



Least Flycatcher
Empidonax minimus



The Piedmont Birder

FIELD TRIP IDEAS REQUESTED

by Dennis Burnette,
Field Trip Committee Chairman

Field Trip to Ashe County 5/25/02



Black- and-white Warbler

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Newsletter of the
Piedmont Bird Club
PO Box 38833
Greensboro, NC 27438-8833
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub>
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The next deadline for newsletter items is Aug. 15, 2002. I would like to include a phone number and/or e-mail address for leaders and coordinators of any events. Please let me know if you do not want these published in the newsletter or on the website.

Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or E-mail at piedmontbirder@aol.com.

**PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES
WELCOME!**

Officers

- President:** Emily Tyler
Vice President: Phil Crisp
Recording Secretary: Carol Pellettier
Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Jones
Treasurer: Susan Weimer
Members-at-Large: Bob Pellettier
 Jean Murphy

The field trip committee will be getting together in a few days to discuss our schedule for next year. We are requesting your help.

We have had good participation in our activities last year, but would like improvement. Is there a favorite field trip that you want to make sure we re-schedule? If you usually don't attend field trips, is there something that we can do to make it easier or more attractive for you to participate? Here are some ideas that are circulating right now:

1) Exploring some new territory.

Judith Pate and Jean Murdick have suggested a couple of weekend excursions outside the Triad. Is there any place you know about or have heard of, especially nearby, that we ought to consider? Think about natural areas, parks, and even private property as possibilities. For instance, Jane Lewis has invited us to her new home in rural Randolph County.

2) Targeting specific habitats or species.

How about looking for a Saw-whet Owl with Lynn and myself in the western NC mountains? How about Henslow's Sparrows near Goldsboro? This year our club looked for (and missed) Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge.

-see Requests, continued on p. 3.

provided by Chris
Gibbins
<http://www.bird-stamps.org>



It was a fine day for a trip to the near mountains. Herb Hendrickson led his annual trip in search of the elusive *Empidonax* flycatchers, which he can usually locate in the riparian (riverbank) habitat that surrounds the New River. These little gray birds are very similar in appearance, all with a light eye-ring and two white wing bars, difficult to distinguish even for the experts, except for their distinctive calls, which are only expressed in the spring and early summer. Willow, Acadian and Least flycatchers are all three frequently found by Herb on this trip. This year no Acadian ("pit-see!") or Least ("che-BEK") flycatchers were seen, but the Willow ("fitz-bew") made up for them in abundance. We saw many in the willow trees along the New River and several tributary creeks.

We saw or heard other flycatchers, the Eastern Wood Pewee, Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Kingbird. Other birds spotted along the River were Tree and Barn Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow Warblers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Meadowlarks and Field Sparrows were heard in neighboring fields. One Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard.

-see Ashe County, continued on p. 2

From the President's Perch

by Emily Tyler



Indigo Bunting

The songs of the Wood Thrush, Indigo Bunting, both tanagers and other summer residents have replaced those of the White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Fox Sparrow and other familiar winter visitors to the backyard. No doubt many of us have stumbled across nests and observed nestlings and fledglings. Has anyone located a hummingbird nest? That must be one of the most difficult to find.

Your Executive Board is gearing up for another year. A meeting of the officers and committee chairs was held recently to begin the planning process. All committees would welcome new members and you are encouraged to call the chairpersons to offer your assistance. Many members serve on the same committees year after year and welcome "new blood." Most committee chairs are the same as last year and, if not, they will know their successor. So give them a call and get involved. If you would like to be a part of the Program or Field Trip Committees, call Sharon Gallimore or Dennis Burnette, respectively. A joint meeting to plan programs and field trips for the coming year is being scheduled for the near future and your participation and ideas would be most welcome.

One Tufted Titmouse is mighty thankful that I went out to fill the feeders and birdbath to get some inspiration while writing this column. I found him or her with its head stuck in the feeding port. The feeder was empty and apparently the bird reached in too far to get that last seed and got its head caught. It's the type of tube feeder surrounded by a wire cage to allow only small birds in. Henceforth, I will make every effort not to let the feeder become empty, and remove it whenever I'm away for more than a day.

-continued on column 3

Spring Warbler Walk in Starmount Forest

4/20/02



Black-throated Blue Warbler

Henry Link graciously led us on a walk through his favorite local area for spring Warbler watching, Starmount Forest, a park in the Hamilton Lakes area of Greensboro. We got a small but satisfying sampling of some of those species, the Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped, Pine and Black-and-white Warblers. Other spring migrants or summer birds spotted include the Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos, Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Chimney Swifts.

We saw a respectable complement of woodpeckers: Hairy, Red-headed, Red-bellied and a Flicker. Other exciting finds were a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks attending their nest up in a tree, and a Titmouse who appeared to be attacking a raccoon. Upon closer inspection, the raccoon was taking a nap in the crotch of a tree about 75 feet up. The Titmouse fluttered around it, trying to pluck some fur to line its nest. When the raccoon would lift its head and look around, the Titmouse would move off, and then when the mammal tried to resume its nap the persistent little bird would return and again try to pluck some fur. We watched this little show for about fifteen minutes before we moved on in search of warblers. We saw 33 species of birds that day

-Louise Brown



Northern Parula

-Ashe County, cont'. from p. 1

After lunch we went to Mount Jefferson State Park, where we were able to check out the denizens of a different habitat at a much higher elevation. We saw Juncos, including a nest with four eggs right beside the trail, a Blue-headed Vireo, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, and heard Canada Warblers, Black and White Warblers, and a Veery, not giving us its ethereal song but its call: "Veeer, veeer."

In all we saw or heard 53 species of birds, and had a great time!

-Louise Brown



Yellow Warbler

-President's Perch, cont'd from column 1

The first official PBC meeting of the new year is the Fall Picnic in September; however, there are a couple of field trips during the summer so check your Yearbook or the Calendar in this issue and join us. Dues are payable at the Spring Picnic and the Treasurer, Susan Weimer, will be pleased to receive them anytime. If you wish your name to be included in the membership list in the new Yearbook, be sure to send Susan your dues (\$15 individual and \$20 family) and any changes in your contact information, including email address, by July 15.

[Membership form is on page 3.]



**BE AN EARLY BIRD!
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
NOW
FOR
THE 2002-2003 SEASON!!**



Prentiss Taylor

The Piedmont Bird Club wishes to extend a warm and feathered welcome to new members!

Ethel Minter

Marta Hicks

- Request, cont'd from p. 1

3) Linking field trips to monthly program.

For the last couple of years we have experimented with connecting our Thursday evening program with the field trip the next Saturday. This has proved to be a popular "learn about it/see it" combination. We did it with ducks recently. What other combo ideas do you have?

4) Holding joint field trips with other clubs.

We aren't the only bird club in the Piedmont, despite our name. It would be nice to renew old acquaintances and see some new faces. I have contacted Forsyth Audubon about the possibility of a joint field trip to Triad Park in Kernersville, and have invited them to participate in our waterfowl tour of the Greensboro lakes in January. Do you have other suggestions?

We would love to hear your ideas. Please call me (299-4342) or E-mail (burnetted@aol.com) within the next few days and let me know your thoughts.

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

!West Nile Virus Alert!



We now have the West Nile Virus in NC!

Report unusual ("drunken") behaviors/dead birds (esp. crows, blue jays, etc) to the Hot Line: 1-877-790-1747 (NC Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources, Pest Management.)

There is an informative website: www.aphis.usda.gov and an e-mail address: ncwnv@ncmail.net. The elderly, immunosuppressed, and chronically ill are most susceptible.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR THE 2002-2003 SEASON!!

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.)



provided by
Chris Gibbins
<http://www.bird-stamps.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 when you make a purchase!

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

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

Check out our web site!

It has some previous field trip reports, links to other sites of interest to birders and also our Calendar of Events.

<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub>

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.

• Saturday, July 27

Field Trip: Hagan-Stone Park. Butterfly walk and count. No butterflying experience is necessary. (We'll look at some birds, too!) This is a joint field trip with the Carolina Butterfly Society. Bring a picnic lunch and \$3.50 count fee. Meet at 9:30 a.m.

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

• Saturday, August 25

Field Trip: Winston-Salem Wastewater Treatment Facility. This is our annual trip to the best site in the Triad for migrating shorebirds. It might be a bit smelly, but it's always fun! Bring binoculars. Little walking.

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

• Saturday, Sept. 14

Fall Picnic : Hagan Stone Park. 5:30 PM. Our first meeting of the Club's year, this is a lot of fun with food, too! The new yearbooks will be distributed at this meeting. Details announced later. Coordinator: Irene Ade. Phone: 656-9974.

Our Field Trip and Program Committees will be meeting this summer to decide on events for the upcoming year! We welcome any of your ideas and suggestions! Read Dennis' article, page 1.



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Greensboro, NC 27438-8833



DON'T FOR-

GET!!!



*Membership Dues
are due!*