks, including myself. We were guided to a great spot where we saw several delightful individuals working the long-leaved pines. Another thrilling sighting was of huge flocks of **Black Skimmers** on Pawley's Island. They came wheeling down the shoreline in waves, landing on the beach just south of us. A modest estimate of their numbers was 1500!! A third "best bird" candidate might also be an immature male **Long-tailed Duck** (Oldsquaw) that hung out at HBSP one day, allowing us to observe him extensively. It was a close race, but the **Red-cockaded** edged out as the official **best bird**, being the rarest and most personable.

Dennis had a thrilling experience witnessing a struggle between a **Bald Eagle** and an **Osprey** over a fish, the more exciting since he was able to share it with his young grandson.

On a walk to the jetty at HBSP on a brisk Thanksgiving morning, we were rewarded with many sightings: **Sanderlings** skittering along the waves, lines of **Brown**

The scheduled Bog Garden trip on Nov. 16 was rained out, but we had an impromptu trip the following Wednesday, which a fair number of people were able to attend.

We saw 28 species. I had seen several Shovelers the day before, and they were not visible from the west end of the pond. When we went to the other side of the pond, the Shovelers showed up near the end of the boardwalk. The three males and a female must have been waiting till we left to come out.

There was a group of over a dozen Ring-necked Ducks on the pond, which have been appearing regularly in the wintertime. Other winter birds present were White-throated Sparrows, a Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. I was hoping to see a Winter Wren but we did not, although I spotted one there in January. Other birds included the ever-present Goldfinches, Carolina Wrens, Towhees, Nuthatches, Flickers and Chickadees.



January Meeting

Rescheduled!!

We will be meeting Thursday, Jan 30th at the church where we usually meet (Congregational United Church of Christ on Radiance Drive.)

Officers

President: Emily Tyler

Vice President: Open

Recording

Secretary: Carol Pellettier

Corresponding

Secretary: Barbara Jones

Treasurer: Susan Weimer

Members-at-Large: Bob Pellettier
Jean Murphy

-cont p. 2

From the
President's Perch
 by Emily Tyler

Happy New Year to all you Piedmont Birders! One of the exciting things when each new year arrives is the anticipation of birding new places and the possibility of seeing new birds. Many will start new lists and try to add a new yard bird, a new bird for the county or state and so on. Some will be quite content to see old favorites in the usual places. For example, those who were able to join us on January 2 for an impromptu trip to the Brookbank/Banning Road area near Oak Ridge were delighted to see the target bird, the White-crowned Sparrow. Since we see them so rarely in these parts, the excitement is almost like seeing them for the first time.

The Club's Holiday Dinner in December was most enjoyable with the usual good food and fellowship, followed by a wonderful slide program presented by Don Allen showing Mother Nature and many of her creatures and other creations. Irene Ade and her committee provided lovely, seasonal table decorations as well as nice door prizes fit for birders.

I am enjoying daily visits to my suet of the Sapsucker and the Brown Creeper with its jerky, zigzag movements up the tree. I eagerly await the next snow event when the Fox Sparrows will venture from the woods to join the regular ground feeders. Wouldn't it be nice if this turned out to be the year for Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks? I think we are overdue. One female Purple Finch dropped by before the holidays but didn't hang around for a second view. I hope each of you is getting the same enjoyment from the birds you are finding in your neck of the woods. Isn't birding a wonderful hobby?

I hope to see you at the upcoming programs and field trips. In the meantime, good birding!



Brown Creeper

Banning Road

Sharon Gallimore led an impromptu walk on Banning Road January 2nd, as she and her husband had seen a number of interesting birds there the day before, including **White-throated Sparrows**, **Fox Sparrows**, and a **Hermit Thrush**. We saw 33 species. There were at least a dozen of the promised **White-crowned Sparrows** at various spots along the road. We were also thrilled to get a brief glimpse of several **Bobwhite** as they rushed across the road and into a field covered in tall grass and shrubs. **Meadowlarks** displayed themselves in another field, flying up into a leafless tree so we could enjoy their brilliant yellow breasts and sweet song. We also got a good look at a **Kestrel**, a **Sapsucker**, **Bluebirds**, and **Juncos**.



Fox Sparrow
 Photo by Judith Pate

-Huntington Beach, cont from p. 1
Pelicans in the surf, **Ruddy Turnstones** and a large number of **Purple Sandpipers** on the jetty. Several **Common Loons** populated the inlet. Far off we could see many **Gannets**, shimmering in the sun, diving for food. Herb Hendrickson spotted a **Great Cormorant** perched on the channel marker just off the end of the jetty.

We saw quite an assortment of sea and shore birds, including **Piping Plovers** and **Greater Black-backed Gulls**. One member reported a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, another a **Seaside Sparrow**, and a **Red-throated Loon** was spotted off Pauley's Island, bobbing in the waves, pointing its head skyward. We paused on a little boardwalk behind some restaurants at Murrells Inlet and were delighted to see a few **Eurasian Collared Doves** active in some large live oaks there.

-Louise Brown



Black Skimmers

Blue Ridge Parkway

Oct 26, 2002

We enjoyed a nice mountain drive on October 26 when Dennis Burnette led a trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We didn't see a large number of birds, only 24 species, but it was an enjoyable adventure regardless. There were a number of **Turkey Vultures**, a **Kestrel**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, other Accipiters, **Sapsuckers**, **Brown-headed Nuthatches**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Field Sparrows** spotted.



Brown-headed Nuthatch
 photo by Judith Pate

JORDAN LAKE

1/4/03

Six of us did the Jordan Lake field trip on Saturday, Jan. 4. It was windy and chilly but a bright and sunny day. Although we had a good time with good company, there were almost no birds on the lake. We saw 32 species, including **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Bufflehead Duck**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Bonaparte's** and **Herring Gulls**, **Sapsucker**, **Brown-headed Nuthatch** and **Bluebirds**.

-Dennis Burnette



ACE BASIN EASTER TRIP

The Piedmont Bird Club will be heading for the ACE Basin in the low country of South Carolina for our Easter week-end trip. The dates are April 18-20, and we'll probably stay at a motel in Walterboro. Stay tuned for more details to come!

Highlights of the recent Christmas Bird Count from the area:

"Notable birds were 4 (light) Snow Geese, 11 Wood Storks, 200+ White Ibis, 1 Glossy Ibis, 5 Bald Eagles (2 imm.), 2 Green Herons and a White-eyed Vireo."

Please contact me for further information.

Phone: 299-4342

E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

-Dennis Burnette

The ACE basin is the area where the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers converge.

-Calendar, cont' from p. 4'

• **Saturday, March 22**

Field Trip: Weymouth Woods. We travel about two hours to the Southern Pines area in search of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Bring money for lunch. Leader: Louise Brown. Phone: 274-3691 E-mail: piedmontbirder@aol.com

• **Saturday, March 29**

Adopt-a-Park, 9:00 a.m. (Rain date Sunday, March 30, 2:00 p.m.) We'll pick up trash around Greensboro Country Park on Lawndale Drive. While there, we'll check the bird boxes to remove old nesting material and get them ready for their spring occupants. Coordinator: Cal Weimer. Phone: 288-2160

APRIL

• **Saturday, April 12**

Field Trip: Mason Farm and NC Botanical Garden. We will look for early migrants, wildflowers and butterflies in Chapel Hill. Bring money for lunch at a local restaurant. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• **Thursday, April 17**

MEETING: A Brush With Spring - We will welcome Spring with a close-up view through the eyes and camera of Don Allen who will share images of critters, flowers and other natural subjects he has encountered in Springs past.

Bird of the Season: Woodpeckers: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Lynn Burnette)

• **Friday-Sunday, April 18-20**

Field Trip: ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge in the South Carolina Low Country.

Leader: Dennis and Lynn Burnette
More info on page 2

Field Trip: Starmount

Park/Hamilton Lakes for warblers and other spring migrants; 7:30 a.m. This small park in a local residential area is our best spot for neotropical migrants. Leader: Henry Link. Phone: 273-4672

• **Sunday, April 27 (Sunday afternoon bird walk)**

Bird Walk and Nest Check, Greensboro Country Park: 2:00

p.m. We will do an informal walk to look for migrants, and also make sure that the nest boxes are ready for their new spring tenants. (This is not an Adopt-a-Park trash pick-up day.) Contact: Cal Weimer. Phone: 288-2160

• **Saturday, May 3 Spring Bird**

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

Welcome new members!!

**Dempsey, Gail
Rachlin, Rob & Annette
Speck, Debra
Shepherd, Thomas F
Sumerford, Steve
Ann Walter-Fromson**

New on our web site!

Photos of winter birds!
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/photogallery3.htm>

If you know anyone in the club who is sick or just under the weather, please contact our corresponding secretary, Barbara Jones @ 855-1936 or Helen Black @ 299-6220. They will send a card on behalf of all of us at PBC.



Junco by Judith Pate

From time to time members have donated photos of birds or club events for use in the newsletter or website. I surely would appreciate a few more!
-Louise Brown

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!

THE WILD BIRD HOUSE

3612 Spring Garden St.
Greensboro, NC 27407
Phone 336-294-7833

has generously offered members of PBC a 10% discount on bird seed and on anything in the store (except items already discounted.)



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. If the Leader receives no calls, the trip may be cancelled.

FEBRUARY

- **Saturday, February 1 and possibly Sunday, February 2**

Field Trip: Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge near Charlotte and nearby Sandhills NWR across the South Carolina line near McBee. We will drive south about an hour and 45 minutes for our club's third organized excursion to Pee Dee NWR where we hope to see wintering waterfowl. After lunch we will continue south across the South Carolina line to look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. If there is enough interest, we will spend the night and explore the Congaree Swamp National Monument near Columbia before returning home after lunch. Call for meeting place and time. Leaders: Lynn and Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

- **Saturday, February 15**

Field Trip: Waterfowl on the Greensboro Lakes. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Lake Higgins Marina. 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

- **Thursday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.**

MEETING: Fire Birds - Fire is a force that has shaped many forest communities throughout the world. Discover the role fire plays in the lives of endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and other sandhill plants and animals in this presentation by Scott Hartley, Park Superintendent, Weymouth Woods Sandhill Nature Preserve.

- **Saturday, February 22**

Field Trip: We will visit the Whiteacre's farm in the Bunch Rd. area of Guilford Co. for an easy walk to look for winter birds. If time allows, we also may visit one of the lakes to look for waterfowl. Meet at Congregational United Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Carolyn and Don Allen. Phone: 288-3045 E-mail: texallennc@aol.com

MARCH

- **Saturday, March 8**

Field Trip: A&T Farm. Meet at 8 a.m. Easy hike around a farm pond and along the edge of wet woodland. Always a good trip, this is our best site for Common Snipe. Wear water-resistant shoes, dress in layers. Leader: Emily Tyler. Phone: 375-5770 E-mail: ettyler@triad.rr.com

- **Thursday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.**

MEETING: Partners in Flight: Speaker: Mark Johns, wildlife biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, will discuss the "Partners in Flight" program which has as its primary goal to improve communication, cooperation and collaboration among agencies, organizations and individuals interested in bird conservation in the state.

Bird of the Season: Woodpeckers: Red-headed Woodpecker (Louise Brown)

-Calendar continued on p. 3



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