

# Audubon News



January 2006

Volume 11 Issue 5

## Monthly Meeting

## Where have you been?



The beginning of a New Year is a time to take stock. We look back on the previous year to see what we've done and look forward to the next year to plan what we are going to do. For birders this means reliving great bird trips and planning for new ones. And that's what the January meeting is all about – folks sharing where they have been this past year (or so) and talking about where they would like to go this next year.

We'll start this 'share fest' off with a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM. That's right, anything left over from your New Year's celebration is fair game as long as it's not growing anything. This is a great time to get to know members we've seen at the meeting but haven't really had an opportunity to chat with because of time constraints. And then there are always good eats.

If you can remember as you are packing up your food, throw in a place setting for yourself including cup/glass and anyone else coming with you. This will help save some trees. As a chapter we are trying to be conscientious about trash and recycling. After all we are an environmental group! Of course we'll have back-ups.

The program for this meeting is also dependent on you the members. Although we'll have a few 'plants' in the audience, you are suppose to bring slides [traditional and/or electronic], videos, pictures, etc. of you recent [or not so recent] adventures. Rumor has it some members have taken some pretty impressive trips this past year and we are all waiting with baited breath to hear about them. Think of this as a grown-up 'show-and-tell' time. And like 'show-and-tell' it serves several purposes. The sharer gets to brag [great for one's self-esteem]. Those who have been tied to their desks get to live vicariously through those who can wander at will around the globe. And those who are thinking about taking a trip this year may get some very useful ideas and tips.

So this meeting is dedicated to YOU, the members of Mecklenburg Audubon. Don't forget the details – dinner at 6:30 PM [bring a dish and a your own place setting if you can]. The program starts as usually around 7:30 in the fellowship hall of the Sharon 7th Day Adventist Church [920 Sharon Amity]. If you can't make the dinner, we'll miss you, but do come for the program to share and learn.



**February 17-20, 2006**

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) returns for its ninth season. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology encourage everyone to COUNT BIRDS WITH A BUD-DY! Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, a child, a scout troop, a class, or a co-worker-opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent. Every pair of eyes is needed and everybirdy counts, whether in a backyard, on a high-rise balcony, in a park, or on any of the 730 million acres of public lands.



## FIELD TRIPS

*Please remember to contact the trip leaders several days before the trip. If you don't, you may not receive information about last minute changes or cancellations. Also, if we don't know you are coming we might leave without you!!*

### **Saturday, January 7th Torrence Creek Greenway**

The Torrence Creek Greenway located off Gilead Road in Huntersville, gives a real bang-for-the-buck with varied bird friendly habitat along it's 1.4 mile length. With "car-sized" boulders, open fields, and a cattail marsh, the greenway attracts a diversity of bird species making it a good choice for an early morning excursion.

Join fellow MAS member Susan Ellerman who will introduce us to this new birding spot. Time permitting we may also explore nearby farm fields for meadowlarks, kestrels, and the ever elusive Loggerhead Shrike.

Meet at 8 AM at the Sofa Express off I-77 exit 18 - W. T. Harris Blvd. Sofa Express is just east of I-77 and west of US-21. From there it is a short drive to the greenway entrance off Gilead Rd. If you are going, contact Susan Ellerman at 704-597-0838 or sueller@mail.com

### **Saturday, January 14th Huntington Beach SP, SC**

Although January is often cold and dreary, Mecklenburg Audubon Society's annual field trip to Huntington Beach State Park in South Carolina is always well worth braving the elements! A walk down the beach to the jetty can be cold and windy but you'll most likely get to see gannets, piping plovers and sometimes a flock of snow buntings! You can expect to see lots of ducks, shore birds and hopefully a few rare species like longspurs, eiders or long-tailed ducks.

Warm clothes and lunch are a must. The walk out to the jetty is about 3 miles round trip.

Since most participants stay for the weekend, we plan to go out to dinner on Saturday night. At dinner we will plan where we will go on Sunday.

*Hotels:* The Comfort Inn 843-238-4233 and Days Inn 843-238-4444 in Surfside Beach and Litchfield Inn 1-800-637-4211 have good winter rates though.

If you have questions or plan to go contact Judy Walker 704-537-8181.

### **Thursday, January 19th Anne Spring Close Greenway**

Anne Springs Close Greenway, located near Ft. Mill, SC, offers good birding in all seasons because of its habitat diversity. Consisting of a number of sections all loosely clustered around Steele Creek, it is still a working farm run by the "Springs" family. There is a small day use fee \$2, to bird the facility.

On this outing, we will concentrate on the Field Trial Area which consists of many partially cultivated, cultivated, and dormant farm plots with excellent potential for grassland birds and soaring raptors. There are also three farm ponds in this section with the added potential for wintering waterfowl.

This trip will meet at 9 AM at the service station on the Y intersection of US-21 and Business Rt. 21 going into Fort Mill. This is just slightly north of US-21 and Gold Hill Rd.

(Hwy 160). If going contact Dave Lovett at 704-6222770 or birdsalot@webtv.net.

### **Saturday, January 21st Cowan's Ford Refuge**

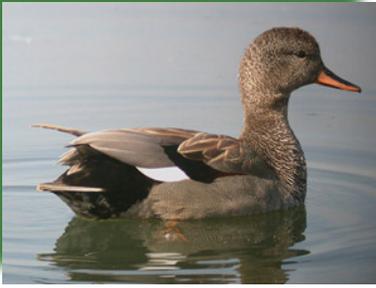
With over 206 species of birds documented, Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge was the first site in North Carolina to earn an "IBA" designation from the National Audubon Society. This 668 acre diamond-in-the-rough preserve contains a wide variety of habitats compacted in a relatively small package, making it very birdable. This is the best site in the area to ferret out the elusive sedge wren and other hard to find grassland species. Fellow MAS member, John Bonestell, who birds this preserve regularly, will unlock it's hidden secrets for us on this winter morning.

Meet at the Cowan's Ford parking lot off Great Neck Rd. at 8 AM. If you are going Email John at JMCBlake@AOL.Com or call me Dave Lovett at 704-622-2770 so we know you are coming.

### **Sunday, January 22nd Rural Hill Preserve**

What birder can resist exploring an old abandoned farm for it's hidden secrets? That is exactly what we plan on doing on the Rural Hill field trip hosted, by John Bonestell, who regularly birds this property. Old growth weedy fields, hedge rows, and a lovely wooded stretch along the Catawba River should make his walk quite interesting, and a great compliment to the Cowan's Ford trip on Saturday. Brush up on your raptors, field birds, and barred owl calls for your trip homework.

Join John for this second installment of birding in NW Mecklenburg county by meeting him at the old Rural Hill



One of the best parts of winter birding in the Carolinas is ducks. Identifying them can be challenging at first, especially if all you can see are their tails in the air or they are constantly diving. But since they are relatively large birds with distinct plumage patterns they can be accurately identified if the viewer is patient. It should, however, be noted not all birds seen swimming are ducks. There are of course geese and swans. The American Coot is seen in large numbers on lakes in the area during the winter but they are closely related to rails not ducks. The Pied-billed Grebe is another fairly common bird encountered during the winter. On large lakes and along the coast Common and Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebes can be common occurrences. So before you can identify the bird you do need to decide if it is really a duck or one of these other species.

In the winter Carolina birders encounter three distinct types of ducks – dabbling ducks, diving ducks and sea ducks. Dabbling ducks — also called puddles ducks — are the largest and most widespread group of waterfowl in the world. They ordinarily feed in shallow water by submerging most of their body, leaving their tail sticking straight up above the water. They are usually found along the shorelines of lakes, ponds, quiet streams and freshwater marshes. They also feed on land. Their diet consists mainly

## To Dabble or Dive?

of vegetable matter — seeds, grasses, leaves and stems of underwater plants, agricultural crops and nuts — along with mollusks, insects and fish. As a group, they are not accomplished divers, but adults dive occasionally and ducklings do so frequently.

Dabbling ducks ride higher in the water than their diving cousins. Because they have large wings relative to their body weight they fly more slowly but can launch themselves directly upward when taking off allowing them to land and take off in restricted areas more easily. They do not need to run across the water to build up speed for takeoff like diving ducks do. Puddle ducks are excellent swimmers, sure-footed on land, and swift agile fliers. On the wing they often display a speculum, or wing patch — a bright, iridescent panel of feathering close to the body on the trailing edge of each wing. Speculum color varies from species to species and may function as a flashing signal to help keep a flock together. For birders the speculum is often a telltale field mark.

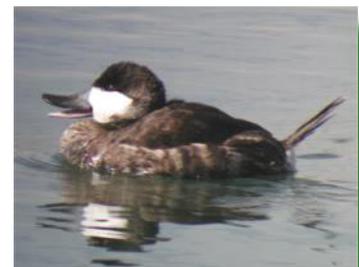
North American dabbling ducks breed across the northern part of the continent; some species — mallards, and wood ducks — nest in the Carolinas. They generally mate for the first time when a year old. During courtship, drakes chase the hens and engage in fighting, ritualized movements, posturing and calling. After mating, the drake leaves immediately, or he stays with the hen while she is laying and then departs soon afterward. Pair bonds are weak, and a different mate will be courted each year. The hen

lays a large clutch of eggs (7 to 13, depending on the species) in a nest built of grasses, leaves and reeds, hidden among vegetation. She incubates and cares for the brood by herself.

Diving ducks are, as their name implies, adept at diving and obtain most of their food this way. They are also referred to a 'stiff-tailed ducks' because they have short tails that stick straight up especially during mating displays. In the winter they prefer to inhabit large deep lakes and rivers, and coastal bays and inlets although they can also be found on smaller lakes and ponds with dabbling ducks. When this occurs the diving ducks are generally in the deeper sections with the dabblers along the edges.

Diving ducks eat seeds and other parts of aquatic plants, fish, insects, mollusks, crustaceans and other invertebrates. They dive underwater to obtain their food. They have large broad feet, fully webbed with strongly lobed hind toes, which act as paddles. Their legs are spaced widely apart and located well back on the body, improving diving efficiency but limiting agility on land. Their bodies are compact, and their wings have relatively small surface areas. While this arrangement helps when diving and

*Continued on page 4*



## Dabble or Dive?

swimming, it hinders their ability to become airborne. Instead of springing straight out of the water into flight, as puddle ducks do, diving ducks must run across the water to build up speed before taking off.

Diving ducks nest in New England, Canada, Midwestern and prairie states, the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Several species inhabit both the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Beginning in winter and before heading north, and into spring, males in their brightly colored breeding plumage vie for females. Courtship may include ritualized drinking and preening movements, posturing and calling. Copulation takes place

in the water. Males and females form monogamous pair bonds that last until the female begins incubating eggs. Then the male leaves the area and usually joins a band of other males.

Sea ducks are also excellent divers and have many of the same physical characteristics of a diving duck. However, they have some characteristics that distinguish them from their cousins. First as their name implies they are often associated with coastal waters. They breed on coastal wetlands of the arctic tundra and typically winter in coastal waters. Sea ducks are tolerant of salt water while on their wintering grounds, but can live in fresh water while breeding & nesting.

Unlike other ducks, sea ducks prefer animal foods to plant matter. They typically eat large invertebrates including clams, mussels, shrimp, snails and small crabs, when on their wintering grounds and some eat shellfish, fish eggs or fish year round. Their special beaks are adapted for either pulling shellfish from the rocks in the inter-tidal zone (Eiders and Scoters) or catching fish (Mergansers). These beaks, pointed or very sloped, help distinguish them from most other ducks.

Sea ducks are found primarily in northern temperate or subarctic areas. They typically have dense plumage with a heavy undercoat of down suitable for cold climates. And like their diving cousins typically have small wings relative to their body weight. They fly fast but cannot land or take flight in restricted space. They run on the surface of the water to

“take off” in flight.

Males (drakes) and females (hens) of most ducks are characterized as “sexual dichromatic” meaning males and females differ in color and males have two distinct plumages in a year. In fall, winter and spring, drakes are feathered in their normal bright coloration. In early summer, after breeding, they molt into a drab “eclipse” plumage and resemble the hens for several months, making identification difficult. During this time they lose their wing feathers causing them to become flightless and vulnerable to predators and environmental disturbances.

Most ducks spend the cold months across the southern United States and in Central America. Although the migration begins in late August with appearance of blue-wing teal, it peaks in the Carolinas in early November and ends in December. In general the severity of the northern winter dictates how many ducks will be seen in the Carolinas. So if you get a chance go out to a near by pond or lake and take a ‘quack’ at identifying these winter visitors.

### Adapted from:

Alaska Sea Duck Curriculum ([www.akcoastalstudies.org/SeaDucks.htm](http://www.akcoastalstudies.org/SeaDucks.htm))  
 Pennsylvania Game Commission  
 Wildlife Notes ([www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us))  
*Birder's Handbook* by Paul R. Ehrlich

### Common Wintering Ducks

#### Dabbling

Green-winged teal  
 Blue-winged Teal  
 American Wigeon  
 Mallard  
 Gadwall  
 Northern Shoveler  
 Northern Pintail  
 American Black Duck  
 Mottled Duck (SC)

#### Divers (Stiff-tailed)

Ruddy Duck  
 Ring-necked Duck  
 Canvasback  
 Redhead  
 Lesser Scaup

#### Sea

Hooded Merganser\*  
 Red-breasted Merganser  
 Bufflehead

\* This duck is more frequently seen in fresh and brackish water in the winter than in the ocean. But they have all the other characteristics of sea ducks.



# Duckie, What a Big Bill You Have!

The Northern Shoveler, perhaps the most distinctive of the dabbling ducks, is the most widespread and abundant representative of a closely related group of ducks that have a spatulate bill. The other three species of spatulate-billed ducks reside in the Southern Hemisphere and have presumably descended from the northern species.

The most obvious feature of this bird is its unusual, spoon-shaped bill. The bill has a series of well-developed lamellae along the edges that serve to strain out tiny crustaceans and other food particles. It is twice as wide at the tip than it is at the base. This uniquely shaped bill gives rise to Northern Shovelers also being called "spoon-bills". The ducklings hatch with a typical duckbill that enlarges as the duckling matures.

A large duck, the males weigh 17 to 38 ounces and their wingspans are usually around 31 inches. Females are 17 to 28 ounces. Northern Shovelers are sexually dimorphic. Male Northern Shovelers have an iridescent green head and neck, white chest and breast, and chestnut belly and sides. They have a white stripe extending from the breast along the margin of the gray-brown back, and white flank spots. The wings have a gray-blue shoulder patch, which is separated from a brilliant green speculum by a tapered white stripe. The bill is black in breeding plumage and the legs and feet are orange. Female Northern Shovelers have a light brownish head with a

blackish crown, and a brownish speckled body. The upper wing coverts are grayish-blue, the greater secondary coverts are tipped with white, and the secondaries are brown with a slight greenish sheen. The bill is olive-green, with fleshy-orange in the gape area, and speckled with black dots.

Similar species include the Mallard, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. However the Mallard has a chestnut chest and pale flanks, as well as a smaller greenish yellow bill. The teals have similar wing patterns in all plumages, but are smaller with much smaller bills. Adult female and immature Northern Shovelers distantly resemble females and immatures of other duck species, but are easily distinguished by their very long bills.

The Northern Shoveler has an almost circumpolar distribution in the Northern Hemisphere, and migrates long distances to winter in the Southern United States, Mexico, Africa and Southeast Asia. They make their homes in fresh marshes, ponds, slough, grasslands ponds, wetlands, and potholes. During the breeding season, Northern Shovelers are found in shallow pools and marshes that have good cover and dry areas nearby for nesting. In the winter they can be found near freshwater marshes,



swamps, and flooded areas. During migration they travel in large numbers but usually stay in small groups of up to twenty birds when they are on their wintering ground.

The Northern Shoveler is an omnivore. Many ducks use their flat bills to strain food items from the water, but the Northern Shoveler is adapted to take this habit to the extreme. They forage by swimming along with bill lowered into the water, drawing water into its bill and then pumping it out through the sides with their tongue, filtering out minute food particles with long comb-like lamellae that line the edge of the bill. The particles mainly consist of tiny crustaceans, mollusks, insects, and their larvae as well as seeds and pieces of leaves and stems of plants. In addition to the food particles they also eat water beetles, small minnows, and snails.

Social feeding is common especially outside the breeding season. Shovelers are drawn to feeding areas by other birds feeding in an area and take advantage of the food particles churned to the surface by the other birds swimming or wad-



## Northern Shoveler Con't.

ing in the area. Single birds may swim in a tight circle to create a whirlpool to cause food to come to the surface. Shovelers are also known to upend or dabble, usually for lengthier periods than other surface feeders, and also dive using their wings to swim underwater in shallow marshes.

The breeding season begins early in April and lasts until June. Sexual maturity occurs at one year of age. Northern Shoveler pairs are monogamous, and remain together longer than pairs of other dabbling duck species. Males exhibit elaborate courtship behavior, including various calls, turns, dips, and wing flaps. During mating displays males will utter a repeated liquid,

hollow "g-dunk g-dunk g-dunk" often in flight as well as from water. They have a very strong mate defense. It is the most territorial of all duck species with ponds of less than 1.25 acres being used by only one mating pair. In the months outside of the breeding season, they do not bond with members of the opposite sex. Their mating is yearly and they do not necessarily re-mate with mates of the previous year.

Pair formation begins in the winter and continues during spring migration. Males remain with the females through the incubation period. The female chooses the site (generally in short grass). She builds the nest, a shallow depression made of grass and weeds, lined with down, and incubates the 9 to 12

eggs for 23 to 28 days by herself. Females defecate on eggs when flushed off nest, possibly an anti-predator strategy. A few hours after they hatch, the female leads the young to the water where they can swim and forage immediately. The young typically stay close to the cover of emergent vegetation, and the female tends them until they fledge at 52 to 66 days of age.

### References:

- Twin Grove Virtual Wetlands Preserve:** [www.twingroves.district96.k12.il.us](http://www.twingroves.district96.k12.il.us)  
**All About Birds (Cornell Lab of Ornithology):** [www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/Bird-Guide/Northern\\_Shoveler\\_dtl.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/Bird-Guide/Northern_Shoveler_dtl.html)  
**Animal Diversity Web:** [animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Anas\\_clypeata.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Anas_clypeata.html)  
**Ducks Unlimited:** [www.ducks.org/waterfowling/gallery/index.asp](http://www.ducks.org/waterfowling/gallery/index.asp)  
**Wetlands & Waterfowl's Guide to North American Waterfowl:** [digitalsportsman.com/wetlands/Norshov1.htm](http://digitalsportsman.com/wetlands/Norshov1.htm)  
**Bird Web (Seattle Audubon Society):** [www.birdweb.org/birdweb/bird\\_details.aspx?id=71](http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/bird_details.aspx?id=71)

## Field Trips Con't.

Plantation house off Neck Road at 8:30 AM. If you are going call John at 704-896-2300 or email at [jmclake@aol.com](mailto:jmclake@aol.com).

### Thursday, January 26th Lansford Canal St. Park

Lansford Canal State Park, located along a stretch of the Catawba River in Eastern Chester County, has three miles of trails following an old towpath canal, dug circa 1820, to circumvent the rapids in the river. One of my favorite local scenic parks, this area is outstanding for migratory birds in the spring, but is also productive in the slower winter months. There is an active bald eagle's nest just off the trail, and great blue herons feed actively in the shoals. Mas member Harriett Whitsett will be host for this walk.

Meet in the main park parking lot at 9 AM. There is a small

SC use fee for the park. From Charlotte, take I-77 south to exit 77 (US-21 & Rt. 5). Take US 21 south about 13-16 miles to Road 327, there is a park sign on the right. Turn left on Road 321 and go 1.3 miles to the park entrance on the left and proceed to the parking lot. Birding is sometimes great in the fields and along road 321 before you get to the park.

If you are going, contact Harriett at [Hwhitsett@Carolina.net](mailto:Hwhitsett@Carolina.net).

### Saturday, January 28th Riverbend Park

We will continue our exploration of the Catawba River this month with a trip to Riverbend Park in Catawba County. Located just below Lake Hickory, the 400 acre park includes a mile of Catawba River shoreline and 12 miles of trails. Fellow CBC member and ranger at Riverbend, Dwayne Martin, will host us for this walk. The Park, excellent in spring migration, can

also be interesting in the winter months. Purple finches, pine siskins, fox sparrows, winter wrens and hermit thrushes are all possible along with wintering waterfowl.

After our park walk, we will check out a nearby Lake Hickory for additional wintering waterfowl. Meet at the park parking lot at 8:30 AM. Drive time from Charlotte is about 1 1/4 hours. Take I-85 south to 321 N toward Morganton. I-40 East to NC 16 in Conover. NC 16 north about 8 miles to park entrance on the right.

For those who want to car-pool we will meet at the Cracker Barrel at Billy Graham and I-85 at 7 AM. We will leave sharply at 7:15 AM.

If you are going notify Dave Lovett 704-622-2770 or [birds@webtv.net](mailto:birds@webtv.net). P.S. Even if you are meeting us at the park, let me know you are coming so we have an idea of numbers.

# How Do You Measure Up?

## A Conservation Quiz

Take this quick quiz and see where you stand on doing the little things that add up – not just in terms of cutting your energy bill, but helping out with conservation.

1. At what temperature is your home thermostat set?  
Colder than 68° (3 pts)  
68° (2 pts)  
72° (1 pt)  
Warmer than 72° (0 pts)
2. Do you use a programmable thermostat to minimize heating and cooling energy when you're not home?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
3. Do you buy Energy Star-rated home appliances and electronics?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
4. Do you turn off the lights when you leave a room?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
5. Do you use energy-saving compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs rather than incandescent bulbs?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
6. Are you considering upgrades to your home's insulation or other draft-proofing measures?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
7. Are you considering a solar roof or any other renewable energy source for your home?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
8. Do you immediately repair leaky faucets and running toilets?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
9. Do you use water-saving 2.5 gallon-per-minute showerheads? Yes (1) No (0)
10. Do you turn off the tap while brushing your teeth?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
11. Are you considering a change to lower-water plants and grasses for your lawn?  
Actively (2)  
Somewhat (1)  
Not at all (0)
12. Do you carpool, bike or take public transit to work?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
13. Do you drive 55mph or under where conditions permit?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
14. Do you buy vehicles with the best emissions & mileage ratings in your desired size category?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
15. Do you separate your trash into organic, plastic, metals, paper, etc. for recycling?
16. Do you buy printing paper, paper towels, and toilet paper with at least 50 percent recycled content?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
17. Do you buy products in the largest size available to avoid extra packaging?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
18. Do you dispose of old cell phones and batteries at recycling collection points?  
Always (2)  
Sometimes (1)  
Never (0)
19. Are you considering a composting system for your yard as an alternative to fertilizer?  
Actively (2)  
Somewhat (1)  
Not at all (0)



### How did you score?

0-9=Poor: You need a crash course in conservation  
10-18=Mixed: Hey you can do better, can't you?  
19-28=Good: A little more effort and you're a stand-out  
29-38=Excellent: You could teach a course in eco-efficiency

**Board Members**

*Judy Walker - President*  
704-537-8181  
birdwalker@mac.com

*Rob Bierregaard - Vice President*  
704-333-2405  
rbierreg@email.uncc.edu

*Larry Barden - Secretary*  
704-535-6385  
larry@lbarden.com

*Lucy Quintilliano - Treasurer*  
704-364-9028  
lucyq@carolina.rr.com

*Dave Lovett- Field Trips*  
704-622-2770  
birds alot@webtv.net

*Wayne Covington - Bird Count*  
704-362-1774

*Marek Smith - Membership*  
704-875-1391  
maresmit@aol.com

*Louise Barden - Publicity*  
704-535-6385  
louise@lbarden.com

*Carol Horton - Hospitality*  
704-556-1461  
carolahorton@cs.com

*Andrea Owens - Member-at-large*  
704-651-2232  
insectogirl@yahoo.com

*Jack Meckler - Conservation*  
704-540-1573  
jmmeck@aol.com



**Calendar of Activities**

Members' Potluck/Meeting	Thu. 1/5
Torrence Creek Greenway Field Trip	Sat. 1/7
Huntington Beach State Park Field Trip	Sat. 1/14
Anne Spring Close Greenway Field Trip	Thu. 1/19
Cowan's Ford Refuge Field Trip	Sat. 1/21
Rural Hill Preserve Field Trip	Sun. 1/22
Landsford Canal State Park Field Trip	Thu. 1/26
Riverbend Park Field Trip	Sat. 1/28

**Whoooo's New?**

Bettie & Eric Clark  
John Orchard  
Lauren Ann Schexnider  
Bill Woods



**Mecklenburg Audubon Society**

*Join now and your membership will be effective until June 2006.*

Because National Audubon has reduced the chapter share of the national membership, Mecklenburg Audubon now must offer a Local Membership to cover the cost of the newsletter, web site and cost of meetings.

- Individual Membership [\$10]       Family Membership [\$15]

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address [Street, City, ST, and Zip] \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Please, save trees and send me[us] the newsletter electronically.
- Please, add me to Meckbirds, the local electronic discussion list about birds and the environment.
- I[we] would be willing to:  lead a field trip  participate in a work day  do a program  serve on the board

*Return to: Lucy Quintilliano, Treasurer, Mecklenburg Audubon Society, P. O. Box 221093, Charlotte, NC 28222*