



Prentiss Taylor



The Piedmont Birder

MASON FARM Field trip 4/6/02

INJURED WILD- LIFE

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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 news-
letter items is Jun. 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 news-
letter or on the website.

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

Officers

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

Dennis and Lynn Burnette led a lovely trip to the Mason Farm near Chapel Hill. This is a beautiful piece of land, once a working farm, that has been donated to UNCCH, and is used for research as well as for recreational purposes. Patches of woods, old fields and swamp make an interesting variety of habitats for birding and nature observation.

We admired some beautiful plants and flowers at the Botanical Gardens, and looked for spring migrants in the Nature Preserve. We saw only the earliest of the spring migrants. There were several White-eyed Vireos who called and teased us from the dense shrubbery. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers wheezed from the trees, and a few Common Yellowthroats peeked from the hedgerows.

We saw or heard 33 species of birds there in all, including several raptors (Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks), Wood Ducks, Bluebirds, a number of Woodpeckers including a Red-headed. One Swamp Sparrow was spotted in the lower swampy area of the preserve.

There were a few species of butterflies enjoying the spring flowers, some of the subtle Skippers that are hard to identify, including a Juvenal's Dusky Wing (a small, brown butterfly with tiny orange and white spots) and a Pearl Crescent.

Many wildflowers were also admired, including jack-in-the-pulpits. Fortunately some of our club members know a lot about wildflowers.

After our very pleasant walk through the Nature Preserve, we returned to Greensboro via Gibsonville, where we saw the Broad-tailed Hummingbird, which still frequents a residential backyard since the fall. This stray visitor from the west coast was a life bird for me.



-Louise Brown

Peggy Ferebee of the Natural Science Center gave a great presentation at the April 18th meeting on what to do for injured wildlife. Her recommendation is that you not try to feed fledglings, or nurse wild animals back to health, but get in touch with a Wildlife Rehabilitator. Leave a message, and they will get back to you. (This is an all-volunteer effort.) Before you take animals to a veterinary hospital, call first for any special instructions.

Local Wildlife Care: 697-4006
 Theresa Rochlem: 697-9991
 Janet Barns (babies only): 472-7295
 Lawndale Vet: 288-3233
 Battleground Vet: 288-2827
 After Hours Vet: 851-1990

To keep animals safe, put them in a cardboard box or even a brown paper bag.

If a young bird has fallen out of a nest, put it back. The parents will often return.

Don't attempt to feed babies until you contact a rehabber and find out what kind of food they eat. If you can't get them to a rehabber for more than 8 hours, moisten a little dry dog food and make it into a mash. Don't try to force food or water down the bird's throat.

If the nest has been destroyed, or must be moved, an empty hanging basket or a Cool Whip container (with holes in the bottom) will make a good substitute. Place the nest or nesting material in the container and put it as near as possible to the original location. The parents may well come back to it.

You needn't be overly concerned about catching diseases from birds. Be sure to wash hands thoroughly after handling them. Pet birds may pick up diseases so don't allow the wild ones to contact them.

More information is available on this web site:

www.wildbirdrehab.org/911.html#fb
bb (This is the website for a rehab center in Missouri, so don't contact them to pick up animals!)

-Louise Brown

From the President's Perch

by Emily Tyler

It's that time of year again, when we say goodbye to our winter birds that are heading north to breed, and greet the neotropical migrants that are passing through or staying here to spend the summer raising the next generation of their species. It's back to the birding tapes and CDs for a refresher on the songs and calls of these migrants and summer residents in preparation for the upcoming Spring Count as well as for backyard birding and local birding forays.

I meet each day wondering if the white throats, juncos and siskins will make their usual appearances. The last day the purple finches were seen at my feeders was April 11. New arrivals include the wood thrush on Apr. 17 and a rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo bunting on the 19th.

For long-time members of the PBC and the CBC who will remember Larry Crawford, we were notified recently of his death on April 3 at Duke Medical Center. He had been living in New Bern and Beaufort for many years since leaving Greensboro. He used to participate in our counts with Tom Street. Larry got his 397th NC bird when he saw this winter's Green-Tailed Towhee.

It's hard to believe another club year is almost over. There are several more field trips scheduled and we have the spring picnic to look forward to. Please check the dates in the Yearbook or elsewhere in this newsletter and come join us!



I found these lovely illustrations in a book titled Why Birds Sing by Jacques Delamain. Prentiss Taylor did them. The book was copyrighted in 1931.

-L. Brown



SPRING PICNIC



Saturday, May 18th is the date for the Spring Picnic. It will be at Shelter #1 in Country Park. The Park is off north-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 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! The PBC will provide beverages- soft drinks, iced tea, water and paper and plastic ware. Come by 5:30 for a bird walk lead by Cal Weimer

So, bring some food, bring your binoculars, bring a hearty appetite and be prepared to have a good time!

Coordinators: Ann Kelk 656-9879

e-mail: AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com,
and Irene Ade 656-9974.

EAGLE UPDATE:

Here's the latest eagle news: On March 28, Don Allen and I, along with Neil Thompson, one of the rangers at Lake Brandt, took a boat out to the northwest part of the lake to look for the Bald Eagle nest. We located an inactive nest in a tall pine tree, presumably built earlier this year, but with no sign of successful nesting.

The good news is that, in the same part of Lake Brandt, we discovered two pairs of Great Blue Herons nesting in bald cypress trees.

Lynn J. Moseley, Ph.D.



A & T Farm field trip

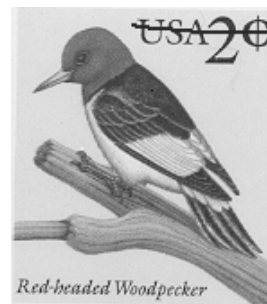
3/10/02

Emily Tyler led another successful expedition to A & T Farm to look for the Common Snipe. The weather was overcast and misty but mild and did not deter the group of us who went to see what avian species were gathering there. This is great habitat for many species of the open fields, and those who revel in the fecund droppings of the cattle herd. Brown-headed Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, American Crows, Starlings, Robins and others treat this as one delightful all-you-can-eat buffet. The Snipe, however, prefer insects they find in boggy ground, habitat offered by the low-lying areas of A & T Farm in the vicinity of an old cattle pond.

We saw four or five individuals of our target species, the Common Snipe. This was a fairly cooperative bunch, flushing easily, several times, and flying in a great circle around the farm before they landed again. The success of this species lies partly in their ability to blend in with their environment. Although they live in very open land, their coloring, a stripy pattern of browns and cream colors, blends in perfectly with the winter grasses of the fields of the Piedmont. They can stand perfectly still amongst tall grasses and reeds and remain virtuously invisible while in plain sight.

We also spotted 36 other species of birds that day, including Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Meadow Larks. In the woody creek area were Carolina Wrens, several species of Woodpeckers, Finches, Sparrows, Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

-Louise Brown



Red-headed Woodpecker

CLUB ELECTION NEWS:

The annual election was held at the April 18th meeting,

**Congratulations
to these new officers!**

Their term will begin May 18th.

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

Please add this to your yearbook:

Susan F. Dent

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.)



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.

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>

SPRING HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRY PARK



These are some of the folks who did the lake cleanup and the birdhouse cleaning in the fall of 2000. We need **you** in the picture for 2002!! -photo by Cal Weimer

Give a little to your community!
ADOPT-A-PARK

Please make notes in your yearbook for schedule revisions as follows:

- Saturday, May 18 Spring Picnic. There will be no birdhouse inspections. Come and enjoy the picnic. Bring your binoculars and maybe you will see Bluebirds, evidence that our project is working.
- Saturday, June 15 Canceled.
- Saturday, July 6 Canceled

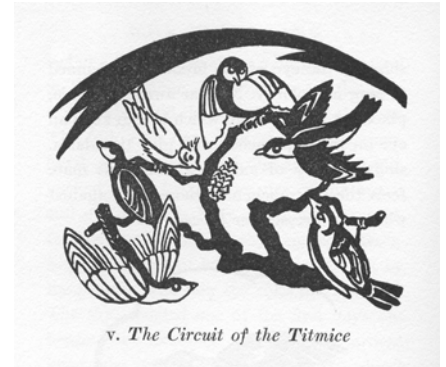
On Saturdays the park is closed to vehicular traffic, so we meet at the parking lot near the north end of the park. Turn off Lawndale Drive onto Orman Road; drive to the end of Orman and turn left, go to the open parking lot, and you will see us there. Look for Cal's red Ford pickup with a canopy. (At 9:00 AM on park event dates.)

Call me if you have any questions. Cal Weimer

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!



v. The Circuit of the Titmice

Prentiss Taylor

!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.

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

• Friday-Sunday, May 3-5

Carolina Bird Club Spring Meeting, Asheville, NC. (Most of us will be counting birds in Guilford County this weekend!)

• Saturday, May 4

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 273-4672; Compiler: Don Allen.

• Saturday, May 11

Bird Migration Event at the Zoo. Join us at the NC Zoo where we will help with Spring Migration activities. For details contact: Dennis Burnette: 299-4342, e-mail: burnetted@aol.com, or to help with our booth contact Jean Murphy, 882-3716, e-mail: JI4646@cs.com.

• Saturday, May 18

Spring Picnic and Bird Walk, Greensboro Country Park. Shelter #1. Bird walk, 5:30; dinner, 6:00.

Coordinators: Ann Kelk 656-9879

e-mail: AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com, and Irene Ade 656 -9974.

• Saturday, May 25

Field Trip: Finding Flycatchers in Ashe County and on the New River. Meet at 7:15 a.m. Day trip to look for Empidonax flycatchers.

Leader: Herb Hendrickson. Phone: 288-0271, e-mail: HTHendri@earthlink.com

• 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.. 299-4342 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. 299-4342

mail: burnetted@aol.com

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! Please send them to: Field Tip Committee: Dennis Burnette, Carolyn and Don Allen, **Program Committee:** Sharon Gallimore, Emily Tyler



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



DON'T FORGET!!!

SPRING PICNIC

SATURDAY May 18th 5:30 PM

COUNTRY PARK, SHELTER #1

BRING A COVERED DISH!

DETAILS PAGE 3

