

Mecklenburg Audubon Society

Just for Fun: Are You a Birder?



You might be a birder if...

- ...someone yells "Duck!", and you look up & shout "Where?!"
- ...vacations are planned to maximize the number of life birds.
- ...you criticize television programs and commercials that depict a Bald Eagle but play a Red-tailed Hawk call.
- ...your kids are named Wren and Pheobe.
- ...people stop and stare when you pish at the shrubbery at the local mall.
- ...lunch breaks find you driving to a favorite hot spot.



- ...your spouse says, "It's either me or the birds," and you have to think about it.
- ...on sunny days you hop in the car, crank up your tape of bird calls, and drive like crazy to the nearest mountain where the thermals are great for soaring hawks.



- ...you pay a neighbor kid \$20 to roll on a carcass and lay still while you search the sky for vultures.
- ...you try to talk your kid into going to college in Belize so you have an excuse to go and bird there.
- ...it's a northeaster, the rain is horizontal, a small craft advisory has been issued, but it's a birdathon and you need to up the day's list.
- ...clouds take on the shape of birds, and you can distinguish male from female, and adult from immature plumage.



- ...a machine squeaks at work and you describe it to maintenance as sounding like a Black-and-white Warbler.
- ...the first time you meet your future in-laws, you demonstrate the courtship dance of the woodcock, repeat with sound effects.
- ...you spend fifteen minutes preparing dinner for your family, and thirty minutes mixing and placing seed for your birds.
- ...you wake up your spouse at 5:30am and exclaim, "Is that a pheobe I'm hearing outside the window?"
- ...preparing for trips to visit out-of-state relatives involves contacting local birders, securing local bird lists, and buying the appropriate Lane's Guide.
- ...you identify calls of birds in the soundtracks of television shows and movies.
- ...you're willing to fight with anyone who criticizes your optics.
- ...you participate in hours-long discussions about the pros and cons of using a certain field guide.
- ...you lose friends, and perhaps even your spouse, from fighting over the pronunciation of 'pileated'.