

## Educational Program Presented at Dolan Manor June 6, 2016

*By Emily Tyler, Education Committee Chair*

The activities coordinator at Dolan Manor contacted PBC via the website requesting a program on birds. This is a Section 8 housing facility located on Golden Gate Drive in Greensboro for adults 55 and over who don't need assisted living services. I visited the campus a few days prior to my visit to put up a bird feeder in hopes it would attract birds to the courtyard, which the group could view without binoculars following the indoor portion of the program on common backyard birds. I need not have bothered putting up a feeder as the location was well suited for birds and several were visible each time I visited. Apparently some of the residents provide food on a regular basis. More than a dozen species were seen or heard during a walk around the building.

Seven women showed up for the "bird talk." My plan was to make a quick assessment of their knowledge level of birds before I began talking. I asked: "What do you know about birds or what would you like to know?" They talked for an hour, sharing their experiences of watching birds and sometimes asking a question. Occasionally I was able to get a word in edgewise and provide some information, but mostly I listened to them.

When several of us walked out to the courtyard after the "presentation," I learned something about what it takes to bring the birds out of the trees and bushes so we could see them. A cat which belonged to one of the residents appeared and strolled around the yard. The cat showed no interest in all the bird talk and alarm calls. Nor did the birds appear to notice the people, but just kept their eyes on the cat as they flew from tree to tree, and gave us all a good view.

Some attendees expressed interest in attending a PBC program or bird walk. I agreed to work with the coordinator to see if we could make that happen.