



Broad-winged
Hawk



The Piedmont Birder

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Newsletter of the
Piedmont Bird Club
PO Box 38833
Greensboro, NC 27438-8833
<http://www.greensboro.com/birdclub>
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The next deadline for newsletter items is Dec. 15, 2001. 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 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 Bledsoe
Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Jones
Treasurer: Susan Weimer
Members-at-Large: Lynn Moseley
 Jean Murphy



MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCHING

PART I

MAHOGANY ROCK 9/22/2001

Various members of the PBC joined with other birders up at Mahogany Rock on the Blue Ridge Parkway, where there is a regular migrating hawk count that takes place every year, organized by Jim Keegan.

The NC mountains are a major flyway for migrating hawks. In the week prior to this excursion several thousand Broad-winged Hawks had been counted, 3100 in one day! The numbers were greatly reduced for us that day ("You shoulda been here last week!") but we did see a variety of raptors: Bald Eagle, Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, and Ravens.

Part of the excursion was to take a shuttle up to Bullhead Mountain. The road was so steep that we were dropped off a quarter of a mile shy of the viewing area, and it was a steep walk indeed. More Audubon Society members were counting birds there, spotting Accipiters, Falcons, Buteos, and at least one Cormorant. There were also a number of migrating Monarchs. It was easy in a moment of excitement to spot a flying speck, thinking it was a hawk, only to have it become a "Mona-hawk." Another interesting phenomenon was what appeared to be small clouds, which were actually swarms of honeybees.

- see Hawks, continued on p. 3

These are most of the folks who did the lake cleanup and the birdhouse cleaning in the fall of 2000. We need *you* in the picture for 2001!! -photo by Cal Weimer

COUNTRY PARK PROJECT

Last year's conservation project for the Bird Club was an Adopt-A-Park program with Country Park on Lawndale Drive. The following is a review of what was accomplished over the past year:

- November, 2000: Park cleanup around the edges of the lakes and 13 bird nest boxes checked and cleaned out. Several layers of nests were stacked one on top of the other right up to the opening in most of the boxes.
- May, 2001: Cleanup around the lake edges and the nests were inspected for contents.
- March, June, and July: Nests were inspected for contents.

Results from the above:

- 13 nest boxes were cleaned
- 3 nest boxes were repaired
- 3 nest boxes were replaced

Spring and summer nest box inspections revealed the following:

- 15 Bluebird eggs
- 18 Baby Bluebirds
- 3 nests with Chickadee babies
- 2 nests with Titmouse babies
- 7 empty nests

- see Country Park, continued on p. 2

From the President's Perch

by Emily Tyler

The Club has hosted a number of successful and fun events over the past several weeks, which many of you have been able to take advantage of. The Fall Picnic at Hagan Stone Park, which opened the Club's new birding year, was a delightful occasion on a gorgeous early fall afternoon. The food and fellowship were outstanding as usual. The highlight of the brief business portion of the meeting was the dedication of the 2001-2002 Yearbook. The honoree was Grace Draper who, with her late husband Harold, had received this honor once before as a couple. Grace has served as the Club's historian for more than a quarter of a century. She was surprised and very appreciative to receive this honor.

As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, we had two hawk-watching trips this fall. One of the highlights of the trip to Pilot Mountain was when the weather became cloudy and breezy for a time and more than a dozen PBC'ers gathered for a tailgate picnic in the parking lot before resuming our perches to watch for migrating raptors or to hike nearby trails to see late-arriving warblers passing through. Both trips were very enjoyable and I encourage others to consider joining us on these trips next year.

The programs for the year begin on October 18 and continue on the third Thursday of each month through April, except for December. We have been asked by the Congregational United Church of Christ to keep the door locked during our programs to prevent unauthorized individuals from gaining access and wandering throughout the building. We will try to leave the door open until 7:45 for late arrivals. However, if you plan to arrive later than that, please let someone know who can watch for you so you won't be locked out.

If you need a ride to the programs or field trips, please call Barbara Jones at 885-1936. If we don't have your e-mail address listed in the Yearbook, and would like to receive notices of upcoming events or rare bird sightings, contact Louise Brown or me.



-Country Park, from p. 1

PBC conservation goals and ideas for 2001-2002:

- Continue the Adopt-A-Park program at Country Park, cleaning and monitoring bird nests
- Improve access to nest boxes (some were hard to get to because of brush and muddy soil. Most boxes need door lock screws replaced with hook-and-eye or some thing similar to keep them closed.)
- Relocate some boxes
- Consider lowering some boxes to make them accessible without ladders.
- Solve the problem of empty nests
- Apply for formal park adoption (The first year was an experiment to see if this is a desirable conservation project worthy of continuing.)
- Check stream quality and list needs for future projects.

Thanks to all who have so enthusiastically participated in this past year's project. The park staff appreciate our hard work and the birds, especially Bluebirds, have taken advantage of the improved nesting sites.

I encourage you to turn out for this worthy project, and the birdwatching is excellent. Country Park is stop-over for many migratory birds in the spring and fall. Interesting local regulars in the park are the Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Bluebirds, and all the common birds seen in Greensboro. See the Yearbook, newsletters, and the web-site for scheduled dates.

-Cal Weimer



Everybody wants a look!

W-S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

8/25/2001

The weather was sunny but not too hot for Dennis Burnette's annual trip to the Winston-Salem Wastewater Treatment Plant. The shallow sludge ponds, odiferous as they may be, often attract quite a few migrating shorebirds of the plover and sandpiper families. The depth of the ponds was not ideal this year, as we had had a generous amount of rain, so there were not great numbers of the birds, but there were representatives of several species: Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs. We saw 31 species of birds in all, including an Eastern Pewee, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Barn Swallows and Pine Warbler.

There were a number of butterflies seen, including Monarch, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Silver-spotted Skipper, Buckeye, and a Red-spotted Purple. One insect Dennis noticed that is worth mentioning was a Velvet Ant, a fuzzy black and red creature about an inch long. It is actually not an ant at all, but a wingless wasp. Mother Nature has certainly created some interesting things!

-Louise Brown



semi-palmated plover



Bluebird nest box

photos of Country Park by Cal Weimer

THANKSGIVING BIRDING IN SC

Our extended field trips are some of the best for interesting birding. Wintering waterfowl make for spectacular adventures!

Make reservations early; contact the Allens for motel information.

Leaders: Carolyn and Don Allen. 288-3045



AIRPORT BIRDING



The tragic events of September eleventh have affected us all at one level or other. We wish to express our deep sympathy for those who lost loved ones in that attack, and our support for everyone affected by it.

In light of the increased security and heightened alertness, Don Allen informs us that casual birding in the vicinity of the Piedmont Triad International Airport is probably a bad idea. Any unauthorized persons walking around with binoculars or telescopes would likely be regarded as suspicious at the least and turned away. Actually this has happened before, in the days of the Persian Gulf War, when both Lynn Moseley and Herb Hendrickson were run off by airport security.



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>

-Hawks, from p. 1

A group of birders led a couple of "warbler walks" in which a large variety and number of warblers were seen: Cape May, Tennessee, Hooded, Oven Bird, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, among others.

MOUNTAIN HAWK WATCHING

PART II
PILOT MOUNTAIN 9/29/2001

This was the second weekend in a row with great weather and great hawk watching! We went to Pilot Mountain, to join again other birders from the Forsyth County Audubon group, who were doing official migrating hawk counts. The numbers were not great, but we saw quite a few species, and the winds were such that the birds generally came in very close, giving us great views of Broad-winged, Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Osprey, Kestrel, Turkey and Black Vultures. A Peregrine Falcon and a Northern Harrier were also seen. We were buzzed by Chimney Swifts, and when we first got there, a small group of Blue-headed Vireos hung out till a Sharpie scared them off.

-Louise Brown

HOLIDAY DINNER!!

Time is flashing by faster than we care to know! December is just around the corner, as is our annual Holiday Dinner, on Dec 13th. This is a reservation-only occasion, so please be sure to contact one of the coordinators by Dec. 7th. The price is very reasonable. The last few years our dinner has been catered by Mary Marks, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on N. Greene St., whose delicious food has been enjoyed by all of us.

Coordinators: Ann Kelk: 656-9879,
AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com,
Irene Ade: 656-9974.

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!

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 December, \$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.

• **Saturday, November 3**

Adopt-a-Park, 9:00 a.m. (Rain date Sunday, Nov. 4.) Club members will pick up litter and do maintenance on bluebird boxes at Greensboro Country Park on Lawndale Dr. Bring binoculars for birding as we work. Coordinator: Cal Weimer. 288-2160.

• **Saturday, November 10**

Field Trip: The Bog Garden. Meet at the garden at 8:00 a. m. You never know what birds you might find at the Bog Garden. We have seen every kind of local woodpecker, waterfowl, and plenty of songbirds. The garden is always a delight. Leader: Louise Brown. 274-3691 e-mail: lulugarden@aol.com

• **Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.**

MEETING: Falconry. Dr. Todd Owsley will speak to the Club about falconry, its history, the various training methods used and the types of birds preferred. Come learn about this fascinating hobby and meet one of Dr. Owsley's birds.

Bird of the Season: Diving Birds - Northern Gannet (Judi Durr)

• **Thursday-Sunday, November 22-25** (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Field Trip: Myrtle Beach, SC area, including Huntington Beach State Park. **Contact the Allens for motel information: make reservations early!** Leaders: Carolyn and Don Allen. 288-3045

• **Saturday, December 1**

Field Trip: Pottery and Birding in Seagrove. Meet at Lynn's house at 8:15 a.m. This is our annual pre-holiday shopping and birding trip in parts of Randolph and Moore counties. It wraps after lunch at a local restaurant. Leaders: Lynn Burnette. 299-4342 e-mail: mlburnette@aol.com, Sharon Gallimore: 665-1713

• **Thursday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.** (Note change of location and time.)

MEETING: Annual Holiday Dinner and Members' Slide Show. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church south of Fisher Park on N. Greene St. Catered; **reservations required. Please make reservations by Dec. 7th.** Our program will feature slides taken by our members during the past year; please bring up to 25 or so slides of nature-oriented subjects. Slide Program Coordinator: Dennis Burnette; Dinner Coordinators: Ann Kelk: 656-9879, AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com, Irene Ade: 656-9974.

• **Saturday, December 15**

Christmas Bird Count — Teams will count birds in assigned areas within the designated 15-mile circle. Some teams need new counters for all or part of the day, and new birders are welcome. Mostly riding or mostly walking, depending on team assignment. Bring a hot drink and binoculars; dress for weather. The tally is the following afternoon at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Assignments Coordinator: Elizabeth Link: 273-4672; Compiler: Don Allen.

• **Tuesday, January 1**

Field Trip: New Year's Day Bird Walk, 9:00 a.m. or so - call for exact time. Again this year we will usher in the new year with a morning bird walk followed by coffee/hot chocolate at a member's home. Leader: Sharon Gallimore: 665-1713.



Piedmont Bird Club
PO Box 38833
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The Holiday dinner is sooner than you think!!

Thursday, December 13, 7:00 p.m
make reservations by Dec. 7th

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Reservations required

Read about it on page 3.