

Beginning Birder Workshop

October 28, 2018

Submitted by Lynn Burnette

Leader: Dennis Burnette

We had a great turnout of more than 40 people for the Beginning Birder Workshop on Sunday afternoon, October 28, at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library in Price Park in Greensboro. Among them were several children with their adults and some students from a biology class at UNCG.

The focus of the workshop was an introduction to Triad birds and the hobby of birding. We began with a 45-minute class, followed by bird identification practice around the library. This was a joint activity of the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society (the local chapter of the National Audubon Society) and the Piedmont Bird Club.

The workshop was conducted by Dennis Burnette, a nature educator who is active in both of the sponsoring groups. Several experienced birders from the groups volunteered to serve as birding mentors, including Lynn Allison, Sue Cole, Jim Eldrett, Lynne Gray, Barbara Haralson, Ann Walter-Fromson, Stella Wear, and Tom Wear.

Melanie Buckingham of the KCEF library set up a display of the bird books available at the library, organized the classroom, and acted as projectionist during the classroom presentation. Bird feeders at two feeding stations outside the library were donated by Wild Birds Unlimited and were filled with seeds by Jim Eldrett. All of these efforts that contributed to such a successful workshop were greatly appreciated.

This workshop was the first of three Beginning Birder Workshops scheduled for the 2018-19 program year. The topics of each workshop are different, so a participant could come to one, two, or all three of the workshops and receive different information. All workshops involve an indoor classroom presentation at the KCEF library followed by a walk on open lawn around the library, at the edge of mixed forest, and around a pond if weather permits.