



Prentiss Taylor



The Piedmont Birder

Roger Tory Peterson



Wild Turkey

Roger Tory Peterson



Red-cockaded Woodpecker

May-Jul. 2003
Volume 14, Number 2

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 Jul. 15, 2003. 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 piedmont-birder@aol.com.

PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES WELCOME!

GREENSBORO LAKES

2/15/03

by *Dennis Burnette*

Despite the forecast for rain, 14 birders from the Piedmont Bird Club, Pearson (Guilford) Audubon chapter, and Forsyth Audubon decided to brave the weather for our joint waterfowl tour of the Greensboro lakes. We were rewarded for our efforts. The sky was overcast, but we managed to do the whole field trip with nothing more than an occasional light mist.

We began the field trip at Lake Higgins marina as planned. Early arrivals were treated almost immediately to excellent and long looks at a mature Bald Eagle. The cooperative eagle made a return visit after the group had picked up a pair of Wood Ducks and a few other waterfowl on the lake, plus a nice selection of land birds in our walk along the woodland edge.

Wood Ducks turned out to be unusually plentiful during the morning at several sites, making up in part for the relatively low number of other ducks. The high water levels may have moved the ducks up into the creeks. On the other hand, we had a pretty good raptor day

-G'so Lakes, con't p. 4



Weymouth Woods

3/22/03

We had a very educational experience at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, located smack between Southern Pines and Fort Bragg. The rangers there were most helpful and entertaining, giving us a tour and seminar about the unique longleaf pine "pine barrens" habitat and the efforts that go into managing it. Once covering most of the eastern seaboard, longleaf pine forests are now reduced to a few limited areas. One of the key elements to maintaining this habitat is the use of fire, integral to the life cycles of various plant species and animals that live there. Before man invaded, natural fires started by lightning kept the underbrush and debris cleared out, and forest rangers now set controlled fires to mimic that.

The main target of our visit, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker ("RCW"), is the only woodpecker that makes cavities in live trees. This unique behavior, which results in the sap from the trees streaming down and coating the bark, is a defense against predatory snakes which cannot crawl up the resulting slick surface.

-Weymouth, con't p. 4

From the
President's Perch
by Emily Tyler

It's that time again, when we eagerly await the return of our Neotropical migrants to brighten our days with their songs and beautiful colors. Some are only passing through en route to their northern nesting grounds while others will stay with us through the summer breeding season. Already several such species have been seen or heard as you'll note elsewhere in this newsletter. We also have had sightings of birds not generally expected in our area or at least not at this time. On April 11 Henry Link spotted a Red Phalarope on Lake Brandt and the next day the Allens were rewarded with a Common Loon in nearly full breeding plumage doing its courtship dance and yodeling calls on a pond they checked out on Burgess Road near the old airport. Keep your eyes and ears open and remember to record the first time you see or hear the summer residents and report them to Dennis Burnette, along with the last day you observe the winter residents.

Henry Link is birding in Starmount Park most mornings during spring migration and would welcome the company of others.

Nine PBC members attended the memorial service for Barbara Jones on April 5. Her son and other family members shared wonderful and often humorous memories of their times with Barbara. It was a grand celebration of her life, taken too early and so quickly from us. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The Club contributed \$215 to the American Cancer Society to honor her, donated by members. Others contributed individually.

Louise Brown prepared a nice note to go to the Jones family from the PBC which included the fact that Barbara had called several club members from her hospital bed last fall when she broke her back, seeking someone who could carry out a plan she initiated to take several of our members with limited driving ability to visit Mildred Kallenbach in Stokesdale. This was typical of the many kind acts Barbara carried out and the persistence with which she followed through with her plans. Barbara made

- Perch, con't p. 4

A & T Farm

March 8, 2003

Roger Tory Peterson



American Pipit

A dozen members and guests of the PBC went on the annual A & T Farm walk which was very wet after all the rain. It was so wet (possibly with overflowed sewage) in the back that we didn't venture along the creek there past the fence. The dam for the pond had been burst by the heavy rains, but the Snipe and Killdeer that were chowing down in the remaining muck looked happy.

Sharp-eyed Henry Link spotted a couple of American Pipits in some of the fields, so we got a pretty good look at those. We also saw more Snipe and Pipits over at the Hog Farm. There were a lot of Meadow Larks, Redwing Black-Birds, Cowbirds, and a few raptors- both vultures, Red-tail Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

It was a beautiful day to be outside after all our snow and ice! In all we saw 37 species of birds.

-Louise Brown



Mountain Field Trip

by Elizabeth Link

Birders who want to join the field trip to the southern NC Mountains on June 7-8 should consider making reservations now. Most of us will be staying at the Pisgah Inn, on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Inn will be the starting point for our trips both days. (ph #: 828-235-8228. Website: www.pisgahinn.com.) They tend to fill up quickly for the summer, so make reservations soon if you intend to stay there.

There is a campground across the Parkway from the hotel, but it is filled on a first-come, first-served basis and you can't make reservations. The next closest accommodations would be found in Brevard, Waynesville, and Asheville, each

-Mtns, con't p. 3

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

Feb 1, 2003

Roger Tory Peterson



Pintail

What a great day it turned out to be on the 1st of Feb. at the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. This carefully maintained area is a haven for ducks in the winter, and a great place to see raptors. We saw a Northern Harrier doing its low-altitude cruise over the fields, looking for small rodents, as well as Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned Hawks and a Kestrel.

At a pond surrounded by dying trees, a number of Red-headed Woodpeckers were spotted, calling between themselves, and working the rotten dead trees.

Some of us mistakenly went to an area called "the impoundments." It was a great place, lots and lots of birds (I'll bet about 5000 robins) foraging the mown fields, lots of ducks- Green-winged Teal, Pintails, Mallards and Black Ducks gorging themselves in the corn fields especially flooded for them. We could hear Pileated Woodpeckers calling in the trees on the far edges of the fields. A ranger drove up and told us that we weren't supposed to be there. I guess the term "impoundments" means we are supposed to be impounded out! Apparently we completely missed the sign (although we were not totally sorry about it!). But he was nice, we apologized, and he was very informative and explained why parts of the refuge were closed. Since it is a waterfowl preserve, duck hunting is not allowed there, but if people walk where the ducks are, they flush them out to waiting hunters across the boundaries. Luckily the hunting season had stopped just a few days before so we didn't cause any real harm. These sections re-open after the first part of March; the ranger said to call to find out more specifically when. There are areas

-Pee Dee, con't p. 4

Triad Park

4/12/03

Ringier Tony Pederson



Yellow-crowned Night Heron

It was a wonderful day with the sun out after relentless months of rain. The usual trip Dennis Burnette leads to Mason Farms at this time was cancelled because of flooded roads there, but this trip to Triad Park provided an adequate alternative. For those monitoring migrants, we saw some late winter birds- a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler and a Junco. Spring arrivals were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Fish Crow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, and Common Yellowthroat. The latter two remained unseen but could be heard singing and calling quite plainly in the marshy areas of the park.

We saw 38 species of birds in all.

-Louise Brown



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

-Mtns, con't from p.2

a 30- to 40-minute drive from the inn. For folks who want to come up on Friday, we will be going out Fri. PM and Sat.AM. We will also have trips Sat. PM and Sun. AM. I would appreciate knowing ahead of time who is coming and when so that we can keep everyone up on the itinerary. There are no phones in the rooms at the Pisgah Inn so communication will be a bit tough.

The area that we'll be birding is full of interesting birds in June, and we'll be making forays into habitats ranging from high mountain balds to the rich low-

-Mtns, con't next column

SPRING PICNIC



Saturday, May 17th 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 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 5:00 for a bird walk led by Cal Weimer

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: irenenjosephade@msn.com



-Mtns, con't from 1st column this page

mountain Pink Beds area. In previous trips we have seen many warblers including Blackburnian, Swainsons, and Blue-winged; plus all the Empidonax flycatchers, and several singing thrush species. We will also look for the Peregrine Falcons that have been nesting on Devil's Courthouse and make a night trip to listen for singing Saw-whet Owls.

There are lots of possibilities, and we have always had great birding experiences in this area.

Henry and Elizabeth Link
Phone: 273-4672 E-mail: bad-dogi@yahoo.com



The Piedmont Bird Club wishes to extend our condolences to long-time member Mildred Kallenbach, whose daughter, Barbara Kallenbach Hawley, passed away in late March.



Eagle update

Lynn Moseley announced at the last bird club meeting that while on a helicopter survey of the Lake Brandt area, she was able to spot the eagles' new nest (with one eagle in it) in the top of a pine tree near Lake Brandt. This is very exciting and we hope for a successful outcome this year!



Western Birding

by Rob Rachlin

In Arizona, I added six more birds to my life list at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix, including a black-chinned hummingbird, phainopepla, brown-crested flycatchers, black-tailed gnatcatchers, gilded flicker and ladder-backed woodpecker. I also saw lots of new birds in the South Mountain Preserve in Phoenix, including my first inca doves, curve-billed thrashers, cactus wrens, gila woodpeckers, verdins, a Cooper's hawk, and several others. Probably the most exciting was a short-eared owl that hunted by day up and down a dry creek bed, passing in front of me a dozen times in twenty minutes.

The most unexpected sighting of all, though, was in the Grand Canyon. I knew that a number of California condors had been released into the wild in a remote corner of the park. I was fortunate enough to see a pair fly right over my car!



-G'so Lakes, con't from p. 1

with good views of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and an American Kestrel in addition to the eagle. The highlight of the trip for most people, however, was the low flyover of seven Wild Turkeys, complete with a crash landing of one of them in a tree across the road from where we were standing.

The group tallied a total of 47 species for the morning, not too bad considering that several expected species of waterfowl and even some common land birds didn't show up for us. In addition, we had a great time renewing some acquaintances and making some new friends in the combined group. A more congenial group of birders would be hard to find anywhere. Those folks in the various clubs who backed out because of the weather forecast missed out on a fun trip.



-Pee Dee, con't from p. 2

where you can walk but not drive. The accessibility depends on the season, and what management tasks are going on at any given time. There are some established viewing areas with duck blinds where you can watch the wildlife, and the park is working on setting up a couple more such areas. When asked, the ranger said the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is no longer there, despite attempts to encourage it.

We paused at the Lake Tillery Dam on the Pee Dee River and were impressed by about 50 Great Blue Herons there, feeding in the waters just below.

For more information:

Pee Dee NWR
Rt. 1, Box 92
Wadesboro, NC 28170
704-694-4424

-Louise Brown



Weymouth, con't from p. 1

A few of us who managed to stay late in the afternoon got to see three RCWs as they returned to their roosting trees. They are delightful woodpeckers, looking a little like Downys but with a circular white patch on each cheek. They are very gregarious, living in extended family units (another unique trait), and chatter to each other as they forage. The previous year's offspring often remain and help their parents feed the newest babies.

Another bird we tried to see was the Bachman's Sparrow, which frequents the open wiregrass areas in the longleaf forest, but it was possibly too early for seeing them. We were pleasantly surprised, however, to see a gorgeous Yellow-throated Warbler, and a little farther down the road heard a number of them singing in the trees around a low, wet area. We saw 25 species of birds, the most notable being the RCW, the Yellow-throated Warbler, and a number of raptors.

The longleaf pine forest was thick with Brown-headed Nuthatches, Chickadees, Pine Warblers, Chipping Sparrows and other birds. We also got to see one fox squirrel, a larger relative of our common gray squirrel.

More information on Weymouth Woods and the longleaf pine forest can be found at their excellent website:

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wewo/do.html>

-Louise Brown

-Perch, , con't from p. 2

a real difference in the Piedmont Bird Club in the few years since she joined. At the time of her death, she was serving as both corresponding secretary and chair of the membership committee. Many of our senior members will remember her for her many offers of rides to Club meetings and other events. As corresponding secretary, she sent cards to cheer those who were ailing and stayed in touch with many by phone to see how they were doing. We are grateful to Jean Murdick who stepped forward to assume the duties of membership chair and to Lynn Burnette who is sending cards for the Club when she is made aware of circumstances that warrant such.

I thought this would be my last column for the newsletter as your president. However, as no one approached by the nominating committee felt this was the right time for them to assume this role, you will have me leading the flock for another year. It is an easy job with the very capable officers and committee chairs who carry out the work of the Club. I would like to echo the message of the nominating committee asking members to give serious consideration to a leadership role in the organization. Sally Howell will be heading up the committee again next year so let her know anytime that you would be willing to serve.



New Officer Slate for 2003-2004:

These are the nominated candidates for the upcoming year. The election will take place at the meeting on April 24th.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| President: | Emily Tyler |
| Vice President: | Bob Pellettier |
| Recording Secretary: | Carol Pellettier |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Helen Black |
| Treasurer: | Susan Weimer |
| Members-at-Large: | Jane Lewis
Judie Underkoffler |

-Calendar, cont' from p. 6

• Saturday, May 17

Spring Picnic, Greensboro Country Park, Shelter #1. Bird walk, 5:00; dinner, 6:00. At 5:00 Cal Weimer will lead an informal check of the bird boxes and record what species are using them. Bring a covered dish; beverages will be provided. Picnic Coordinator: Irene Ade. Phone: 656-9974 e-mail: irenenjosephade@msn.com

• Saturday, May 24

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. Ph: 288-0271 E-mail: hhendrickson@triad.rr.com

• Saturday - Sunday, June 7-8

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. On Saturday night our target species will be Saw-whet Owl. More details, see "Mountain Field Trip," p. 2.

Leaders: Henry and Elizabeth Link.
Phone: 273-4672 E-mail: baddogi@yahoo.com

• Saturday, July 26

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. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• Saturday, August 16

Field Trip: Winston-Salem Wastewater Treatment Facility.

This is our annual trip to one of the best sites in the Triad for migrating shorebirds. It might be a bit smelly, but it's always fun! Bring binoculars. Little walking. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

Welcome new members

Be sure to add these names and changes to your yearbook! (Greensboro addresses and area codes unless otherwise noted.)

- Stacey Chappell**
- Lisa DuBois**
- Bob Harris**
- Mary Ellen Johnson**
- Susan McMarlin**
- Jerry & Ruthey Shumate**

Joanne & Steve Smith



New on our web site!

Photos of winter birds!
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub/photogallery3.htm>

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.

From time to time members have donated photos of birds or club events for use in the newsletter or website. I surely would appreciate a few more!

-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!

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.)



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. If the Leader receives no calls, the trip may be cancelled.

• **Thursday, April 24**

MEETING: A Brush With Spring - We will welcome Spring with a close-up view through the eyes and camera of Don Allen who will share images of critters, flowers and other natural subjects he has encountered in Springs past. *Bird of the Season: Woodpeckers: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* (Lynn Burnette)

• **Saturday, April 26**

Field Trip: Starmount Park/Hamilton Lakes for warblers and other spring migrants; 7:30 a.m. This small park in a local residential area is our best spot for Neotropical migrants. Leader: Henry Link. Phone: 273-4672

• **Sunday, April 27 (Sunday afternoon bird walk)**

Bird Walk and Nest Check, Greensboro Country Park: 2:00 p.m. We will do an informal walk to look for migrants, and also make sure that the nest boxes are ready for their new spring tenants. Contact: Cal Weimer. Phone: 288-2160

• **Saturday, May 3**

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, Phone: 273-4672; Compiler: Don Allen; Computer Recorder: Lynn Moseley.

• **Saturday, May 10**

International Migratory Bird Day. We will join other clubs and organizations at the NC Zoo in Asheboro to celebrate this annual event. We need volunteers to staff the Piedmont Bird Club table and educational display for an hour or two. Zoo admission is free to volunteers! Coordinator: Jean Murphy. 882-3716

-Calendar, continued on p. 5



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



DON'T FORGET!!!
SPRING PICNIC

SATURDAY May 17th 5:00 PM
COUNTRY PARK, SHELTER #1
BRING A COVERED DISH!

DETAILS PAGE 3

