



# The Piedmont Birder

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Newsletter of the  
**Piedmont Bird Club**  
PO Box 38833  
Greensboro, NC  
27438-8833

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The next deadline for newsletter items is April 15, 2001. Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or e-mail at piedmontbirder@aol.com.

### Officers

**President:** Lynn Moseley  
**Vice President:** Sally Howell  
**Recording Secretary:** Dierdre Bledsoe  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Barbara Jones  
**Treasurer:** Susan Weimer  
**Members-at-Large:** Jean McCoy  
 Louise Brown

## Field Trip: Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge 2/3/01

By Louise Brown

Dennis Burnette led a very interesting and enjoyable field trip, the first time the Club had ever been to the Pee Dee Refuge. Located near Wadesboro, NC, It covers about 8443 acres of varied habitat- croplands, wetland, tall pine forests, and hardwood forest.

The weekend was also a special one for the rangers of the Pee Dee- the Audubon Society had just recently designated it an IBA (Important Bird Area) so there were many people present for the dedication ceremony, some informative talks by some of the Park Rangers, Audubon Society members, and members of Friends of the Pee Dee, a group which assists refuge staff.

The area is managed in part to attract waterfowl by flooding certain areas in the winter. Hundreds of ducks, swans and shorebirds benefit from this practice. We saw many ducks (most of them flying away from us- about 40 people were present and such a large group is hard to keep quiet!) Most of them were dabblers- Mallards, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Black Ducks, and American Widgeons. There were a few Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers to round out the population. A respectable number of raptors were seen over the large fields, both Turkey and Black Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, Kestrel, and Northern Harriers.

After lunch we explored some of the wildlife trails. One of the things that attracted us to the area initially was that it is home to Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. At the dedication ceremony we learned that there is one single male who lives there. Attempts to introduce a female to him have been unsuccessful.

- Pee Dee Cont'd p. 3



White-crowned Sparrow  
photo by Peter LaTourrette  
N. American Photo Gallery  
<http://www.birdphotography.com>

## NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD WALK A New Tradition By Sharon Gallimore

This was the Piedmont Bird Club's second annual New Year's Day bird walk, which qualifies it as a tradition. I have always enjoyed taking a bird walk to start the New Year; it gets me "geared up" for the next 12 months of exciting birding.

December, 2000 was a record cold month, contrasted with a mild weather last year. This year the ponds were frozen over, eliminating the possibility of seeing the ducks and geese seen last year. We also turned the morning walk into a "noon walk" so we could all sleep a little more and let the temperature warm up. The number of species recorded on New Year's Day 2000 was 35 compared to 17 this year.

The small area we cover is off Bush Road near Oak Ridge. The White-crowned Sparrow has been seen here consistently on recent Christmas Bird counts, making this attractive sparrow our "Target Bird."

As we caravanned down Brookbank Road, we spotted both Turkey and Black Vultures. (We saw the Black Vulture first so that will be my first bird of 2001; not a bad bird!) Last year we had spotted

- New Year's Cont'd p. 3



## ADOPT-A-PARK CONSERVATION PROJECT

**Last year the PBC decided to switch the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup project we had been doing for a new one. We “adopted” Country Park, off Lawndale Drive in Greensboro, NC. The club’s duties include maintaining and checking the bluebird boxes and cleaning up around the lakes. Cal Weimer has been the leader of the conservation projects, and it was due to his diligent research that we chose this one.**

Last fall we had a great turn out of people at our first ever Adopt-A-Park conservation program. We did nest box cleaning and lakeshore cleaning at Country Park. It took about an hour and a half, and we had a short tailgate party afterwards with coffee and treats.

Sat., Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> is our next scheduled activity at the Park. We will be checking bird boxes to see what’s in them. We are hoping for Bluebirds, but you never know what might be nesting in the boxes. Join us and we will find out. Bring binoculars and bird books for bird watching. We will not do trash cleanup on this outing. On Saturdays the park is closed to vehicle traffic, so we meet at the parking lot near the north end of the park. Turn off Lawndale Drive onto Oman Road. Drive to the end of Oman and turn left, go to the open parking lot, and you will see us there. Look for my red Ford pickup with a canopy.

-Cal Weimer

**Kathy Treanor** (executive director of the **Piedmont Land Conservancy**, and also a Piedmont Bird Club member) asks "the birding community" (local and across our nine counties, if possible) to list **priority birding sites**. Piedmont Land Conservancy will help to protect these sites by teaching negotiating skills to interested parties, helping with negotiations, raising funds for acquisition, or whatever is needed.

Call the PLC at 691-0066 to ask how you can help identify such places. Every suggestion will be welcomed

### From the President:

The Chorus Frogs are singing and the first daffodils are blooming, which tells me that it must be February, and Spring is on its way. For birders, one of the great things about our sport is the dynamic nature of bird populations – the constant change in the avian inhabitants of our backyards, fields, and woods. From winter visitors to spring migrants to summer residents, there’s always something to look forward to as new species arrive and others depart with the changing seasons.

For several years, I have kept a list of early arrival dates for the neotropical bird species that spend the winter well to the south and begin to reappear in our area during March and April. Starting with early March, each week heralds a few new species that typically appear at that time of year. For example, the Ospreys which nest at Lake Townsend usually show up during the second week of March. Purple Martins are one of the earliest songbirds to arrive, and can be expected during the second or third week in March, although occasionally a few individuals come in much earlier. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers will follow closely behind the Purple Martins, coming in during the third or fourth week in March.

I’d like to suggest that the members of the Piedmont Bird Club join me in noting the first date that you see any of the spring migrant species which pass through our area. At our next club meeting, I’ll provide copies of the checklist I’ve put together, with species arranged according to the week of first arrival in Guilford County. It’s another way to learn more about the fascinating lives of our native bird species.

-- Lynn Moseley

### EAGLE UPDATE:

Greensboro’s “own” Bald Eagles are incubating! Apparently satisfied with the new nest the pair built in January at Lake Brandt, the female laid at least one egg during the first week in February. Incubation lasts for 35 days, which means that if the egg is fertile and if all goes well, hatching should occur during the second week in March.

Come to the March meeting for the next update, and keep your fingers crossed!

-Lynn Moseley

**Check out our web site!** Recently updated, 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>

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.

The stamp pictures were inspired and one 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>



stamp photo courtesy Chris Gibbins

Calendar

-Continued from back cover:

**Friday-Sunday, April 13-15: Field Trip: Easter in Charleston, S.C.**

We will look for wading birds, warblers and other wonders. Painted Buntings may be in by this date. Leaders: Dennis and Lynn Burnette 299-4342 e-mail: [burnetted@aol.com](mailto:burnetted@aol.com)

**Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm.: Meeting: Galapagos Islands**

Carolyn and Don Allen will show slides from their trip to these unique islands and describe the natural history. *Bird of the Season: Nightshift Bird: Eastern Screech Owl (Louise Brown).*

**Saturday, April 28: Spring Bird Count.**

Annual Audubon count of birds in the 15-mile circle. The tally is Sun. Apr. 29 at St Andrews Episcopal Church. Coordinator: Elizabeth Link 273-4672

**Saturday, May 19: Spring Picnic**

We will have our potluck (covered-dish) picnic at Greensboro country Park, Shelter # 1. 4:30 to check bird boxes, 5:30 for bird walk, 6:00 for dinner. Louise Brown 274-3691 e-mail: [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto:piedmontbirder@aol.com)

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 \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.  
Mail Payment to: PBC, Box 38833, Greensboro, 27438-8833

-New Year's, Cont'd from p. 1  
killdeer and meadowlarks in the same fields. We parked at the beginning of Banning Road and began the one-mile round trip walk along a gravel road past a couple of houses, open fields and a small pond.

Both years we have seen the "resident" yellow-bellied sapsucker on the same tree, at the same house, continuing to make his circular trademark

Continuing down Banning Road, we were able to add the usual species that never seem to fail us: Flicker, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Cardinal and Song Sparrow. Red-tailed Hawks were in abundance and we were able to view a male Kestrel from several of his perches as he flew from one field to another.

But still no White-crowned Sparrow target bird along Banning Road. Finally, thanks to Emily Tyler doing her White-Crowned Sparrow homework (calling Jean McCoy to find out the location of little fella during the Christmas Count), we walked down Brookbank Road from Banning a short distance as Jean had described. Sure enough, after a few minutes, one very handsome White-crowned Sparrow popped up from the dead kudzu right in front of us! We did our high five White-Crowned Sparrow dance and smiled triumphantly. (Last year, thanks to Joyce Barlett and Brant Gallimore's sharp ears and eyes, we picked up two White-crowned Sparrows along the hedgerow on Banning Road just as we were getting ready to call it a day.) Our mission accomplished, we realized that it was lunchtime so we headed to the Gallimore's to celebrate White-Crowned Sparrow Day. Plan now to come join us for the New Year's 2002 walk!!

Update: On Friday, February 9, Louise Brown, Jean Murphy and I did the same trip after a quick Gallimore lunch and again had different results. It was a very mild day and the afternoon birding was slow. It was surely a raptor day, however, as we saw Red-tailed Hawks, a Kestrel and both Turkey and Black Vultures. No White-crowned Sparrow this time but a very pleasant afternoon with PBC birding friends nonetheless.

**MESSAGE FROM THE NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Charlie Campbell has done a fine job of putting together The Piedmont Birder for the last two years. However, his job responsibilities have claimed his priorities. So I have volunteered to take on the job!

Items for publication may be e-mailed to me, 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.

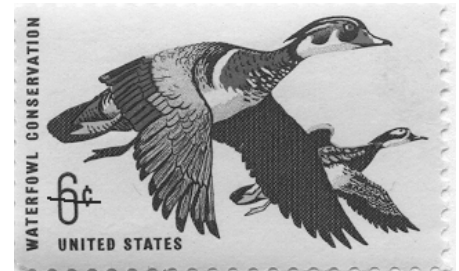
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**-Pee Dee, Con't from p. 1**

Although we looked in several likely areas we did not see this lone character. It is an endangered species, only liking to nest in large live long-leaved pines. We saw several trees that the bird had clearly been working on- bleeding sap gives away the fresh holes.

We were delighted, however to discover an area where we saw five individual Redheaded Woodpeckers, a Pileated Woodpecker and a couple of Winter Wrens. Other birds seen during the day were Tundra Swans, Wood Ducks, both species of Kinglets, and Hermit Thrushes, a total of 48 species in all.



Wood Duck

# 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 March 3: Field Trip: NC A&T Farm**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. Easy hike around farm pond and along edge of wet woodland. Always a good trip, great for snipe hunting! Wear water resistant shoes, dress warmly in layers. Leader: Emily Tyler home:375-5770 work: 334-3239

**Thursday, March 15, 7:30 PM: Meeting Program: Field Station in Uganda**

Speaker: Randy Fulk, N. C. Zoo. The Zoo has established a field station in Uganda where visiting scientists and staff research wildlife and work with communities in the area to encourage conservation. *Bird of the Season: Nightshift Birds* – Common Nighthawk (Lynn Burnette)

**Saturday, March 17: Field Trip: North Carolina Zoo**

The bird collection has changed at the zoo, with a newly renovated aviary. We'll drive to Ashboro to check it out! Leader: Louise Brown 274-3691 e-mail: piedmontbirder@aol.com

**Saturday, March 24: Nest Check at Greensboro Country Park**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. We will do an informal "walk" to make sure that the nest boxes are ready for their new tenants, birding while we are there. (This is not an Adopt-a-Park trash pick-up day) Coordinator: Cal Weimer 288-2160

**Saturday, March 31: Field Trip: Forsyth County Hot Spots**

For something local but a little different, we will visit the county to our west to see what Winston-Salem and vicinity have to offer. Leader: Dennis Burnette 299-4342 e-mail: [burnetted@aol.com](mailto:burnetted@aol.com)

**Saturday, April 7: Field Trip: Mason Farm/NC Botanical Garden**

Is it spring yet? Let's find early migrants and wildflowers in Chapel Hill. Bring money for lunch. Leader: Dennis Burnette 299-4342 e-mail: [burnetted@aol.com](mailto:burnetted@aol.com)

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