



Great Blue Herons
on Valentine's Day
photo © 2004 by Melissa
Whitmire



The Piedmont Birder

Weymouth woods 4/3/04

We had a wonderful trip to Weymouth Woods! Although windy and a little cool, the weather was mostly sunny and very pleasant. A small group of Piedmont Bird Club members attended, and we were joined by a delightful couple from Ottawa. They had heard about us through our Web Site and arranged to meet us at the Weymouth Woods visitor center.

Scott Hartley, the ranger of WW who last year gave a presentation at one of our meetings about the unique fire ecology of the longleaf pine forest, met us Saturday afternoon and led a bird walk on which we saw four Red-cockaded Woodpeckers right away. What a treat! They were very active, foraging in the longleaf pines for insects, flying around, chattering to each other. We got our fill of good looks at them. Other birds encountered were White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, and the first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher I've seen all year. Scott also showed us some of the unique plants, supported by the fire ecology, that grow in the Sandhills, in particular carnivorous plants, the tiny Sundew, which are about as big around as a nickel, and some Purple Pitcher plants.

The next morning we drove to the Sandhills Game Area, to look for Bachman's Sparrows. Almost immediately we found a spot where several of them were singing. They have the most beautiful and complex song of any sparrow; the pleasure it gives is on a par with the Wood Thrush. They are very elusive birds, and we never got a good solid look at one, but we spent probably an hour listening to them and pursuing them through the long leaf pine and wiregrass habitat. They were always somewhere just ahead. But what a wonderful hour that was!! I have yet to find a recording of the Bachman's Sparrow that comes even close to what we heard that wonderful Sunday morning. They sang in a relaxed and prolonged fashion, clinging

- *Weymouth, con't on page 3*

A & T farm trip 3/6/04

by Emily Tyler

Despite overcast and threatening skies, 12 birders made it to the A&T Farm on March 6 for a short yet productive period of birding before the rains came. Undaunted by the weather, we then gathered under an equipment shed and enjoyed refreshments brought by Sharon and Brant Gallimore. The coffee and coffeecake warmed us despite our wet clothes and provided a great time for socializing. That afternoon, six birders returned under sunny skies to continue the field trip. As far as I know (or can remember), this is the first time we have had two local field trips in one day to the same place. There were great birds seen on both trips. In the morning we saw the Common Snipe and Common Raven, the first time a Raven has been reported at the Farm as far as we know. Among the more notable birds seen in the afternoon were the American Pipit and Savannah Sparrow. The two groups logged a total of 33 species.

We may not have seen the Farm's usual target bird, the Common Snipe, had it not been for Henry Link and Deidre Poe who obliged us by climbing the fence around the former farm pond to scare the birds up from the grasses that now abound where the water used to be. The Snipes did their characteristic circle around us so that everyone had a view. We have remained hopeful that the dam would be repaired so that we would once again be able to see and enjoy the interesting waterfowl found there in years past. Unfortunately, we were told recently that a building will be placed there. However, there are at least three or four other ponds on the property across McConnell Road, including the Pig Farm. With appropriate permission, it is likely that we will have access to these areas in the future.



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

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The next deadline for newsletter items is Aug. 15, 2004. I prefer to include a phone # and/or e-mail address for leaders and coordinators of any events. Please let me know if this is unsatisfactory. Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or E-mail at piedmontbirder@aol.com.

**PHOTOS OR OTHER
IMAGES WELCOME!**

**From the
President's Perch
by Emily Tyler**

These past three years as your president have flown by. It has been a pleasure serving you and I look forward to continuing my active involvement with club activities. The job was made easy working with the great group of officers and individuals who have chaired committees, coordinated counts, and contributed generously of their time and talents. A capable slate of new officers was elected at the April meeting who will guide the activities of the Club in the coming year.

I am proud of all the hard work the various committee chairs and their members have put into making this year such a productive one. In addition to the field trips (planned by Dennis Burnette and led by him and other trip leaders he tapped), the excellent programs and speakers lined up by Lynn Moseley (with the able assistance of Dennis), the Conservation Committee, which got off to a late start with no chair until January, has done an amazing job at Country Park under the direction of Dan Chambers, repairing and monitoring the bluebird boxes and cleaning up trash around the lakes to fulfill our Adopt-a-Park responsibilities.

The Bird Counts have gone off without a hitch thanks to Elizabeth Link's coordination, Don Allen's tabulation and Lynn Moseley's recording the data electronically. The Membership Committee has printed revised membership brochures and has overseen their distribution to birding outlets and garden and feed stores. Additionally, we have the first PBC T-shirt and sweatshirt, at least in the 36 years of my association with the Club. We owe Jean Murdick, chair, and her committee our deep appreciation for selecting a design from many possibilities, placing orders and making almost \$300 in profits for the Club. Irene Ade and her Social Committee members have organized our two picnics and the holiday dinner during the past year.

On behalf of the Education Committee, several members worked together to exhibit our display at the Lake Higgins Environmental Education Fair in September, the Audubon Chapter's Discovery Day at the Audubon Natural Area in October and at the March Open House at the Wild Bird House which has relocated to New Garden Village off Old

- President, con't p. 3.



*Ruddy Turnstone
photo by Dan Chambers*

**Easter Birding Trip
Morehead City & Vicinity 4/8 - 4/11/04**

by Dennis Burnette

A dozen Piedmont Birders converged on Morehead City over the long Easter weekend for three days of birding. By the time we concluded our activities just before lunch on Sunday, our stalwart group had a cumulative bird list of 101 species.

Everyone arrived on Thursday evening and was ready to hit the bunny, er, birding trail first thing Friday morning. We spent the first several hours watching sea birds flow past the Triple S Pier where we were thrilled by a very cooperative Long-tailed Duck as well as hundreds of cormorants and a few dozen Black Scoters. Then we moved on to nearby Ft. Macon State Park where we added a lone Purple Sandpiper along with many more common birds. In the afternoon we birded from the top deck of a bright red double-decker British bus as we toured the historic town of Beaufort, and then spotted birds such as American Oystercatcher and Whimbrel along the sandy edge of the channel.

On Saturday we worked our way along the highway through the marshes to Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge and the ferry landing, stopping along the way at the Cape Lookout National Seashore headquarters and later the refuge headquarters. After lunch the group split in half with one group taking a boat trip across the sound to Cape Lookout and the other continuing to bird the Cedar Island area.

Sunday morning found us in the Croatan National Forest. We missed seeing Bachman's Sparrows, but we were serenaded in several places by the

-Easter, con't p. 3

Greensboro Lakes

by Dennis Burnette

We had a great field trip Valentine's Day, despite the heavily overcast sky and chilly temperature. This was a combined Piedmont Bird Club and T.G. Pearson (Guilford) Audubon Chapter activity that attracted 25 participants! We saw 53 species (not counting "pond pets") compared to 47 species that we saw almost exactly one year ago on a similar tour of the Greensboro Lakes. Highlights of the trip included nesting Bald Eagles and pre-nesting Great Blue Herons at Hamburg Mill Marsh (thanks to Emily Tyler and Carolyn Allen), and Common Merganser and Rusty Blackbird (thanks to Henry Link).



Whitacre's Farm 3/20

Carolyn Allen led the trip to a private property where they saw 27 species, including several hawks, (Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed), woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Flicker, Hairy and Sapsucker) as well as Chipping Sparrows, Bluebirds and others. Henry Link then led the crew to various lake stops, where they saw a Kestrel, Red-breasted Mergansers, Bonaparte's Gulls, and other water birds.



Officer slate for 2004-2005

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| President: | Bob Pellettier |
| Vice President: | Peggy Ferebee |
| Recording Secretary: | Carol Pellettier |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Lynn Burnette |
| Treasurer: | Susan Weimer |
| Members-at-Large: | Dan Chambers Steve Summerford |

The nominating committee has been hard at work choosing candidates for the coming year's officers. This slate was voted on and approved at the April meeting. Congratulations, new officers!

EAGLE UPDATE



Bald Eagle

photo © 2004 by Melissa Whitmire

Two eaglets, hatched between February 15 and 18, are in the nest and growing fast. They are already quite large. This is the first year since 1999 that the Greensboro pair has produced two offspring.

-Lynn Moseley



-President, from p. 2

Oak Ridge Road. We will participate in another Environmental Education Fair at Lake Higgins on June 12. Contact me if you would like to join us. It is great fun!

Although not as visible, the work of the other committees "behind the scenes" to carry out the work of the Club has kept us running smoothly this year. This includes the Nominating, Finance, Publicity, and Telephone Committees.

Last and certainly not least, we have had three excellent issues of The Piedmont Birder, carefully edited by Louise Brown (who also prepared the majority of the articles). Louise also keeps our Web site up to date and puts together our Yearbook, all daunting tasks by anyone's standards.

If you haven't been taking advantage of the Club's trips out of town for long weekends (most often at Thanksgiving and Easter), I hope you can experience one of these trips before long. The trips are well planned and yet offer the flexibility to make adjustments in the schedule as needs and interests dictate. The trip to the Morehead City/Beaufort/Cedar Island area this month was no exception. We had not birded this area as a Club in recent memory and Dennis did his usual research and had two and a half full days of excellent birding spots lined up for us. You will find other details about the trip on page 2.



SPRING PICNIC



Saturday, May 15th is the date for the Spring Picnic. It will be at Shelter #1 in Country Park. The Park is off north-bound Lawndale Drive, 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 far 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: meats, 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.

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

Coordinator: Irene Ade 656-9974, e-mail: irenenjoshpade@msn.com



-Easter, con't from p. 2

secretive bird's beautiful song. This is where we heard and sometimes saw several species of warblers. Possibly the most spectacular sight, however, was a tree full of about eight Peacocks and hens!

Several folks added species to their life lists, and everyone had a good time. Great weather and beautiful spring flowers provided a wonderful setting for good birding, good food, and good camaraderie. In short, it was a really fun trip.



Laughing Gull

photo by Dan Chambers

Country Park



L to R: Melissa Whitmire, Dan Chambers, Cal Weimer, Emily Tyler, Jean Murdick, Lisa DuBois, Jean McCoy (photo by Louise Brown)

31 species were seen at Country Park on cleanup day, Mar. 27, organized by Dan Chambers. 8 members participated in all, gathering 15 bags of trash around the lakes and streams. The weather was beautiful! You can see we were having a great time including refreshments.



-Weymouth, cont from p 1

to the notes. Even though we did not get a good look at the birds (which are fairly non-descript), their song far more than made up for it.

There were Chipping Sparrows aplenty, who were cooperative enough to let us look at them, and we also found some Field Sparrows, a life bird for the Canadians.

On the road to the Sandhills Gamelands is a great spot where it crosses a creek and there we heard in full voice several Yellow-throated Warblers, one of which gave us a good show as well. We saw 33 species in all.

-Louise Brown



Piedmont Bird Club shirts

Piedmont Bird Club shirts are here and can be picked up at club meetings or at Jean Murdick's house, 2804 Alderman Court (near Friendly Shopping Center). New members and missed-deadliners may still be able to obtain a PBC shirt or sweatshirt. If we accumulate enough orders to satisfy the screen printer's minimum order requirement, a second printing can be done. Contact Jean with your request to be put on a waiting list.

Phone: 852-3952

E-mail: lonandjean@triad.rr.com

Saturday, July 31

• **FIELD TRIP: Birds and Butterflies at Hagan-Stone Park.** This will be a joint field trip with the Carolina Butterfly Society, which will be conducting a butterfly walk and count. (We'll look at some birds, too!) No butterflying experience is necessary. Bring a picnic lunch and \$3.50 count fee. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Ph: 299-4342 E-mail: burneted@aol.com

Saturday, August 14

• **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. Ph: 299-4342 E-mail: burneted@aol.com

Welcome new members


- Gilentine, Carol
- Gillespie, Joel S.
- Horner, Jack & Morgan
- Morris, Gregg
- Sanders, Kay



Executive board members at meeting 3/17/04, l to r: Dan Chambers, Irene Ade, Judi Durr (back), Jean McCoy, Joyce Bartlett, Susan Weimer, Judie Underkoffler, Sally Howell (back), Emily Tyler, Bob Pellettier, Carol Pellettier, Jean Murdick, Jane Lewis, Grace Draper. (photo by Louise Brown)

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 **BEFORE** you make a purchase!



If you know anyone in the club who is sick or just under the weather, please contact Lynn Burnette at 299-4342 or mlburnette@aol.com. She will send a card on behalf of the PBC.



Volunteer Opportunity
 Have you ever fed a baby bird? Whether you have or you haven't, if you can spare any time at all during the busy upcoming nesting season, the Wildlife Rehab Center in Asheboro needs you! No experience needed! If you would like to help us return our injured and orphaned wildlife to their homes, please contact **Jane Lewis (work 336.424.6329, home 336.381.1696, e-mail jlewis@rtmc.net)** for more information.

THE WILD BIRD HOUSE
 New Garden Village.
 Greensboro, NC 27407
 Phone 336-664-8020

has generously offered members of PBC a 10% discount on bird seed and on anything in the store (except items already discounted.)



!!RENEW your MEMBERSHIP !!

It's time to pay your dues for the 2004-2005 season. If you have any questions, call Susan Weimer at 288-2160 or e-mail her at: sweimer@triad.rr.com.. Use the application form below.

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

Calendar

Reminder: If you are interested in going on a field trip, always contact the Leader prior to the trip. That way you will be informed of last minute changes, cancellations, or the leader may need to modify plans according to the number of attendees.

Saturday, May 1

• **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; Ph: 273-4672 E-mail: baddogi@yahoo.com
Compiler: Don Allen; Computer Recorder: Lynn Moseley.

Saturday, May 8

• **FIELD TRIP: Warblers and Other Spring Migrants, Fisher Park and Hamilton Lakes.** We will begin the morning at Fisher Park at 7:30 a.m. This old-style city park in a residential area just north of the central business district of Greensboro traditionally has been one of our best spots for neotropical migrants. Fisher Park Leaders: Carolyn & Don Allen. Ph: 288-3045 E-mail: texallennc@aol.com. We will then continue the trip at Starmount Forest/Hamilton Lakes. This community-owned heavily wooded park in a local residential section of Greensboro has become the best spot in the county for neotropical migrants. Leaders: Henry & Elizabeth Link. 273-4672 E-mail: baddogi@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 15

• **SPRING PICNIC** Country Park, Shelter #1.
Bird walk, 5:30; dinner, 6:00. Bring a covered dish; beverages will be provided. Picnic Coordinator: Irene Ade. 656-9974, e-mail: irenenjosephade@msn.com

Saturday, May 22

• **FIELD TRIP: Finding Flycatchers in Ashe County on the New River.** Meet at 7:15 a.m. Day trip to look for Empidonax flycatchers. Leader: Herb Hendrickson. Ph: 288-0271, e-mail: hhendrickson@triad.rr.com

Friday - Sunday, June 4-6

• **FIELD TRIP: Western North Carolina Mountains.** This weekend trip will center around the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway west of Asheville. We will look for nesting high elevation species that we usually see only in winter in the Piedmont, as well as warblers and other neotropical breeding birds. One target species will be the Saw-whet Owl. Leader: Louise Brown. Ph: 274-3691 or E-mail at piedmontbirder@aol.com. To contact the Pisgah Inn: Phone:(828) 235-8228 FAX: (828) 648-9719 e-mail: info@pisgahinn.com web site: https://www.pisgahinn.com/room_reservations.htm

-Calendar, continued on p. 4



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



DON'T FORGET!!!
SPRING PICNIC
SATURDAY May 15th 5:30 PM
COUNTRY PARK, SHELTER #1
BRING A COVERED DISH!

DETAILS PAGE 3