

# Audubon News



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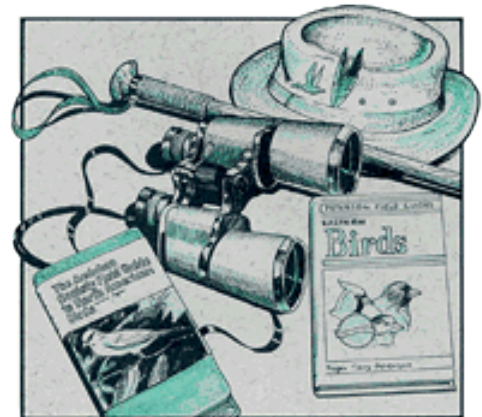
Monthly Meeting

## The Well Equipped Birder

With Christmas right around the corner everyone is scrambling for gift ideas for that bird watching friend or spouse. Or perhaps you are trying to provide some hints to friends and spouse of what you would really appreciate. Well our December meeting is exactly what you need. It will be a showcase of stuff!! Stuff that every bird watcher dreams of owning –books, binoculars, scopes, Bird Jams, CDs, videos and who knows what else. We'll have a couple of 'experts' around to discuss your options. Rob Bierregaard will give us a quick intro to what to look for in optics but the rest of the meeting will be pretty free flowing with opportunities to check out equipment and talk to folks who have experience with it. No one will be trying to sell you anything. This is strictly a time to glean information from more experienced colleagues.

With this said we really need your help to make this a success. Please bring your stuff as well. After all you might have a pair of binoculars or great hat that someone else would be interested in checking out. You may have questions about the best way to use your equipment or it's features that others can answer. It is amazing what you can learn from fellow birders. One thing we won't be talking about though is backyard equipment and supplies. We'll save that for another meeting.

So gather up your gear and head on over to the **Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church** (920 Sharon Amity) on **Thursday, December 6th**. We begin flocking around 7:15 PM for food and drink. The meeting starts around 7:45 PM. See you there with all your stuff!



## Every Bird (and Birder) Counts!!!



It's that time of the year again, time for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the oldest & largest citizen science event in the world. For over a 100 years, people have gathered together during the winter holiday season to count birds. In the process, they have created a vast pool of bird data that is the most comprehensive available for mid-December to early January. It is a fertile source of information on the status and distribution of early winter bird populations and is studied by scientists and interested people the world over. And it all starts with you!

While there is a specific methodology to the CBC and you need to count birds within an existing Christmas Bird Count circle, everyone can participate! If you are a beginning birder, you will can join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. If your home is within the boundaries of a Christmas Bird Count circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder. (Contact the count coordinator listed under the field trips to see if you live within one of the circles.) If you have never been on a CBC before and you want to participate in a

count this year, including feeder counting, please contact your count coordinator prior to the count.

The primary objective of the Christmas Bird Count is to monitor the status and distribution of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere.

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## Field Trips

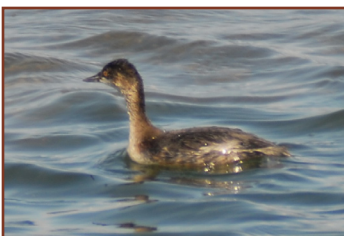
All Mecklenburg Audubon Field Trips are free and open to the public. Directions for all trips can be found on the Mecklenburg Audubon website - [meckbirds.org](http://meckbirds.org). Click on Field Trips. Please remember to contact the trip leaders several days before the trip. If you don't, you may not receive information about last minute changes or cancellations. Also, if they don't know you are coming, they might leave without you!!



Canvasback



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Horned Grebe



Baltimore Oriole

### Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007: Wintering Waterfowl

Full Day - Contact: Judy Walker (704-537-8181 or [birdwalker@mac.com](mailto:birdwalker@mac.com))

Hopefully, the drought will not affect the ducks to severely. Numbers and locations of ducks this year could be very interesting. Coddle Creek Reservoir is usually the place to see waterfowl in the Charlotte area so we will plan this trip for there. However, depending on water conditions we may change our destination. We'll have to wait and see if it rains any time soon.

For now we will plan on meeting at Panera's Bread at the across from Concord Mills Mall off I-85 at 9 AM and will return about 1 PM. Before we head out to the reservoir we'll check out the wetlands behind H.H. Gregg.

### Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007: Gaston County Christmas Count

Full Day - Contact: Steve Tracy (704-853-0654 or [stevepath1@aol.com](mailto:stevepath1@aol.com))

For many animals the Catabaw River can act as a barrier. Only the heartiest mammal will attempt to swim across the river. Birds, however, are not as easily intimidated. And birders shouldn't be phased by the river either. That's why we are teaming up with the birders from the Gastonia area to conduct the Gaston County Christmas Count. This will be a great opportunity to get to know our neighbors and explore new birding spots.

### Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007: Lake Norman Christmas Count

Full Day - Contact: Taylor Piephoff ([PiephoffT@aol.com](mailto:PiephoffT@aol.com))

This is hands down the best count circle in the Piedmont. Because of the wide variety of habitat — open fields, large lake, small ponds, wetlands, mixed hardwood forest, old farms — the potential for unusual birds is great. In some ways this count is like a tour through Peterson's guide with a smattering of species from loons all the way through to the sparrows with representatives of almost everything in between.

Some groups will start before dawn to catch the owls and woodcocks. Others will meet at 7:00 AM. There are fast food places in the count circle but you may want to bring food to munch on for energy and warmth. Although you might spend a fair amount of time in the car, warm clothes and sturdy shoes are a must. A tally up dinner will be held at 5:30 PM.

### Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007: Charlotte Christmas Count

Full Day - Contact: Dave Lovett (704-507-767 or [birdsalot@webtv.net](mailto:birdsalot@webtv.net))

The granddaddy of the counts, going all the back to 1941, this circle still encompasses a surprising variety of habitat considering suburban sprawl which has taken over much of the area. There are still patches of woods, ponds, lakes, streams and open fields which turn up an interesting variety of resident and wintering species.

In the last 5 years we have averaged around 85-90 species. A remarkable number considering the wholesale loss of habitat over the past 20 years which just proves the tenacity of the birds.

Although this is an all day event if you can only participate in the morning or afternoon you are more than welcome to join a group.

Since fast food establishments (and warmth) will be just around the corner, packing a lunch is optional although a thermos of coffee never hurt. There will be a tally up dinner at Wing Haven 5:30 PM. Just bring your appetites and good birding stories. Too assure even and complete coverage of the area those who wish to participate should contact Dave Lovett.

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# Some Truths about Birding Optics

Here are 10 myths you may have heard about binoculars and scopes. The article is adapted from *10 Myths about Birding Optics* by Michael & Diane Porter. You can read the entire article which goes into more detail at [birdwatching.com \(http://www.birdwatching.com/optics/myths2006-intro.html\)](http://www.birdwatching.com/optics/myths2006-intro.html)

**MYTH #1:** *Higher power binoculars will let me see more.*

**REALITY:** *Actually, with a higher power binocular you may end up seeing less!*

One would think that the more magnification, the more you could see. But it's not necessarily so. The usable power of a binocular is limited by the steadiness of the hands that hold it. There is an inevitable wobble in any handheld binocular image. The higher the magnification, the greater the wobble. At some point, the wobble negates the increased resolution that magnification provides.

It's generally agreed that 10-power is the upper limit of hand-held binoculars. Many experts believe that birders can see just as much or even more with 8 power binocular, or even 7 power.

**MYTH #2:** *Bigger binoculars are more powerful*

**REALITY:** *The size of the binocular tells you absolutely nothing about the power.*

## Glossary of Terms

**Central Focus:** Wheel that is turned by the user to focus on the object being viewed

**Diopter:** Allows the user to compensate for the difference between each individual's strong and weak eye.

**Eyeiece:** Magnifies the light brought in by the objective

**Field of view:** The side-to-side measurement of the circular viewing field or subject area. It is defined by the width in meters of the area visible at 1000 meters.

**Magnification number:** A number usually between 4 and 12 used to determine how many times closer the user can see an object when using a binocular.

**Objective lens:** Glass located in front of the binocular that brings light in.

**Objective lens number:** The measurement of the width of the objective lens in millimeters.

Some 10-power binoculars are smaller than some 7-power ones. The design of its eyepiece is what determines the power, or magnification of a binocular. And eyepiece design has little or no effect on the size of the binocular.

**MYTH #3:** *Bigger binoculars are brighter*  
**REALITY:** *Bigger can be brighter, but only in dim light!*

Many people buy 42mm or larger binoculars in hopes of getting the maximum brightness. But in ordinary light, a good-quality 32mm binocular delivers all the light a person can use, producing just as bright an image as does a 42mm or even a 50mm binocular. And since it's smaller, weighs less, and usually costs less, a 32mm binocular is certainly worth considering, at least for daytime birding.

**MYTH #4:** *Bigger binoculars have a wider field of view.*

**REALITY:** *Field of view is in the design of the eyepiece.*

A person might expect a bigger binocular to have a wider field of view, but it's not necessarily so. In fact, a smaller binocular can have an even wider field of view than big one. Although the field of view depends primarily on the binocular's eyepiece design, the magnification also has a bearing. If you're looking at two binoculars of the same model but different magnification, the lower powered one will have the wider field of view. That is one reason that many birders prefer 8-power binoculars rather than 10-power.

**MYTH #6:** *A really good pair of binoculars is outside my price range.*

**REALITY:** *There's some good stuff now in mid-priced binoculars.*

Although the top end of binocular prices has gone stratospheric, mid-priced binoculars have been rapidly closing the quality gap. While it's still generally true that the more you pay, the better optics you will get, the quality curve is not the same at both ends of the price scale.

There's much more difference in optical



quality between a \$120 and a \$400 binocular than there is between a \$400 and a \$1000-and-up binocular.

**MYTH #7:** *I don't need waterproof binoculars. I don't go out in the rain.*

**REALITY:** *You do need waterproof binoculars, even if you never go out in the rain.*

When warm, moist air contacts a cool surface, water condenses. It's why your binoculars may fog up when they go from a cool environment, such as an air conditioned car or house, into a warm or moist environment, such as outdoors in summer, or near the ocean.

A waterproof binocular is prepared for changing climate. Its insides are isolated from salt spray and dust, and if it gets dusty on the outside, you can rinse it off under the tap. Since waterproof binoculars are no longer expensive, it makes sense to ensure that you're getting this feature in any binocular costing over \$100. Look for the expression "nitrogen purged" or "nitrogen filled."

**MYTH #5:** *I can share my binocular with others (spouse, significant other)*

**REALITY:** *No you can't.*

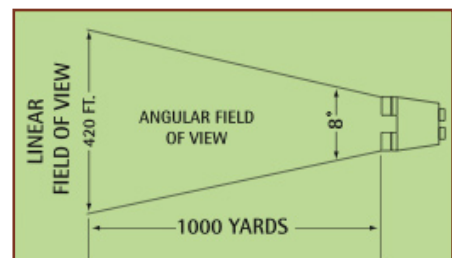
Somebody's going to end up missing the bird, and they're going to be crabby. Many a marriage has been saved just by buying a second pair of binoculars.

**MYTH #8:** *I can just buy what my friend has. He's an expert birder.*

**REALITY:** *Binoculars need to fit the individual, just like shoes.*

Everyone is different, and what works well for your friend may not work at all

*Continued on page 7*



*Birds We Love to Hate*

## The Sound of Fall: Canada Geese

Every fall birders in the southeast look forward to the arrival of waterfowl from the north. We eagerly check any pond we can find to see if the ruddies or gadwalls have arrived. But there is one waterfowl we tend to over look not because it is hard to find but because it has become ubiquitous. Some folks would even go as far as saying it is a pest, and a big one at that. Weighing in at 25-30 pounds and with a wingspan of close to six feet one would think it would be hard to miss this behemoth. If you haven't guessed by now, I am talking about the Canada Goose.

It's hard to believe this bird didn't exist in Charlotte fifty years ago. In fact folks from Charlotte would drive all the way to Wadesboro (over 50 miles) to a place call Gaddy's Farm to see this unusual bird. Mr. Gaddy would put out grain for other waterfowl and a few Canada Geese would show up to impress the crowds. This pond still exists and is within the Pee Dee Christmas Count circle. Last year it produced a Ross's Goose for the count.

So why do we have so many geese now all-year-round? To find the answer to this question we need to know a little more about this bird. There are three races or populations of Canada Goose that can be found regularly in North Carolina. Two of them are migratory and are only found in NC in the winter. They are the Atlantic which breeds in Northern Quebec and winters in the northeast portion of the state and the Southern James Bay which breeds in Ontario and can be found scattered throughout the upper coastal plain, piedmont and foothills. Both of these populations are declining in number. That leaves our resident population of Canada Geese, which are part of a population referred to as the Giant Canada Goose. Interestingly this population, which originally bred only on the Great Plains and were not migratory, was thought to be extinct due to over hunting until in the 1960's when a few remnant populations were discovered. An aggressive reintroduction program proved to be so successful that birds were 'exported' to regions of the country they did not originally inhabit.

With few predators for such a large and aggressive species the transplanted populations have exploded. The Canada Goose topped the Most Individuals list for the Great Backyard Bird County last year in 12th states and the District of Columbia, which certainly tells us something about the bird.

But that doesn't really explain why the birds have been so successful in urban areas. There are a couple of contributing factors that have converged to create this phenomenon. First, more than any other waterfowl (except perhaps the mallard) the Canada Goose has a very high tolerance for people. Perhaps they know they can bully us around, after all they are quite large and threatening. Secondly, we have created a perfect habitat for them with grassy lawns and ponds in parks, subdivisions and golf courses. The city also provides protection from predators. Raccoons, fox and coyotes will take eggs and/or goslings but they are no match for an adult bird. And finally, people like to feed them!!!

Because Canada Geese are herbivores, they have to eat a lot of grass to maintain their metabolism. This is generally what gets them in trouble. It seems like everything that goes in their mouth comes out the other end within seconds and is deposited everywhere. It's estimated that a goose eats 4-5 pounds of grass a day and defecates every 8 minutes, producing over one pound of feces per day. I read this on a landscaping web site that was discussing how to control this 'pest' so I am not sure how accurate the statement is, but I do know, as most of us do, that a flock of geese can leave us a lot of presents and make it difficult to stroll through the park. Their feces has also been blamed for polluting ponds, lakes and streams.

The defecation can become a real problem when there are young birds waddling around. One might think the birds walk everywhere in the spring and early summer because the goslings can't fly so the adults didn't either. However, the real reason they aren't flying is



that the adults molt all their feathers during this time. So actually this is perfect timing since the gosling can't fly yet and they need to protect them.

Despite the fact that they are so productive on the fertilizing front, Canada Geese are beautiful and fascinating creatures. They mate for life, which can be 15-20 years, and have a high degree of fidelity to their nesting sites, returning year after year. An average clutch is five eggs, which means a goose can produce as many as 50 offspring in a lifetime.

Although males and females look identical if you listen carefully you can tell the difference by their voices. The gander (male) has a slower, low-pitched honk, while the goose (female) has a much quicker and higher-pitched one. Mated pairs will greet each other by alternating their calls so rapidly that it seems like only one bird is making noise. Goslings have a wheezy soft call. But just like adolescent humans, when the voice changes as the bird matures it will often 'crack' and sound like a cross between a wheeze and a honk. Loud, rapid calls are made when geese feel threatened or excited. When a flock gets ready to take off they all join in a raucous chorus. And constant vocalizations in the air help them know where they are.

Even though these birds are common in my neighborhood (we have several ponds), I still get a chill of excitement whenever I hear them flying overhead. They bring back many fond memories of fall evenings in both Maryland and California. They are the sound of fall to me.

## A Birder's Holiday Book List

Winter months provide some excellent birding opportunities, especially the Christmas Bird Counts, but they also mean times when we would like to just curl up with a good book – about birding, of course.

Here are a few suggestions for the birders on your gift list or a few ideas you can slip to Santa for your own list.

Reviews by Jack Meckler

### **The Art of Pishing: How to Attract Birds by Mimicking Their Calls.**

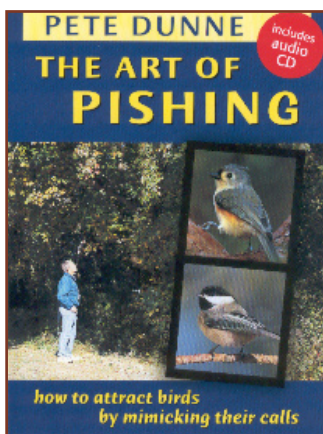
Peter Dunne, Stackpole Books, 2006.

Most of us have learned the art of Pishing by listening to other, perhaps more experienced birders. How do we know they are making the correct sounds, or are in the right position with respect to the bird, or are in the right habitat for this pish? This humorous, yet detailed, little book will provide all the information you need about 13 different pishes, where to use them, when to use them and how to do them. Included are photos of proper lip and finger positions and an audio CD so you can hear what they should sound like plus tips on pishing etiquette. This is a serious look at an important birding skill and just plain fun to read.

### **John James Audubon: The Making of an American**

Richard Rhodes, Knopf, 2004.

This book, by a Pulitzer Prize winning author, will give you a great appreciation for the French born, American artist who introduced so many people to birds. Audubon, whose name we throw around so casually, was a fascinating and heroic figure in American history. The illegitimate son of a French sea captain and a chambermaid, Audubon arrived in America in 1803 for a fresh start, which eluded him several times, until he emerged from debtors' prison in 1819



– and began to draw birds. His goal was to paint a life size portrait of every bird in the New World. As we know, he succeeded admirably and along the way teaches us much about art, nature, love, ambition and America.

### **Mountain Passages: Natural and Cultural History of Western North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains**

George Ellison, History Press, 2005

While not about birds, this collection of 36 bite-size essays by writer and naturalist George Ellison of Bryson City, NC, is a well written, highly informative and enjoyable read about the history and culture of the Great Smoky Mountains region and its people – the Cherokees and the Mountaineers. You'll learn about John Fraser, namesake of the Fraser fir; John Cairns, nineteenth century Asheville ornithologist; Cherokee owl and witch lore; eastern bison and wild boar; and much about the tragic history of the Cherokee Indians who, at one time, controlled 20 million acres of the southeast. These are heartwarming tales about the real folks of early western North Carolina.

### **Warblers of the Great Lakes Region and Eastern North America**

Chris G. Early, Firefly Books, 2003

This slim, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" field guide is an invaluable resource for learning about and identifying warblers. Most field guides concentrate on the readily identifiable spring plumages but this book includes fold-out comparison charts, using full color photos, of both spring and fall colors. The fold-out charts avoid all the page-flipping when trying to "name that bird". Each of the 38 warblers gets its own two-page spread with multiple color photos, range maps, identification tips and other background information. There are also photos and descriptions of 8 "vagrants and stragglers", including the Swainson's, Townsend's, and hermit warblers.



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### **Private Lives of Garden Birds**

Calvin Simonds, Illustrations by Julie Zickafoose, Storey Books, 2002

We can all recognize robins, mockingbirds, blue jays and hummingbirds. But what do we really know about them besides what they look like and sound like? In this charming collection, the author devotes a separate chapter to each of 11 common yard birds, that we might get to know them "up close and personal". Through his own observations and intimate stories, we learn why robins hop in certain patterns, what the male does while the female builds the nest and how they raise their young. We learn of the polygamy of the red winged blackbird – from the perspective of the female. We follow the standoff between two mockingbirds and the family cat. Like a good book of short stories, these chapters can be read in any order and each offers a warm insight into birds' private lives.

### **The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession**

Mark Obmascik, Free Press, 2004.

Follow the marathon birding adventures of Sandy Komito, Al Levantin and Greg Miller as they vie against each other to set a new North American birding record in 1998. A full year of intense competitive birding takes them from the Brownsville, Texas dump (Tamaulipas crow from Mexico) to Attu in the Aleutians (wood sandpiper from Asia) to the Gulf Stream off Hatteras (black capped petrel). These obsessed birders head for the airport, the road, or the sea at the first sign of a rare bird sighting somewhere in North America. It reads like a novel – the kind you can't put down - but is a true account of how one birder out-did his two opponents and sighted 745 different species in North

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## Field Trips



Golden-crowned Kinglet



Purple Sandpiper

Since fast food establishments (and warmth) will be just around the corner so packing a lunch is optional although a thermos of coffee never hurt. There will be a tally up dinner at Wing Haven 5:30 PM [directions]. Just bring your appetites and good birding stories. Too assure even and complete coverage of the area those who wish to participate should contact Dave Lovett.

### Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007: Pee Dee NWR Christmas Count

Full Day - Contact: Judy Walker (704-537-8181 or birdwalker@mac.com)

The Pee Dee Christmas Count is a great way to end the year birding. Every year it produces surprises. One year it was turkey tracks in the snow and lots of sparrows. Another sight to behold is seeing the ducks take off in the morning or watching them come back in at dusk. Because of the wide variety of habitat and its central location we usually have a pretty good list of birds including Bald Eagles, Tundra Swans, and lots and lots of sparrows and ducks

If you want to carpool, meet at the McDonalds at Windsor Square Shopping Center at 5:45 AM [on Independence]. Otherwise meet at the Pee Dee Maintenance Building [main entrance off Rt. 52] at 7 AM. Lunch will be provided but you will want to wear lots of layers and bring snack foods and something hot to drive while you are out in the field.

### Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008: Huntington Beach State Park, SC

Full Day - Contact: Judy Walker (704-537-8181 or birdwalker@mac.com)

Our winter excursion to Huntington Beach State Park is an annual favorite offering some different bird species than our Fall trip. Waterbirds-both freshwater and saltwater- have arrived in good numbers-including loons, grebes, and ducks. Gannets are numerous off-shore along with shorebirds along the quiet beaches.

We will meet at 8 AM in the causeway parking lot. Be sure and dress warmly as the winds off the ocean can be chilling, and bring a lunch for a midday break.

For those interested, Saturday evening we will gather at a local restaurant for dinner . Sunday we will bird for half a day before heading home.

Local hotels with off season rates include: Litchfield In [843-237-4211], Days Inn Surfside [843-238-4444], Brookwood Inn [843-651-2550].



*This world, after all our science and sciences, is still a miracle: wonderful, inscrutable, magical and more, to whomsoever will think of it.*

– Thomas Carlyle

## Every Bird Counts (Continued)

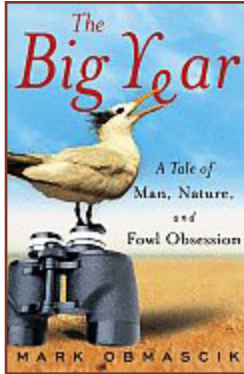
The count period, which is from December 14th to January 5th, in North America is referred to as “early winter,” because many birds at this time are still in the late stages of their southward migration, so it is not “true” winter. When we combine these data with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, we begin to see a clearer picture of how the continent’s bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The information is also vital for conservation. For example, local trends in bird populations can indicate habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate

environmental threat, such as groundwater contamination or poisoning from improper use of pesticides.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition -- and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation. Find out how to get involved.

As long as there are birds to be counted, the Christmas Bird Count will go on being the most popular, fun, and rewarding bird census the world over!



## Book Nook (continued)

### *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession*

Mark Obmascik, Free Press, 2004.

Follow the marathon birding adventures of Sandy Komito, Al Levantin and Greg Miller as they vie against each other to set a new North American birding record in 1998. A full year of intense competitive birding takes them from the Brownsville, Texas dump (Tamaulipas crow from Mexico) to Attu in the Aleutians (wood sandpiper from Asia) to the Gulf Stream off Hatteras (black capped petrel). These obsessed birders head for the airport, the road, or the sea at the first sign of a rare bird sighting somewhere in North America. It reads like a novel – the kind you can't put down - but is a true account of how one birder out-did his two opponents and sighted 745 different species in North America in one year.

### Bird Names Quiz - Answers

Water Turkey—Anhinga; Water Witch—Pied-billed Grebe;  
Hurricane Bird—Magnificent Frigatebird; Wavey—Snow Goose;  
Fly-up-the-creek—Green Heron; Thunder Pump—American Bittern;  
Lady of the Water—Tricolored Heron; Fool Hen—Spruce Grouse;  
Bald Plate—American Wigeon; Preacher—Wood Stork

## Mecklenburg Audubon Society

Join now and your membership will be effective until June 2008.

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 & cost of meetings.

Name

Phone

Address [Street, City, ST, and Zip]

E-mail

- Individual Membership [\$10]     Family Membership [\$15]
- Please, save trees and send me[us] the newsletter electronically.
- Please, add me to Meckbirds, the local listserv about birds and the environment.
- I[we] would be willing to lead a field trip.
- I[we] would be interested in participating in a work day.
- I[we] would be willing to do a program.

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

## Optic Myths (continued)

for you. Here are a few issues to consider in choosing your own binocular.

**MYTH #9:** "Twilight factor" is key to performance in dim light.

**REALITY:** The quality of the coatings is much more important.

You sometimes see "twilight factor" listed in a binocular description, as a measure of the resolving power in dim light. This term was more important years ago, before modern optical coatings were invented, than it is today.

However, in a modern binocular, performance in dim light depends more on the quality of the optical coatings than on the twilight factor formula. Good coatings can double the amount of light that gets through the binocular.

**MYTH #10:** Straight-through spotting scopes are easier to aim and use

**REALITY:** Not really!

An angled-eyepiece scope is just as easy. It might take you five minutes to get used to it, if you're switching from a straight-through scope.

## Board Members

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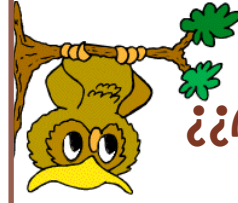
*Audubon News is published monthly from September through May by the Mecklenburg Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon. Local members receive the newsletter via postal mail and/or electronic mail. It is also posted on the Mecklenburg Audubon web site - meckbirds.org.*

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**Who's**

**New??**



- Dori Carbone
- Laura Domingo
- Cynthia Dienemann
- Gwendolyn Fenninger
- Michael Kirschman
- Tom & Carla Ledford
- Jeff Lemons
- Kevin Metcalf
- Linda Serrett
- Candance York

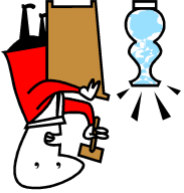
**Activities Calendar**

- 11/28 Evergreen Preserve Master Plan Community Mtg.
- 12/1 Winter Waterfowl (1/2 day Field Trip)
- 12/1 Reedy Creek Nature Preserve Holiday Open House (10 AM-1 PM)
- 12/6 The Well Equiped Bird Watcher (Monthly Meeting)
- 12/7 Sharing Nature with Children Workshop with Joseph Cornell
- 1/8 Sharing Nature with Children Workshop with Joseph Cornell
- 12/15 Gaston County Christmas Bird Count
- 12/16 Lake Norman Christmas Bird Count
- 12/22 Charlotte Christmas Bird Count
- 12/29 Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count
- 1/3 Members' Photos and Potluck
- 1/19 Huntington Beach State Park, SC



**Coming Attraction**

To raise funds for our support of 40 Audubon Adventures class-rooms, we are going to add a new feature to our January meeting - a Silent Auction. We already have 3 cold-cast porcelain sculpted hummingbird plates from the Maruri "Treasures of the Sky" will be auctioned. Each plate is new, in its original packaging, and includes a Certificate of Authenticity from Maruri USA. The plates are valued at \$33 each. Members are encouraged to donate items for this worthy cause. Items can be new or lightly used and can be brought to the November and/or December meetings. Please let Terry Hamilton (THam9281@aol.com) or Andrea Owens (andreaowens1@yahoo.com) know if you have items for donation.



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