



Barred Owl

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



# The Piedmont Birder

## EASTER IN CHARLESTON, SC 4/13-15/01

Dennis and Lynn Burnette led another marvelous trip, this time to various wildlife areas in the vicinity of Charleston, SC.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was spotted at **Givhans Ferry State Park**, among other birds.

**The Frances Beidler Forest** is a fascinating Cypress and Tupelo River Swamp, left totally in its natural state except for a boardwalk so people can enter the eerie landscape. The calls and songs of Parulas, Red-eyed Vireos, various woodpeckers, and Great-crested Flycatchers were heard all over in the dense vegetation. The tiny brilliant yellow Prothonotary Warblers were attracted to the multitude of insects that clustered around the boardwalk, and frequently landed in branches or on cypress knees just a few feet from us. We managed to glimpse a couple of the many White-eyed Vireos that we heard all around, and got a brief peek at a Black-throated Green Warbler. A Barred Owl made an exciting performance flying down to the ground practically right in front of us and then paused in a branch for a few moments before it disappeared into the swamp. We also got to see a number of snakes, turtles, skinks, and a gator.

**The Caw Caw Plantation** at one time grew rice and tea. The system for flooding the fields is still in place and is now used to manage the area for environmental purposes. The woods swarmed with many insects, warblers, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, raptors and other birds. We saw Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-throated Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Bald Eagles, Wood Storks and Tree Swallows, to name

-See Charleston on p. 3

## The Spring Picnic Saturday, May 19

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Spring Picnic. It will be at Shelter # 1 in Country Park. The Park is off west-bound Lawndale Ave, on the left just past Lake Jeanette Rd. Turn into the entrance marked "Natural Science Center" and drive to the parking lot on the left. Shelter # 1 is the one right next to the end of that parking lot.



The potluck (covered dish) dinner will begin at 6:00. Bring whatever inspires you of the four main food groups: meat, vegetables, breads or desserts; we are trusting chance that we will get a good mix of food! Come by 4:30 to help check the bird boxes, or at 5:30 for a bird walk. The PBC will provide beverages- soft drinks, iced tea, water- and paper and plastic ware.

So- bring some food, bring your binoculars, come prepared to have a good time!

Next year's dues are due at this time- bring your money or checkbook!

Any ? call Louise Brown at 274-3691 (or e-mail- [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto:piedmontbirder@aol.com))

May-Jun., 2001  
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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 **Jun 15, 2001**. Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or E-mail at [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto: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



Prothonotary Warbler

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

## Field Trip: NC ZOO 3/17/01

Ron Morris, general curator, arranged a group pass for the PBC trip to see birds at the NC Zoo. It was actually a great idea for this time of year for those with the "birding blues."

Although the waterfowl in **The Cypress Swamp** are ones we had all seen before, it was great to get very up-close looks at Hooded Mergansers, Blue-winged Teal, Buffleheads, Wood Ducks, and Ruddy Ducks. The sunny day brought out all the brilliance of their iridescent plumage. The male Ruddy Duck was sporting breeding colors- a Carolina Blue bill and a brilliant rust-red back- that we never see here on the northern visitors.

**The Rocky Coast Exhibit** offered Horned Puffins, Thick-billed Murres and Parakeet Auklets. The habitat supplied rocks for them to climb on as well as an underwater view, so their breaststroke could be observed. The birds frequently splash and "bathe," as well as dive and swim.

**The Aviary** is a magnificent tropical display, featuring lush foliage so the residents feel at home. The birds, from all the continents with rainforests, include brilliant Scarlet Ibis, the cartoon-like Red-crested Turaco, the iridescent maroon Amethyst Starling, the dainty Sun Bittern, and the baroque Victoria Crowned Pigeon. Other colorful creatures are the bright blue Fairy Bluebird, the Grey-headed Kingfisher, the green and blue Leaf Bird, a Nicobar Pigeon, the Green Jungle fowl with its floppy pink and blue comb, and the songster Pekin Robin. We had a great time searching for these characters in the foliage. Some flew out at us while others skulked in the shrubbery.

Later in the afternoon we checked out **The Sonora Desert** exhibit, which features Roadrunners, Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Gila Woodpeckers, the White-winged and the Inca doves, a very noisy Cactus Wren (huge- twice as large as our Carolina Wren!) Gambel's Quail, Pyrrhuloxias, and Hooded Orioles. What a trip! We felt like we had been all over the world!

-Louise Brown



## CLUB ELECTION NEWS:

In the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, two important votes were conducted.

**(1) Congratulations to these new officers!** Their term will begin June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**(2) Due to rising costs**, dues were raised for the first time in ten years. Individual and family memberships are now respectively \$15 and \$20.

## EAGLE UPDATE:

As I reported last month, the Bald Eagle pair at Lake Brandt laid at least one egg and faithfully incubated it through the rest of February and into March. Unfortunately, a tragedy occurred on the evening of March 14, when a wind storm blew the entire nest out of the tree. When I hiked into the woods two days later to inspect the site, I discovered a broken egg, which appeared not to have hatched. The adult birds were still in the area, soaring over the site and calling.

This makes the third year in a row that the nest has fallen down. In 1999, one eaglet had fledged before the nest fell, and in 2000 the female laid no eggs at all. Now we'll have to wait and see if the birds will return to try again next year.

The good news is that, not 100 feet from where the eagle nest was, there is now a small Great Blue Heron rookery! This may be the first reported nesting of Great Blues in Guilford County. I saw three heron nests yesterday, two under construction and one with an incubating adult.

-Lynn Moseley



## Field Trip: A&T FARM Snipe Hunt 2001

Emily Tyler's annual "Snipe Hunt" was highly successful despite ominous weather. The farm fields were seething with robins. Icterids of various species flocked and flew and called all over. There were huge flocks of mixed Red-winged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Starlings harvesting edibles from the fields and manure piles. Meadowlarks could be heard calling from all sides and occasionally seen on a wire or fence post.

As we approached the small cow pond, the Common Snipe were very active, constantly circling the area between it and a favorite wet grassy spot about 100 yards away. They kept flying up in bunches of three, four, as many as eight, circling.

On the tiny pond were Canada Geese, a few Mallards and Gadwall, one female Green-winged Teal, one female Bufflehead, and some Ring-necked Ducks. Bluebirds frequented the grassy area under some sycamore trees near the pond. It was not a good day for raptors. We saw a Black Vulture, a Kestrel, later a couple of Red-tailed Hawks.

A walk past the pond alongside a wooded stream was quite active with various species of birds: Kinglets, Towhee, Cardinals, a Brown Thrasher, Chickadees, Titmice, several species of woodpeckers and sparrows. We flushed a couple of Wood Ducks from a swampy area. We were proud to report 46 species of birds in all.

-Louise Brown



### 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

-Continued from back cover:

**Saturday, June 16:**

### Nest Check and Bird Walk

Greensboro Country Park, 9:00 a.m.  
Check bird boxes and record findings.  
Coordinator: Cal Weimer 288-2160.

**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)

### **Field Trip: Greensboro Lakes 2/17/2001**

The weather was good but a little chilly for our walk to the Greensboro lakes, led by Dennis Burnette. Our first stop was to see the Bald Eagles' new nest. Lynn Moseley had informed us that the raptors were incubating, and the white head and yellow beak of one bird, faithfully on the nest, were clearly visible with spotting scopes.

Trooper Pond was still occupied with a good-sized flock of Buffleheads, happily diving in the water, sharing it with an assortment of domestic and semi-wild fowl.

Around Lake Townsend we saw: Red Tailed Hawks, Accipiters, Pied-bill Grebe, Turkey and Black Vultures, Gadwall, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Ruddy Ducks, but the most exciting were the Mergansers. First we saw Hooded Mergansers, then on Lake Townsend between Yanceyville and Doggett Road, in the distance, some larger Mergansers - very red shaggy heads, pale throats. The experts concluded they were Common Mergansers, **not** common to this area. Farther down Doggett road there were a few Red Breasted Mergansers. Three species of Mergansers in one day! 37 species in all. Best bird of the day- Common Merganser! Runner up- nesting Bald Eagles!

-Louise Brown



*-Charleston, Cont'd from p. 1*

a few of the fifty species that were counted that day there. Not to mention the alligator, Cottonmouths and other reptiles!

**At Patriot's Point Park** we saw a couple of Anhingas, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes, various terns, gulls and pelicans. We stopped on the road to look at some Willets, Dowitchers, and Egrets in the Intracoastal waterway. At the **Pitt Street Causeway** there were a couple of Oystercatchers, a Clapper Rail, and the Allens spotted an Upland Sandpiper, to name just the highlights. Sunday A.M. it began to sprinkle intermittently and cut short our visit to the Cypress Gardens. Fortunately, there were things to see indoors- an impressive aquarium, with many native turtles, snakes and fish, and a butterfly house, swarming with quite a variety of species, as well as a few birds. Definitely a great place to go back to! As a group, we saw over 90 species of birds on this adventure, got at least one bug bite for each bird, a little sunburn and otherwise had a wonderful time!

-Louise Brown



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>

### **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.

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Greensboro, NC 27403  
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E-mail [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto:piedmontbirder@aol.com)



### **ADOPT-A-PARK CONSERVATION PROJECT**

Organized by Cal Weimer

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, we had a lovely morning at the park, checking the nest boxes. Three of them had the beginnings of nests in them, one Bluebird and one Chickadee. The birds flew out while we checked but went back afterward. One empty box was facing the wrong way, into some bushes (Bluebirds prefer an open view) so Cal Weimer and Hal Strickland rehung it. Ten minutes later a Bluebird was inspecting their work!

After tending to the boxes we spent some time birding around the lake. We saw a respectable number of species, including a Pileated Woodpecker, Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Bufflehead and Ring-necked Ducks, Flickers and Brown Thrashers.

Check our Calendar for dates of upcoming park activities



### **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.

# 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.*

-Continued on page 3

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 5:

**Adopt-a-Park**

9:00 a.m. (rain date Sun, May 6, 2 p.m.) We'll pick up trash around Greensboro Country Park on Lawndale Ave. We'll check the bird boxes to record what species are using them. Coordinator: Cal Weimer 288-2160.

Saturday, May 12:

**North American Migration Count.**

We need volunteers for this nation-wide census of migratory and other species. Teams will cover all of Guilford County. We also need "spotters" in Randolph County. Coordinator: Dennis Burnette 299-4342 e-mail: [burnetted@aol.com](mailto:burnetted@aol.com)

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)

Saturday, June 2:

**Field Trip: Flycatchers in Ashe County and on the New River**

Day trip to look for the Empidonax flycatchers. Leader: Herb Hendrickson 288-0271



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