



Goldfinch by Gladys Smith  
from 1973 History of the Club cover

Sept-Oct., 2001  
Volume 12, Number 5

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

## Inside This Issue

1. Helen Zuk
1. PBC History
2. West Nile Virus
2. Birding at A & T Farm
3. President's Perch
4. Calendar

The next deadline for newsletter items is Oct. 15, 2001. Call Louise Brown at 274-3691 or E-mail at [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto: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



# The Piedmont Birder

Helen Zuk  
1903-2001  
by Emily Tyler



Since learning recently of Helen's death on January 3, just a week after her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, I have asked several club members to share their memories of Helen. Comments included, "they threw the mold away after making Helen," and "she was truly one of a kind."

Helen's name first appears in the Club's 1965-66 Yearbook. She remained active until she left Greensboro in the mid-nineties to return to her native Massachusetts when her health began to fail. She was president of the Club in 1980-82 and the 1983-84 Yearbook was dedicated to her. Helen was the self-appointed keeper of the bird lists for our trips. Helen may be best remembered by many club members for her nutmeg cake which was a hit at the spring and fall picnics. People lined up to get a slice even before the meal was served. If any was left near the end of the picnic, Helen would come around and dish out the remainder on any available plates.

Anyone who regularly participated in field trips was taught by Helen how to tie one's shoe laces so they were secure, yet easily untied by pulling on one lace. Please see me or other old timers if you want to learn this fail-proof technique.

An accountant by trade, Helen was also an artist. A few of us are fortunate enough to have some of her watercolors of birds. Some of her drawings adorn the covers of earlier Yearbooks. A little-known fact about Helen was her love of classical music, particularly opera. She had a lovely voice herself and sang solos in the Holy Trinity Church choir.

- see Zuk, continued on p. 2

## PBC HISTORY- INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Club Historian Grace Draper recently brought two documents to my attention. The first is a club history compiled by Etta Schiffman, which details club activities from its inception in 1938 until 1973. Grace Draper put together a continuation of that work in 1988, as a 50-year anniversary edition.

A few excerpts from the 1973 history include:

"Some of you may be surprised to learn that our club began as an anti-cat club. ... a group of earnest citizens, concerned by the depredations by cats on the bird population, ...approached the city council to see if something could be done by a city ordinance to stop, or... control the depredations. They were told that only protests by an organized group would be considered."

"In 1942 we also held our first Christmas count. The tabulation of that first count was made in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swart, who provided a delicious waffle supper prior to the tabulation."

In the early 40's when gas was rationed because of the war, field trips involved a lot more walking.

From the Greensboro Record of February 25, 1943.

'The field trip chairman announced the first trip of the New Year for Sunday, February 28, at 2:30 p.m., starting at Apple's Store on Asheboro Street.

The group will take the bus to the store, and ride bicycles from there to Sharpe's Lake.'

Well, just plain old shank's mare turned out to be a good substitute for bicycles, not only on that trip,

- see History, continued on p. 2

-History, continued from p. 1

but on many subsequent ones."

In 1945, a "Most important event was having Greensboro declared a bird sanctuary through a city ordinance, the culmination of plans started the year before... A proclamation of Greensboro as a bird sanctuary was made by a city official."

Grace Draper's 1988 history notes PBC's sponsorship of the Audubon Wildlife Films from 1955-1981.

"Subjects of the films were varied: nature, travel, bird and other animal life, with narration by experts in the fields or those who had produced the films. Among these have been Roger Tory Peterson and Allen Cruikshank."

She also details some of the honors and wards to a number of club members for various services to the community, that the club donated funds to the Natural Science Center, and scholarships to send students to Audubon Nature camps, and a list of many field trips and expeditions, both local and farther away.

Examination of club scrapbooks revealed other achievements since those histories were compiled which include:

Dennis Burnette, president in 1989, initiated the Adopt-a-Highway program, when PBC began picking up trash on a section of Yanceyville Road.

Jan 31, 1991- G'so City Council annexed the city lakes into the Bird Sanctuary. PBC members Jean McCoy, Henry Link, Emily Tyler and Judie Underkoffler made special efforts in terms of letter writing and speaking before City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Etta Shiffman's history ended with this paragraph, which is as apt now as it was then:

"Finally, I could wish nothing better for the Piedmont Bird Club than a future as bright as the past... may its members still be able to look back on a club that has never faltered in striving to achieve a conservation oriented community that appreciates the value and importance of our birds, animals, plants, soil, and all of our other natural resources."

- Louise Brown



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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) and an e-mail address: [ncwnv@ncmail.net](mailto:ncwnv@ncmail.net). The elderly, immunosuppressed, and chronically ill are most susceptible.

What about establishing a network - passing this info to a few who would then pass it on to their bird clubs in the state??? People die from this and it's spreading, and it involves birds as hosts/vectors. I see it as a moral responsibility for us...

-Ann Kelk phone #656-9879

[e-mail:AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com](mailto:AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com)

- Zuk, from p. 1

Helen's home for most of her years in Greensboro was at 303 Mayflower Drive where she hosted many executive board meetings. Her faithful companion, Guilford, a brown dachshund, entertained us with his favorite toys such as an empty gallon milk jug. Later, when Helen lived in a townhouse, she was able to continue her affection for dogs by regularly walking "Margaret Thatcher," her neighbor's dog, and to enjoy the companionship without the full responsibility of dog ownership.

Some will remember that no birding trip was complete, according to Helen, without seeing a vulture. Well into her eighties, Helen participated in our field trips, even driving as far as to the Outer Banks. She was an avid birder and her dedication to the Piedmont Bird Club was unsurpassed. We will miss her friendship and will long remember her numerous contributions to the Club.



### 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>

## Summer Birding at A&T Farm

For years I have wanted to visit the A&T Farm during the time the Swamp Mallow blooms in the farm's bottom land at the end of the trail along the creek. Thus, Don and Carolyn Allen met me there on Saturday morning, August 11, to help me accomplish this long-held objective. We were pleasantly surprised at both the number and variety of birds we encountered at that time on a hot summer's day. The final count was 28 species.

We were first greeted by an American Egret wading in the shallows of the pond. Soon we heard a high-pitched sound coming from the distant tree tops. The mystery was solved a short time later when an immature Red-tailed Hawk gave us a soaring exhibition while continuing to perfect its not-quite-adult call. As we started the trek around the pond, a Great Blue Heron took flight and headed toward McConnell Road. Large numbers of butterflies caught our attention throughout the trip, particularly monarchs flying around milkweed in the marshy areas in the pasture. We scared up several Eastern Meadowlarks which moved farther up the hillside. Eastern Kingbirds were perched above the dam while about a dozen turtles sunned themselves on a log in the water beneath. As we approached the creek and wet woodland, we added the Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, as well as a Phoebe and Eastern Wood Pewee, Cardinals, Song Sparrows, and Towhees, and Bluebirds flying overhead. Closer scrutiny in the tangles revealed the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Red-eyed Vireo. We were startled by a loud crash in the woods across the creek which was a tree falling in the forest when someone was there to hear it.

Our two and a half-hour hike turned out to be most successful, both for the birds and for the Swamp Mallow which I was able to photograph with expert help from Don and Carolyn in selecting choice specimen with color variations and attendant insects doing their housekeeping chores. The density of these plants and the amount of blooms at their peak were truly spectacular.

-see A & T, p. 3

**CALENDAR, continued**

**• Thursday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.**

**MEETING: The Splendor of Fall Leaves**  
Speaker: Karen Neill, Urban Horticulture Agent with the NC Cooperative Extension Service, will review the scientific reasons for leaves changing colors in the fall and tell us which trees give the best color displays and lots more. Have your questions ready.

*Bird of the Season:* Diving Birds - Belted Kingfisher (Louise Brown)

**• Saturday, October 20**

**Field Trip: Fall Leaves and Birds.** A day trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway to see song birds as well as the last of the glorious autumn colors. Bring a picnic lunch and a jacket. Easy walking. Leader: Charlie Campbell- 643-7096, e-mail:birder@nr.infi.net

**• Saturday, November 3**

**Adopt-a-Park, 9:00 a.m.** (Rain date Sunday, Nov. 4.) The club 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 owls, almost 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

-A & T, cont' from p. 2

Tips if you decide to make this trip:

- 1) Call the Farm Office ahead to ask permission (334-7548) as a padlocked gate usually blocks access due to prevention efforts for foot and mouth disease.
- 2) Especially during hot weather, be sure to carry plenty of water with you.
- 3) Apply insect repellent and sunscreen, and
- 4) Wear long sleeves and pants if you attempt the trail beyond the second gate along the creek. This area is not mowed and vegetation is as high as seven feet in places with blackberry bushes and other formidable barriers including poison ivy. All this notwithstanding, the Allens and I agree it was all worth it!

-Emily Tyler



**FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Items for publication may be E-mailed, or typed text and graphics may be mailed to my home address. Any material submitted for the newsletter is potential material for the website. 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 website.

Louise Brown ph.336-274-3691  
E-mail [piedmontbirder@aol.com](mailto:piedmontbirder@aol.com)

**From the President's Perch**

by Emily Tyler

The Piedmont Bird Club's 2001-2002 year is off and running! The committees have been very busy over the past several weeks getting the plans in place for an exciting new birding year. The array of programs and field trips will be unveiled at the fall picnic on September 8 (see details elsewhere in this newsletter). The Yearbook will be dedicated to one of our most deserving members who has contributed so much to the Piedmont Bird Club over a period of many years. The budget (the first ever for the Club) will be presented for your approval. The Treasurer's report will show that we are in better financial shape than we have been in for several years, thanks to the dues increase approved by the membership and for the frugal committee chairs who have figured out ways to cut costs.

We have been very fortunate for the past two years to have Lynn Moseley at the helm. The Club grew and prospered under her leadership. I would like to thank her personally and on behalf of the entire membership for her dedication and commitment to the primary purpose of the Club, "to promote the study and protection of birds and other natural resources." Her warm and gracious manner in presiding over our meetings provided a welcoming atmosphere backed up by her extensive knowledge of birds and their behavior. Please join me in expressing appreciation to Lynn when you see her.



**PBC MEMBERSHIP BONUS!!**

**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.)



**GET READY FOR THE FALL PICNIC!**

Our first meeting for the fall is at Hagan Stone Park, Shelter #4, 5:30 PM Sat., Sept 8. We get to catch up on what folks have been doing all summer, eat some good food, and get back in the swing of things. It is a covered dish dinner- bring something good to eat. The club will provide cold beverages, plates, and utensils. Coordinators: Ann Kelk- 656-9879, AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com, Irene Ade, 656-9974.



**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, 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 e-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• **Saturday, September 8**

**Fall Picnic, Hagan Stone Park, Shelter #4.**

Nature walk 5:30 p.m.; picnic 6:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish; beverages will be provided. Coordinators: Ann Kelk- 656-9879, AKelk@GuilfordCenter.com, Irene Ade, 656-9974.

• **Friday-Sunday, Sep. 21 - 23**

**Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting.**

Three days of field trips and evening programs in Santee, SC about half way between Columbia and Charleston. Information: Dennis Burnette- 299-4342 e-mail: burnetted@aol.com

• **Saturday, September 22** (Autumnal Equinox - First Day of Fall!)

**Field Trip: Hawkwatching, Part I.**

We will join state Audubon chapters and others at Bullhead Mountain about 2 hours from Guilford Co. on the Blue Ridge Parkway in an area well-known for migrating hawks. Leaders: Carolyn and Don Allen - 288-3045 (after Sept. 19)

• **Saturday, September 29**

**Field Trip: Hawkwatching, Part II.**

We will visit Pilot Mountain State Park, just 45 minutes away and the best spot in the Piedmont to observe Fall hawk migration, and also look for migrating warblers on nearby trails. This is reportedly the Saturday nearest the average peak of hawk migration. Leader: Phil Crisp - 852-7645

• **Saturday, October 6**

**Field Trip: Fall Warbler Walk.**

8:00 a.m. Call for meeting place. What warblers are moving through as migration progresses? Join us on this easy walk to see. Leader: Carolyn and Don Allen- 288-3045

-continued, p. 3



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

**GET READY FOR THE FALL PIC-  
NIC!**

Hagan Stone Park, Shelter # 4  
5:30 pm Sat., Sept 8