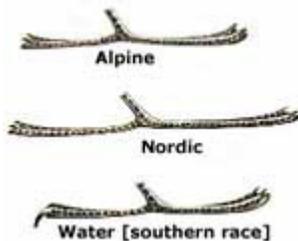


# Mecklenburg Audubon Society



## Just for Fun: Have You Seen These Birds?



### Skia [*Sasquatch Yeti*]

This big footed bird of shores, lakes and mountains was once widespread in North America, but has now been fragmented into several subspecies. The northeastern, or Nordic race migrates cross-country, while the northwestern, or Alpine subspecies migrates downhill. The southern subspecies is restricted to open water. The Skia is an interesting bird to observe in flight. Concentrations seem to occur in Calgary, Alberta, and in Lake Placid, New York.

**Observation Hint:** In winter, Skias are often seen from chair lifts and rope tows.

**Identification Aid:** The various races can be separated by the foot length, although the southern subspecies is difficult to track.

### Military Warbler [*Plutonia Pentagonus*]



Fledgling



First Year



Career



This small, elusive warbler is difficult to find, since it feeds in dense thickets. Apparently evolving as a mutant from early nuclear tests, this bird is now common only on widely-scattered, high-security military bases. Call is a bugled “you can’t get ‘em up, you can’t get ‘em up, you can’t get ‘em up in the morning.” The tail pattern indicates some sort of social rank.

**Observation Hint:** Since access to high-security installations is not possible, it is necessary to sneak onto the base. In addition, the Military Warbler is so well camouflaged that it cannot readily be seen. This fact is sufficient proof to list the bird. The young may sometimes be attracted to C-rations.

**Specialized Training:** Must be able to do the 50-yard belly crawl in less than 40 seconds.

If you have seen these birds, either someone has put a little something extra in the coffee you use to keep warm while birding or you have been reading a wonderfully, hilarious book by Ben, Cathryn, and John Sill called *A Field Guide to Little-known and Seldom-seen Birds of North America*. This tongue-in-cheek tome captures the essence of birding and bird watching. And it will keep you chuckling for a long time after reading. In fact, you will swear you have seen some of these birds in the wild. If one volume isn’t enough to keeping you laughing, try the sequels - *Another Field Guide to Little-known and Seldom-seen Birds of North America* and *Beyond Birdwatching: More Than There is to Know About Birding*. Soon you will be creating your own field guide.

**PS:** All of the Sills are excellent birders. Cathryn writes children’s nature books. And you have seen John’s illustrations in the Stokes series on Bird Behavior.