

# The Piedmont Birder



Vol. 21 No. 3

## Bur-Mil Park's Fall Festival

As the hot days of summer come to an end (please!), the pace picks up. PBC members are out and about in search of migrating birds; pumpkin patches appear around town; and Bur-Mil Park holds its annual Fall Festival, a free event filled with fun for the whole family. This year the festival will be on October 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be hayrides, games, face painting, a petting zoo, and children's crafts. The Piedmont Bird Club, along with other wildlife organizations, will be on hand with its educational display and interactive activities for all ages.

The focus of PBC's educational display this year is nest-building. Our tri-fold board shows how birds use sticks and stones, grass and fluff, mud and spit to construct safe shelters in which to raise their young. We also have a growing collection of actual nests with eggs. Some of the eggs are real, gleaned from abandoned nests, but their fragility makes for problems both in transporting and exhibiting them. So we are gradually replacing them with manmade replicas. It is our good fortune that one of our members, Julien McCarthy, is a gifted woodturner who has turned (no pun intended) his talents to crafting more durable eggs of wood to include in our display.

Visitors to our table can test their birding knowledge by playing one or both of our interactive games: (1) trying to identify a bird from its shape (silhouette), and (2) using clues to match various birds to their nests. And youngsters can construct a simple bird snack feeder, stringing Cheerios onto a pipe cleaner.

Volunteers are needed to staff our table in 2-hour shifts. No experience is necessary; we just need friendly faces to engage the public, invite them to play one of our games, or merely talk about birds. It's fun and it's easy. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Education Committee Chair Emily Tyler, 375-5770, [ettyler@triad.rr.com](mailto:ettyler@triad.rr.com).

### Did you know?

According to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is illegal for anyone to collect or possess migratory birds, their feathers, nests, or eggs without a special license. Piedmont Bird Club's collection is made possible through the auspices of Lynn Moseley, PBC member and professor of biology at Guilford College.



PBC members engage visitors on a sunny day at the Festival.



Last year rain kept us indoors for the festivities, so our brand new display board was spared a test for water-resistance.



## Field Trip Report : Nat Greene Trail - September 4

- by Susan Weimer



Herb Hendrickson, trip leader  
Photo by Susan Weimer

Although some of our viewing sites were rather muddy, we were able to view a variety of water birds. The weather was cooperative as we had pleasant temperatures and a fairly strong breeze.

As we hiked along, we spotted an American Redstart and heard Red-eyed Vireos, Carolina Wrens, Goldfinches, Cardinals, Blue Jays, and lots of crows.

The predominant water bird was the Killdeer.

They dominated the sandbars but were willing to share their environs with the Great Blue Heron, the White Ibis, Snowy Egret, and a couple of Mute Swans.

A spirited discussion arose over the identification of a small

group of teal in eclipse plumage: Blue-winged Teal or Green-winged Teal? Our fearless trip leader, Herb Hendrickson, braved the muddy access to the sandbar and settled the identification problem. They turned out to be some very early Green-winged Teal. This is the first record of Green-winged Teal in Guilford County in the month of September.

We were lucky to view a group of five Great Egrets perched in the trees; a great big white spot is hard to miss. We added to our list the Least Sandpiper, the Solitary Sandpiper, and the Spotted Sandpiper.



Female Green-winged Teal. Males in eclipse plumage look very similar to the female.  
Photo by Kevin J. Wooley, <http://flicker.com/photos/kwcode/>

## Field Trip Report : Hamilton Lakes & Bog Garden - September 11

- by Elizabeth Link & Jean Murdick

Overcast skies and the promise of rain showers greeted a group of 14 PBC birders, led by Henry and Elizabeth Link, looking for migrants in Hamilton Lakes/Starmount Forest on September 11. The light



Tennessee Warbler in breeding plumage  
Photo by Jerry Oldenettel, Wikimedia Commons

was bad, but the birds were good: 11 species of migrating fall warblers, as well as thrushes and flycatchers, were found in mixed flocks hanging out with the local chickadees and titmice.

As we walked along the trail,

listening, we would suddenly come upon a burst of bird activity, with lots of birds moving about all at once. Most of the warblers, as usual, were in the treetops, flitting about in constant motion and providing a viewing challenge to even our most experienced birders.

A group of crows accompanied us part of the way through the forest, half-heartedly aggravating what turned out to be a Barred Owl. It voiced its protest once with an emphatic "whoooo!" that was clearly very near to us, but no one was able to find it.

One of our newest members, 11 year-old Graham Simmons from Thomasville, showed us how the younger generation learns to

identify birds. No backpack full of field guides for him; he carried an electronic device smaller than a deck of cards. With the touch of a finger it showed him photographs and distribution maps and played the bird's song.

Moving on to the Bog Garden late in the morning, Chat-magnet Lou Skrabec (Lou had a Chat at his bird feeder all winter long) saw a Yellow-breasted Chat as soon as he crossed the bridge. It is the first time this bird has been recorded at the Bog Garden, and brings the total number of bird species observed there to 144!



Yellow-breasted Chat  
Photo by Jim Conrad, USFW

In addition to the Chat, we were able to see a Swainson's Thrush and a couple of Redstarts and had a good look at a resting Belted Kingfisher at the lake overlook, but observed no shorebirds, herons, or egrets.

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# Hamilton Lakes & Bog FT, *continued*

The list below has 47 species seen. As our group was spread out and sometimes smaller groups of members were looking at different birds, I'd appreciate hearing if there are any birds sighted that I've left out. Contact Elizabeth Link at [elzlink@yahoo.com](mailto:elzlink@yahoo.com).

Canada Goose	Tennessee Warbler
Mallard	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Magnolia Warbler
Mourning Dove	Black-throated Green Warbler
Barred Owl	Pine Warbler
Chimney Swift	Black-and-white Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	American Redstart
Belted Kingfisher	Worm-eating Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Downy Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Canada Warbler
Northern Flicker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Towhee
Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Cardinal
White-eyed Vireo	House Finch
Yellow-throated Vireo	American Goldfinch
Red-eyed Vireo	
Blue Jay	
American Crow	
Carolina Chickadee	
Tufted Titmouse	
White-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	
Carolina Wren	
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	
Eastern Bluebird	
Swainson's Thrush	
Wood Thrush	
American Robin	
Gray Catbird	
Brown Thrasher	



Swainson's Thrush  
Photo by Matt Reinbold,  
Wikimedia Commons

## October Calendar

### Saturday, October 9

#### Bur-Mil Park Fall Festival - 10 am- 4 pm

This annual festival draws hundreds of visitors. Check out PBC's exhibit and test your birding skills with our interactive games. If you can help at the exhibit, contact Emily Tyler, 375-5770, [ettyler@triad.rr.com](mailto:ettyler@triad.rr.com).

### Saturday, October 16

#### Field Trip - Thornburg Farm

Two to four miles of moderate walking through the [Uwharrie Wilderness Area](#) in search of Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, & woodpeckers. Leader: Ron Morris, 294-7631, [rmorris1125@hotmail.com](mailto:rmorris1125@hotmail.com)

### Sunday, October 17

#### Field Trip - Lake Brandt Greenway

The status of this trip is in question. Check our [Web site](#) and your e-mail closer to this date for updated information.

### Thursday, October 21

#### Meeting/Program - "Birding the Tropics of South Texas"

Birding in south Texas gives one a taste of Mexico without crossing the border. Join Simon Thompson for an exploration of the bird-rich Rio Grande Valley. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Join the Early Birds at 6:30 to meet new members and chat with friends.

### Saturday, October 23

#### Adopt-A-Park

Cleanup at Country Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking area accessed via [Orman Road](#) off Lawndale. Contact: Janet Morien, 299-9756, [jmorien@triad.rr.com](mailto:jmorien@triad.rr.com).

### Monday, October 25

#### Field Trip - Northern Guilford County Sparrow Watch

Search for late migrants, especially sparrows. Carpooling is mandatory. The trip will depart from Lake Brandt Marina at 9:00 a.m. Leader: George Wheaton; 540-8953, [gcwheaton@earthlink.net](mailto:gcwheaton@earthlink.net)

### Saturday, October 30

#### Workshop - "Barking Up the Right Tree"

Tree identification workshop, 9:30-11:30 a.m., presented by T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon. Contacts: Ann Walter-Fromson, [annwf7@gmail.com](mailto:annwf7@gmail.com), and Gregg Morris, [gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov](mailto:gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov)



#### OCTOBER PROGRAM

Families welcome  
Free admission

#### "Bats in Your Backyard"

Thursday, October 14, 2010

7:30 p.m. – Program in the community room, Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library, 1420 Price Park Road

8:00 - 9:00 p.m. – Field Trip – Please bring a flashlight

Check our website for September field trips  
[www.tgpearsonaudubon.org](http://www.tgpearsonaudubon.org)



# Code of Birding Ethics: A Respectful Reminder

– from the [American Birding Association](#)

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

## 1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

## 2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

## 3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

## 4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.



**Education Committee** needs help staffing the PBC exhibit at the following events:

- 10/3/10 Haw River State Park Open House
- 10/9/10 Bur-Mil Fall Festival

Contact Emily Tyler for complete information:

375-5770, [ettyler@triad.rr.com](mailto:ettyler@triad.rr.com)

**Field Trip Committee** needs leaders for the following field trips:

- 3/19/11 Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park near Scotland Neck, NC
- 4/22/11 - 4/24/11 Easter Trip to Huntington Beach State Park and surrounding area.

Contact Ron Morris for complete information: 294-7631, [rmorris1125@hotmail.com](mailto:rmorris1125@hotmail.com)

**Publicity Committee** needs persons to keep PBC membership brochures in stock at various locations around the Triad. See article page 5 for more details.



Keep an eye out! New club members will have **ORANGE** name badges at meetings. Please welcome them.

**PLEASE ADD THIS FIELD TRIP  
INFORMATION TO YOUR YEARBOOK**

*Please add the following field trip information, which was inadvertently omitted, to your yearbook:*

**Field Trip - West Virginia Pilgrimage**

Monday-Friday 4/25/11 - 4/29/11

Two to five consecutive days (your choice) of guided birding along ancient migratory corridors in the mountains of West Virginia. Some free accommodations (first-come, first-served) and breakfasts on the banks of the Bluestone River. Relatively leafless birding provides clear looks at warblers, orioles, tanagers, etc. The spring wildflower bloom is gorgeous, too. Call Julien McCarthy at 656-4774 to reserve your days and get further details. Sign up at least one week in advance.



*Piedmont Bird Club*

P.O. Box 38833

Greensboro, NC 27438-8833

To:

**PLEASE ADD THIS NEW PBC MEMBER  
TO YOUR YEARBOOK**

Camille Nelson



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## Publicity Committee Needs Help Stocking Brochures



An active organization like the Piedmont Bird Club needs the support of many people; our membership must keep growing. One of the ways that we attract new members is with our membership brochure, available at numerous locations around the Triad.

PBC's Publicity Committee is currently seeking volunteers to help keep these locations stocked with brochures. If you visit one of the following places with any frequency (once every month or two), would you be willing to help? Just pick up a small supply of brochures at any PBC meeting and keep them handy in a zipper bag in your car. Check the supply at your location whenever you happen to be there. Our goal is to have at least 2 people for each location to ensure that the supply never dwindles to zero.

- Bur-Mil Park Wildlife Education Center
- Earth Fare
- Farmers' Curb Market, Yanceyville Street
- Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
- Guilford Garden Center
- Guilford Wildlife Club at Lake Jeannette
- Haw River State Park

- Central Library (downtown Greensboro)
- High Point Library
- Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library
- Kernersville Library
- McGirt-Horton Library
- New Garden Nursery Gazebo on Lawndale
- New Garden Nursery at Oak Ridge
- Piedmont Environmental Center
- REI at Friendly Center
- Wild Birds Unlimited, Greensboro
- Y\_CA High Point
- YMCA Horsepen Creek Road, Greensboro
- YMCA Market Street, Greensboro

We would also like to publicize our club at UNCG, Guilford College, and Greensboro College. Does anyone know if there are bulletin boards or other areas within the biology departments of these institutions where we could put a supply of brochures or post a small promotional poster?

If you can help, contact Publicity Committee Chair Peggy Ware, 282-6553, [mjware@triad.rr.com](mailto:mjware@triad.rr.com) or Jean Murdick, [lonandjean@triad.rr.com](mailto:lonandjean@triad.rr.com).