



Baltimore  
Oriole

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



# The Piedmont Birder

## From the President's Perch

By Emily Tyler



Greetings to all Piedmont Bird Club members! I hope you are enjoying our resident nesting birds if you are spending the summer here. At long last, the yellow-billed cuckoo has recently chimed in to join the chorus of wood thrushes, bluebirds, catbirds, brown thrashers and many others in my neighborhood.

I am honored to be serving as your president again and look forward to an exciting year for the Club with interesting programs, productive field trips, and, of course, good food and fellowship at our social events. I am pleased that several committee chairs have consented to continue in these roles while others have stepped forward to serve in new roles. All committees can benefit from new or additional members so I hope you will contact me or the committee chairs to volunteer your services if you are not already serving in some capacity. Many hands make light work!

A couple of my goals for the 2001-2002 year are for the Club to operate on within a budget for the first time and to focus on recruiting new members. I would like to see us expand our categories of membership as well. The Executive Board will be meeting soon to begin the planning for the coming year. We would welcome your ideas at any time. If you have suggestions for programs and field trips, please contact Sharon Gallimore or Dennis

- see *Perch*, continued p. 3

## FLYCATCHERS IN ASHE COUNTY

June 2, 2001



Herb Hendrickson led a fine expedition to Ashe County, where we looked for Empidonax Flycatchers along the New River. The Empidonax Flycatchers, related to the Phoebe, are a group of species with only slight visible variations between them. They are all small gray birds with wings bars and a slight eye-ring. Even an expert ornithologist has a hard time distinguishing them in the field. Their most distinctive traits are their songs, only sung in the spring.

Another distinguishing feature of them is their habitat- the Acadian Flycatcher is found in deeper woods, the Willow Flycatcher in more open areas, in bushes and willow thickets, and the Least Flycatcher open woods. Herb found all three, each in the same areas he has seen them in every year. We saw Peewees and Kingbirds, one of the larger flycatchers, as well.

Present also were a number of the colorful birds of summer, the orange and black Baltimore Oriole and Orchard Oriole, including some of their yellow and black immatures, the brilliant blue Indigo Buntings, the Meadowlark with its handsome yellow and black breast, a Scarlet Tanager, the Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-throated Vireo, and even the Redwing Blackbirds were sporting their very distinctive red epaulets.

- see *Flycatchers*, Continued p. 2

Next year's dues are due now- fill out the application/renewal form in this newsletter and mail it in along with your check!

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Newsletter of the  
**Piedmont Bird Club**  
PO Box 38833  
Greensboro, NC 27438-8833  
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub>  
Editor: Louise Brown

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The next deadline for newsletter items is **Aug 15, 2001**. Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or E-mail at [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto:piedmontbirder@aol.com).

### Officers

- President:** Emily Tyler  
**Vice President:** Phil Crisp  
**Recording Secretary:** Dierdre Bledsoe  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Barbara Jones  
**Treasurer:** Susan Weimer  
**Members-at-Large:** Lynn Moseley  
 Jean Murphy

## SPRING AND MIGRATION COUNTS

The excitement of a birding field trip takes on new dimensions when it is a COUNT expedition. The Audubon Society has for years sponsored the Christmas and Spring Counts. While these counts in no way comprise a true census (birds have trouble filling out all those forms!), these statistics have long been used to mark declines and increases in population trends. The North American Migration Count (NAMC) has also been sponsoring the Spring Migration Count, to especially track the progress of the traveling species.

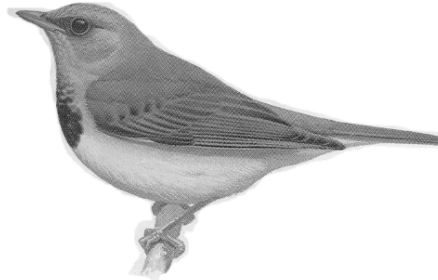
The COUNT gives you a sense of larger purpose. You are not just out idly and selfishly birding for the fun of it, you are contributing to an important cause, as bird populations are a great indicator of how humans affect the whole environment. So you can justify, to non-birding family and friends, the fact that you will not be fixing lunch, mowing the yard, or doing any of the things others might consider necessary and important. You will get up early, tiptoe out of the house, be gone all day, come back tired and smug, possibly muddy and sun burnt, and suggest that you go out to dinner, or order delivery.

Since all the counting must take place within a 24-hour period, teams start as early as possible. A tally sheet is used to record not only the species but the number of each. This makes for intense watching. All senses are on alert, for even if you just hear a bird, as long as you can make positive ID, you can count it.

Spring is a busy time for birds, with many species migrating through, others establishing nest territories and raising families. Big question- how do you count birds when there are dozens or hundreds or possibly even thousands of them swarming around, flying back and forth, in and out of trees and bushes?

Don Allen once told me- if you are confronted with a sky full of birds, you have to figure how many are in one square section, then make an estimate based on how many sections of sky are full of birds like that. And you have to do it quickly- a lot can happen in a few moments. It is hard – many birds are zooming around in circles, like swallows, or popping in and out of trees, like cedar waxwings or yellow-rumped warblers.

- See Count, continued p. 3



Mourning Warbler

### MOURNING WARBLER IN HAMILTON LAKE FOREST

Henry Link frequents Hamilton Lake Forest in the spring, looking especially for the migrating warblers and thrushes as they come through. He has been keeping records for the last 15 years of first arrival dates of various migrants. The earliest warblers to arrive are the Palm and the Yellow-throated, and the last ones to leave are the Black-polls and Magnolia.

He was very excited one day to spot a Connecticut Warbler, which is rare in these parts, and called other birders to tell them. I went there the next morning, and although the Connecticut did not surface and even rarer bird did, the Mourning Warbler! It has a greenish yellow body with a dark gray head, no eye ring. The Connecticut looks very much like it, but with a distinct eye ring. We spotted it as it darted into the underbrush, then after some proactive chasing, it reappeared in approximately the same spot, this time lingering long enough for a good solid look at it. It was very exciting moment, for it was a life bird for me and a rare sighting for the others.

Infrequently seen warblers that regularly turn up in Hamilton Forest are the Cerulean Warbler, the Nashville and Tennessee. Henry has at one time or another seen every eastern warbler there except for the Swainson's and Kirtland's. Other interesting birds that pass through are the Philadelphia Vireo and the Gray-cheeked Thrush.

-Louise Brown

Hamilton Lake Forest is off Starmount Road, just west of Starmount Golf Course in Greensboro, NC.

## Heron Rookery Report:

The first Great Blue Heron nest in Guilford County was a success! Three young fledged from the nest in late May. When last seen, they were following Mom and Dad around the shallows of the lake near their nest site, looking almost adult-sized themselves but with noticeable juvenile plumage. Here's hoping the adults return next year to repeat their good luck.

-6/18/01 Lynn Moseley



-Flycatchers, Continued from p.1

We heard a Bob White calling on the side of a distant hill.

Up on Mount Jefferson we heard a Veery and accidentally flushed a Junco off her nest. Juncos nest on the ground- this one was in a little hollow under a tree root, with four little eggs. The walk on the trail in that park proved to be interesting as a general nature walk. Herb and Jean McCoy know quite a bit about plants so we enjoyed the various species of ferns and wildflowers and trees. There were also numerous butterflies, Mourning Cloaks and a Red Admiral among the ones we could identify.

Jean and I stopped to visit a friend at her cabin on a different part of the New River on the way back, where we heard an Ovenbird, a Hooded Warbler and a Parula. We saw about 50 species in all on this sunny, breezy, and deliciously cool day!

-Louise Brown



### PBC MEMBERSHIP BONUS!!

#### 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.)



Indigo Bunting



-Count, continued from p.1

The Audubon Spring Count is based on a 15-mile circle divided into territories, each counted by a team. Our circle has its center point somewhere in Greensboro. My team counted a territory around Buffalo Lake and Lake Jeannette, which includes lots of woods. We saw 695 individuals of 52 species. The most numerous species were 85 Yellow-Rumped Warblers. The best bird on that day for us was a Louisiana Waterthrush. They are not often seen, being shy and retiring, and live in the dense underbrush around creeks.

Two weeks later was the Migration count- this time my team counted in Randolph County. The habitats there are different. There are woods, but also lots of open fields and brush. We saw and/or heard a number of warblers including Yellow-throated, Prairie, Hooded, Chat, and Kentucky. There were White-eyed Vireos, a couple of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, various flycatchers, Blue Grosbeaks and **lots and lots** of Indigo Buntings. We saw 62 species, 431 individuals.

-Louise Brown

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

**MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Items for publication may be E-mailed, or typed text and graphics may be mailed to my home address. I appreciate any articles or contributions you may have to offer! Any material submitted for the newsletter is potential material for the website. 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 website.

Louise Brown  
532 S. Aycock St.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
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The stamp pictures were inspired and some provided by Chris Gibbins, of Norwich, UK. He has collected stamps with pictures of birds from all over the world and has placed pictures of them on his website <http://www.bird-stamps.org>

-President's Perch from p. 1

Burnette, respectively. These committees will be meeting within the next two or three weeks to line up the schedule for the year so give them a call right away to have your suggestions considered.



**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>



**ADOPT-A-PARK CONSERVATION PROJECT**

Organized by Cal Weimer  
Nest checks at Country Park over the spring revealed quite a bit of nesting activity. Most of the bird boxes were occupied with nests, eggs and baby birds. Chickadees and Titmice as well as Bluebirds enjoyed these boxes very much!

Check our Calendar for dates of upcoming park activities .

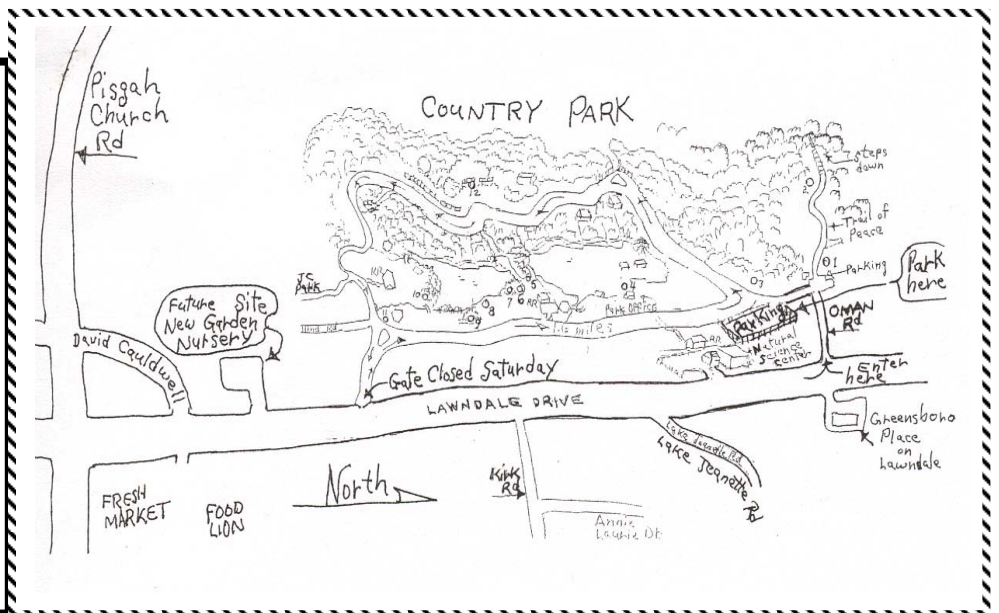
-park map by Cal Weimer

**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 December \$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.

Saturday, July 7:

**Nest Check and Bird Walk**

Greensboro Country Park, 9:00 a.m.

Check bird boxes and record findings.

Coordinator: Cal Weimer 288-2160.

Saturday, August 25:

**Field Trip: W-S Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Annual trip to see migrating shorebirds. Smelly but fun! Little walking. Coordinator: Dennis Burnette 299-4342 e-mail: [burnetted@aol.com](mailto:burnetted@aol.com)

Saturday, September 8:

**Fall Picnic:**

The first meeting of the 2001-2002 season. Pot Luck dinner. Hagan-Stone Park, Shelter # . Gather at 5:30 pm, eat at 6:00 pm. (Shelter to be announced)



Thursday, December 13:

**Holiday Dinner**

This is a catered event at Holy Trinity Church, a big success in the past. Details later.



**Piedmont Bird Club**

PO Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833