



The Piedmont Birder

HAWK WATCHING 2002 Part I: Mahogany Rock

By Carolyn Allen

We arrived at Mahogany Rock, milepost 235 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, at 10:30 a.m. Sat., Sept. 21st. Initially, looking toward Sparta, visibility was good. But soon the fog began pouring up from the east and south. By 11:30 a.m. both sides of the Parkway were opaque. Before the fog closed in, small birds were busy on the west side of the mountain. Dogwood fruit was a favorite food. Several unidentified warblers along with a Scarlet Tanager or two, Goldfinch, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Towhees, and Carolina Chickadees were there in some numbers.

Thanks to the hospitality of Jim and Alice Keighton, who live nearby and are the keepers of the hawk watch records, we gathered to watch hawks on their porch, out of the rain. The Jezoreks of Greensboro, who have a summer cottage there, asked us to stop by in the afternoon. A walk down their road produced Turkey Vultures, American Crows, Catbirds, Carolina Wrens, Towhees, Titmice. Several butterfly species included Eastern-tailed Blues, Cabbage, fritillaries, Tiger swallow-tails and perhaps a little wood satyr.

Sunday morning, the sun was shining and the air was clear. The prospects for a good hawk-sighting day seemed bright. But by the time we reached the Parkway and neared Mahogany Rock, it was evident that the fog was getting there before us. A pair of Ravens flying low overhead seemed to be just under the cloud cover. Soon we drove south, but visibility at Doughton Park was just as poor.

As of Sat., Sept. 21, 2002, only 282 hawks had been seen at Mahogany Rock, of which about 220 were Broad-winged. By comparison, on the same date in 2001, more than 2000 had been seen. Warm weather and adverse winds held up the flights. At another site in the Blue Ridge, ten days later, more than 10,000 hawks were seen. It's "location, location, location" and "luck, luck, luck." But it's always worth trying!
-cont', p.3

WINTER BIRD ARRIVALS 2002

By Dennis Burnette

It is time again to report your sightings of winter resident bird species as they arrive. This is a continuation of the project we began last fall to create a database of arrival dates. As in the past, we will record the first several reports of each species until the reports become common for the season. Since we have members who live (and bird) in three counties, we will keep separate lists for Alamance, Guilford, and Randolph Counties. (We have no reports from Alamance as yet.) To make a report, call or e-mail Dennis Burnette at 299-4342, burnetted@aol.com.

The date in () is the 1st date seen in 2001.

Guilford:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:

(10/8/2001) 10/12/02 By a person from the Forsyth Audubon group at Triad Park in Guilford Co. during our joint field trip; 10/13 By Judi Durr at the Guilford Co. Coop. Extension Service office in Greensboro.

Golden-crowned Kinglet:

(10/29/2001) 9/30/02 By Henry Link in Starmount Forest.

Winter Wren: (10/28/2001)

10/16/02 Herb Hendrickson saw the first of the season at his home in G'sboro.

Yellow-rumped Warbler:

(10/28/2001) 10/12/02 One seen poorly by people at Triad Park in Guilf. Co. during a PBC field trip.

Chipping Sparrow: (10/31/2001)

10/12/02 A flock of about six seen by several people at Triad Park in Guilford Co. during a PBC field trip.

White-throated Sparrow:

(10/2/2001) 10/6/02 By Henry Link in Starmount Forest.

Dark-eyed Junco: (10/28/2001)

10/1/02 A male spotted by Julien McCarthy & Judith Pate at Lake Townsend in the woods .

Broad-winged Hawk

Nov-Dec 2002, Jan 2003
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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 Jan. 15, 2003. 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.

PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES WELCOME!

Officers

President: Emily Tyler

Vice President:

Recording

Secretary: Carol Pellettier

Corresponding

Secretary: Barbara Jones

Treasurer: Susan Weimer

Members-at-Large: Bob Pellettier
Jean Murphy

• Saturday, December 14

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 day at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Assignments Coordinator: Elizabeth Link; Compiler: Don Allen; Computer Recorder: Lynn Moseley

JANUARY

• Saturday, January 4

Field Trip: Jordan Lake for Eagles

and Ducks, meet at 8:30 a.m.. This is a good trip to find wintering birds and possible rarities. We will meet in Greensboro and car pool. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• Saturday, January 11 Bird Seed Sale

sponsored by National Audubon Society Pearson (Guilford) Chapter.

• Thursday, January 16

MEETING: Endangered Plants in the

Piedmont. Speaker: Moni Bates, botanist with the NC Plant Conservation Program, will discuss endangered and threatened plant species in the Piedmont and the efforts underway to protect and restore their habitats. Don't miss this informative slide show and presentation.

Bird of the Season: Woodpeckers: Red-bellied Woodpecker (Susan Weimer)

• Saturday, January 18

Field Trip: Waterfowl on the

Greensboro Lakes. Meet at 9:00 a.m.

Ducks, geese, grebes, mergansers, and gulls are our target birds on this tour of the lake overlooks. Dress warmly and bring a thermos of something hot; the wind off the lakes can be chilling. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. We have invited the Forsyth and Pearson Audubon chapters to join us. No walking. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

FEBRUARY

• Saturday, February 1 and possibly

Sunday, February 2

Field Trip: Pee Dee National Wildlife

Refuge near Charlotte and nearby Sandhills NWR across the South Carolina line near McBee. We will drive south about an hour and 45 minutes for our club's third organized excursion to Pee Dee NWR where we hope to see wintering waterfowl. After lunch we will continue south across the South Carolina line to look for Red- cockaded Woodpeckers. If there is enough interest, we will spend the night and explore the Congaree Swamp

-cont' next column

National Monument near Columbia before returning home after lunch. Call for meeting place and time. Leaders: Lynn and Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

Welcome new members!!

Be sure to add these names and changes to your yearbook!

Minter, Ethel

Hicks, Marta

-HAWK WATCHING 2002, cont' from p. 1

Part II: Pilot Mountain

The weather was much kinder to hawk watchers on the weekend of 9/28. The temperature was very pleasant, blue skies with puffy clouds. Phillip Kellam was the first of the PBC to arrive, and kept a tally of the migrating raptors. By noon he and others spotted 2 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Osprey, 1 Northern Harrier, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Kestrel, and a grand total of 271 Broad-winged Hawks. Also seen were 1 Cormorant, a number of Ravens, Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, and Chimney Swifts. We had a good representation of our club with 12 members, led by Dennis Burnette.

-Louise Brown



-Winter Arrivals, cont' from p. 1.

Randolph:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (11/08/2001)

9/2902 Jane Lewis saw one at her home.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: (11/07/2001)

10/1302 Jane Lewis saw two at her home.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (11/07/2001)

10/13/02 Jane Lewis saw one at her home.



The BUDGET

Judi Durr has been working very hard on our budget. One large cut was that we will only be doing only 4 newsletters a year instead of 6. Issues will be coming out the first of February, May, September and December. This is the first time the club has had a formal audit or budget.

INCOME	
58 Indiv. Members @ \$15	870
25 Family @ \$20	500
Total Income	\$1,370
EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE	
Bird Counts	120
Conservation	25
Education	150
Field Trips	-
Finance	-
Historian	-
Membership	88
Newsletter/Website	400
Nominating	-
Program	50
Publicity	-
Social	35
Telephone	-
Treasurer	95
Yearbook	380
Donations: birdseed	-
Contingency	50
Total Expenses	\$1,408
Budget is balanced	
Shortfall funded by priors	(\$38)



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.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2

Adopt-a-Park, 9:00 a.m. (Rain date Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2:00 p.m.) The club will pick up litter and do maintenance on bluebird boxes at Greensboro Country Park on Lawndale Drive. Bring binoculars for birding as we work. Coordinator: Cal Weimer. Phone: 288-2160

• **Thursday, November 21, 7:30 p.m. (!!This date was listed incorrectly in the yearbook!!)**

MEETING: A New Look at Feeding Birds. Dennis and Lynn Burnette will use slides and demonstrations to reveal what, when and how to feed our backyard birds. There will be tips and ideas for novices and experienced folks alike. Bring a visitor to this one!

Bird of the Season: Woodpeckers: Northern Flicker (Emily Tyler)

• **Saturday, November 16**

Field Trip: The Bog Garden. Meet at the garden at 8:30 a.m.. You never know what birds you might find at the Bog Garden. We have seen almost every kind of local woodpecker, waterfowl, and plenty of songbirds. The garden is always a delight. Leader: Louise Brown. Phone: 274-3691 E-mail: piedmontbirder@aol.com

• **Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 28-Dec. 1 (Thanksgiving Weekend)**

Field Trip: Myrtle Beach, SC area, including Huntington Beach State Park. For more information, contact Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

DECEMBER

• **Saturday, December 7**

Field Trip: Cedarrock Park and Lake Macintosh, Alamance County. It has been several years since our club has visited this park in rural Alamance just east of Guilford Co. While in the area, we will check Lake Macintosh for ducks and eagles. Leader: Dennis Burnette. Phone: 299-4342 E-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• **Thursday, December 12, 6:00 p.m. (Note different location and time.)**

MEETING: Annual Holiday Dinner and Members' Slide Show. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church south of Fisher Park on N. Greene St. Catered; \$17 per person; reservations required. Our program will feature slides taken by our members during the past year; please bring up to 15 slides of nature- oriented subjects. Slide Program Coordinator: Dennis Burnette; Dinner Coordinator: Irene Ade
Phone: 656-9974

-Calendar continued on p. 3



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



The Holiday dinner is sooner than you think!!
Thursday, December 12, 6:00 p.m
make reservations by Dec. 8th
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Reservations required
Read about it on page 3.