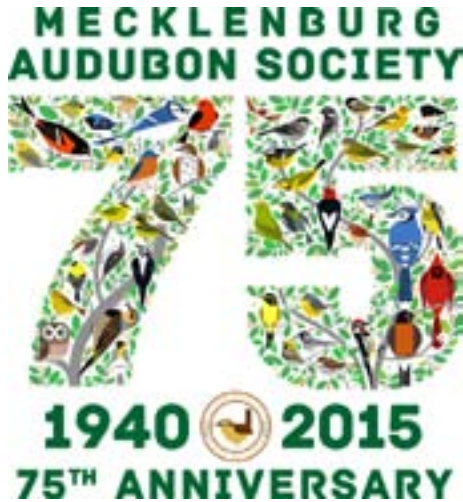


Audubon News

September 2015

Volume 21 (1)



MAS 75 Years Young!!!

We're having a PARTY and YOU are invited.

The celebration will take place at the large pavillon at the McDowell Nature Preserve in the southwest corner of Mecklenburg Co. on the banks of Lake Wilely. We will have early morning walks to the McDowell Prairie and around the preserve itself. Keep an eye on our website for more information about those.

In addition to wonderful food and fellowship we will have music by Harry Taylor and an extra special presentation about the history of the club with additional memorabilia on display. There will be activities for the kids as well.

To join the party you can purchase tickets at the monthly meetings, online through our website (meckbirds.org) or use the form on page 8. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for children 12 and under.

ALL tickets must be purchased by Sat., October 3rd.

Saturday, October 10, 2015

12 Noon - 4 PM

**McDowell Nature Preserve
(Large Shelter)**

- Morning Bird Walks
- Catered Lunch
- Live Entertainment
- Engaging Speakers

Tickets go on sale August 21st
\$12 adults | \$6 children under 12

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The party, however, will begin around 12 Noon and consisting of barbeque and fixin's catered by DELECTABLES by Holly. In addition we will have meatless options. Food will be served at 12:30 PM.

Awesome Ospreys



Such Cheer, Such Cheer!
Mecklenburg Audubon Society is celebrating its 75th year as a bird club!

As we take flight into this exciting season, Dr. Rob Bierregard has swooped back into town for a visit to bring us up to speed on the remarkable research he

Thursday, Sept. 3rd

7:15 PM

Tyvola Senior Center

2225 Tyvola Rd, Charlotte, NC

is providing the world of avian and raptor research in regards to Osprey and their migration patterns. Many of you remember Dr. Rob as a past president of MAS and former Ornithologist at UNCC. For over a decade, he and his grad students studied Charlotte's thriving population of Barred Owls. He currently resides in Pennsylvania and is a Research Associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. He has tagged over 60 young and adult Osprey from Vir-

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Field Trips

All Mecklenburg Audubon Field Trips are free and open to the public. Directions can be found on the Mecklenburg Audubon website - meckbirds.org/trips/trips.html. 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!!



Upland Sandpiper
Jeff Lemons

Sunday, Aug. 30th - Orangeburg Sod Farms

Full Day • Easy • Contact: Judy Walker [birdwalker@me.com]

This is our annual trek to the coastal plain in search of hard to find, migrating shorebirds like Upland and Buff-bellied Sandpipers. Since it can be hot pretty quickly in these open fields with no shade we try to get down there as early as possible. We will meet at 5:45 AM in an attempt to leave the 6 AM in the Food Lion parking lot on Hwy. 21. Take a left at the Carowinds exit from I-77. The Food Lion will be on your left in one mile. Bring plenty of water, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Snacks and lunch are recommended.

Saturday, Sept. 12th - Mallard Creek Greenway

1/2 Day • Easy • Contact: Judy Walker [birdwalker@me.com]

We will be investigating the University Park area of this greenway. Migrants should be moving through this greenway with a mix of open and wooded areas along the creek. Meet at the corner of Governor Hunt Rd. and David Taylor Rd.



American Redstart (Fall)
Will Stuart

Tuesday, Sept. 15th - Ribbon Walk Nature Preserve

1/2 Day • Moderate • Contact: Tom Ledford [tledford1207@gmail.com]

This area is mostly wooded, and includes three ponds and a large field. We'll cover about 1 1/2 miles. Meet at 8:30 AM in the parking lot on Hoyt Hinson Rd.

Saturday, Sept. 19th - Bird Walk for Beginning Birders

1/2 Day • Easy • Contact: Marcia Howden [howden32@aol.com]

This will be a two-mile walk on dirt and gravel roads. We'll have power line right-of-way, woods and prairie/field. Good spot for yellow-breasted chat, indigo bunting, blue grosbeak and prairie warbler. We'll start at 8:30 AM in the parking lot to the right just inside the gate of **Latta Nature Preserve**.

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd - McAlpine Greenway

1/2 Day • Easy • Contact: Ron Clark [waxwing@bellsouth.net]

This park off Monroe Road has a variety of habitats; woods, lake, beaver pond, short grass and brush. This is about a 1 1/2 mile flat walk on gravel trails. Meet in the Monroe Rd. parking lot at 8:30 AM.

Thursday, Sept. 24th - Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

All Day • Moderate • Contact: Tom Ledford [tledford1207@gmail.com]

Wintering passerines will have settled in to the refuge and ducks should start arriving. This is always an interesting trip. We are never sure what we will find. Since folks come from all corners of the Charlotte area, we will meet at 8:30 AM at the bathrooms (main entrance off of Rt. 52) instead of trying to car pool. Bring a lunch as well.



Chestnut-sided Warbler (Fall)

Field Trips

Saturday, September 26th - Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC **Full Day • Moderate • Contact: Judy Walker [birdwalker@me.com]**

This Hendersonville city park is the fall equivalent of Latta Park in the spring, with a 20-warbler day possible. This is an all-day trip, so bring a lunch. We'll meet at 7:30 AM at the McDonald's on Hwy 64 (Exit 49-B on Interstate 26) in Hendersonville. It's on the right after you cross the interstate.

Tuesday, September 29th - James Boyce Park **1/2 Day • Easy • Contact: Tom Ledford [tledford1207@gmail.com]**

This heavily wooded park backs up to McAlpine Creek Greenway which is not accessible at the moment due to construction. We'll meet in the parking lot at 8:30 AM.

Thursday, October 1st - Campbell Creek Greenway **1/2 Day • Easy • Contact: Ron Clark [waxwing@bellsouth.net]**

Located on the east side of town, this 2 1/2 mile walk is on flat asphalt. It is mostly wooded with a creek. The parking lot is on Margaret Wallace Road. Meet at 8:30 AM.

Saturday, October 3rd - Ribbon Walk Nature Preserve **1/2 Day • Moderate • Contact: Ron Clark [waxwing@bellsouth.net]**

This area is mostly wooded, and includes three ponds and a large field. We'll cover about 1 1/2 miles. Meet at 8:30 AM in the parking lot on Hoyt Hinson Rd.

Sunday, October 11th - Big Sit (Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge) **All Day • Easy • Contact: Ron Clark [waxwing@bellsouth.net]**

This is a fun-filled day of birding with minimal walking. It takes place in the viewing stand at Cowan's Ford Refuge. It will start before daybreak and end around 5-6, whenever the last folks leave. You can come for an hour or all day. Bring a chair, snacks and your binoculars. This is a great way to meet folks, and one of the few outings where talking is okay. We will have grill for some hot dogs around noon. Sign-up isn't necessary, just come and enjoy.

Saturday, October 17-18th - Huntington Beach State Park **Weekend • Strenuous • Contact: Judy Walker [birdwalker@me.com]**

This is our fall sojourn to a South Carolina birding hot spot. Fall migrants - hawks and warblers - will still be moving through, wintering shorebirds will have settled in and a few ducks may also have begun arriving. This is probably the best time of the year to see Peregrine Falcons and Merlins, and I am sure we will be delighted with spectacular views of thousands of tree swallows.

We will meet in the parking lot on the eastside of the causeway at 7:30 AM. It can get pretty hot so remember a hat, sunscreen and plenty of water. We will eat lunch in the park so you will also need to bring food.

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

Audubon News

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Mecklenburg Audubon Society is looking for a few good volunteers to help at Kids In Nature Day Saturday, 10/3, 7:30am-1:00pm. This second annual event will be held at Squirrel Lake Park in Matthews. If available email lesliewieser@yahoo.com. Don't forget, every time you volunteer your name goes in a quarterly drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to a local bird store!

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Awesome Ospreys

ginia to northern New Hampshire. Since 2000, he started tagging Ospreys with satellite transmitters to track their movements around their nests and their migration to South America and back. Most of this work has been on Martha's Vineyard in which he completed the 16th survey of the island's Ospreys in 2013. You can even follow his research on your smart phone. Osprey migration? Yep, there's an app for that!

Although we offer disposable cups, if you think of it beforehand, please consider bringing your own cup or mug to ease the burden on the environment. Ice will be provided.

Join us as we take flight into an exciting season and tell others you think may be interested to come too!



Good News!!

Migratory Bird Treaty Act is Safe for Now

The sponsors of legislation aimed at weakening the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) appear to have backed off their destructive course.

The change of heart followed a vigorous, hard-hitting campaign by Audubon's Washington, DC office and a barrage of more than 59,000 messages you and other Audubon members sent protesting the proposal. It's a dramatic turn of events and a stunning victory, and we couldn't have done it without you. To read more go to <http://goo.gl/zkaxoV>



Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Extend Neotropical Migratory Bird Program

For nearly 15 years, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has helped protect habitat for the hundreds of species of birds that nest in the United States and winter in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Last week, Congressmen Ron Kind (D-WI) and Rob Wittman (R-VA) introduced legislation to reauthorize funding for this vital program. To learn more about this bill go to <http://goo.gl/8VdJOn>



Gardening for Wildlife? Submit Your Photo for Advice

With gardens at their peak, it's a great time to pause, admire, and take stock of your yard. Where are you finding birds? Do you have a planting that just isn't right? A newly cleared corner of your property you are dreaming about planting for wildlife next year? YardMap invites you to send in photos of the areas of your yard you'd like to improve. If your photo is selected, landscaping experts and the online community will offer advice. Head over to the YardMap advice page [<http://content.yardmap.org/?p=5384>] to find out how to submit your photo or to learn more about landscaping for wildlife.



Heard a Mystery Song? Ask the Cornell Lab on NPR

If you've heard a sound in nature that you can't identify, capture a recording and send it in to NPR's new series, Decoding Nature. If your sound is selected, experts at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will identify it for the radio segment. To learn more and how to submit your own sounds go to <http://goo.gl/3FSweV>

Meet the Migrant: Osprey

Unique among North American raptors for its diet of live fish and ability to dive into water to catch them, Ospreys are common sights soaring over shorelines, patrolling waterways, and standing on their huge stick nests, white heads gleaming. These large, rangy hawks do well around humans and have rebounded in numbers following the ban on the pesticide DDT. Hunting Ospreys are a picture of concentration, diving with feet outstretched and yellow eyes sighting straight along their talons.

Size & Shape

Ospreys are very large, distinctively shaped hawks. Despite their size, their bodies are slender, with long, narrow wings and long legs. Ospreys fly with a marked kink in their wings, making an M-shape when seen from below.

Color Pattern

Ospreys are brown above and white below, and overall they are whiter than most raptors. From below, the wings are mostly white with a prominent dark patch at the wrists. The head is white with a broad brown stripe through the eye. Juveniles have white spots on the back and buffy shading on the breast.

Behavior

Ospreys search for fish by flying on steady wingbeats and bowed wings or circling high in the sky over relatively shallow water. They often hover briefly before diving, feet first, to grab a fish. You can often clearly see an Osprey's

catch in its talons as the bird carries it back to a nest or perch.

Habitat

Look for Ospreys around nearly any body of water: saltmarshes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries, and even coral reefs. Their conspicuous stick nests are placed in the open on poles, channel markers, and dead trees, often over water.

Find This Bird

Near open water with an abundant supply of fish, listen for the Osprey's whistling or chirping calls overhead, or look for this bird's distinctive flight profile and heavy wingbeats. From spring into fall, a boat or raft on a lake or river can provide an especially good vantage point. Scan treetops and other high spots along the shore for perched adults and untidy stick nests piled atop a platform, pole, or snag out in the open.

Cool Facts

An Osprey may log more than 160,000 migration miles during its 15-to-20-year lifetime. Scientists track Ospreys by strapping lightweight satellite transmitters to the birds' backs. The devices pinpoint an Osprey's location to within a few hundred yards and last for 2-3 years. During 13 days in 2008, one Osprey flew 2,700 miles—from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, to French Guiana, South America.

Ospreys are unusual among hawks in possessing a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind. Barbed pads on the soles of the birds' feet help them grip slippery fish. When flying with prey, an Osprey lines up its catch head first for less wind resistance.



They are excellent anglers. Over several studies, Ospreys caught fish on at least 1 in every 4 dives, with success rates sometimes as high as 70 percent. The average time they spent hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes—something to think about next time you throw your line in the water.

The Osprey readily builds its nest on manmade structures, such as telephone poles, channel markers, duck blinds, and nest platforms designed especially for it. Such platforms have become an important tool in reestablishing Ospreys in areas where they had disappeared. In some areas nests are placed almost exclusively on artificial structures.

Osprey eggs do not hatch all at once. Rather, the first chick emerges up to five days before the last one. The older hatchling dominates its younger siblings, and can monopolize the food brought by the parents. If food is abundant, chicks share meals in relative harmony; in times of scarcity, younger ones may starve to death.

The name "Osprey" made its first appearance around 1460, via the Medieval Latin phrase for "bird of prey" (*avis prede*). Some wordsmiths trace the name even further back, to the Latin for "bone-breaker"—*ossifragus*.

The oldest known Osprey was 25 years, 2 months old.

For more information, pictures, video and audio go to All About Birds - <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/id>



How Do Birds Drink Water?

by Dawn Hewitt, Managing Editor, Bird Watcher's Digest
[<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/>]

Just like you and me, birds need water to survive. Most birds drink some water every day, but they don't drink the way we mammals do. Their anatomy is obviously quite different from ours. For one thing, they don't have cheeks and lips! With a few exceptions, birds lack the ability to suction liquid into their throats, as horses do. Most birds drink by filling their bill with water—often from morning dew on leaves—then tilting their head back, using gravity to send the liquid into their digestive tract.

Most birds can, however, lap water into their bill, akin to the way cats and dogs drink. But then birds must tilt their head to swallow.

Swifts and swallows skim a bitful of water as they fly over lakes, ponds and rivers.

Pelicans are known to collect rain in their bucketlike bills, but brown pelicans also drink salt water. Most pelagic species have that ability. They are anatomically equipped for desalinization, allowing them to absorb H₂O and exude salt in their urine or through salt glands and ducts near their eyes or nostrils.

Hummingbirds don't drink water, but their primary calorie intake is sugar in liquid form: nectar. This is a male broad-tailed hummingbird. (Photo: Creative Commons)

Pigeons and doves are among the few birds that can suck water while their head is down. They don't need to look skyward to swallow.

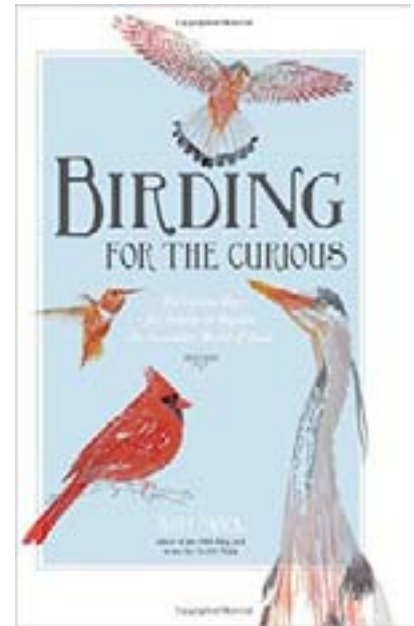
A few birds don't usually drink water at all, including some desert species whose sole source of water is what is extracted from their food; and raptors, which similarly get the water they need metabolically from their moist, meaty diets.

Hummingbirds don't drink water, but their primary calorie intake is sugar in liquid form: nectar. Hummingbirds don't need to tip their head to swallow nectar, but neither do they suck it into their bills. Rather, they have a grooved tongue that draws nectar into the bill via capillary action.

Even though birds don't have sweat glands, they still lose water through the skin through evaporation, especially during hot, dry weather. Small birds need to ingest more water than large birds because they have a higher ratio of surface area to volume, and so lose water faster.

You can attract more bird species with water than with seed and suet. Only a handful of bird species eat the kind of food humans are likely to provide, but all birds need water, and not just for bathing.

See more at: <http://goo.gl/pIU3Jb>



Birding for the Curious: The Easiest Way for Anyone to Explore the Incredible World of Birds

By Nate Swick. Page Street Publishing.

This book isn't just for birders. It's also for the huge audience of people who hike, maybe have bird feeders, and generally enjoy nature. With this book, the naturalist will discover an incredible and rewarding new adventure in the beautiful world of birds.

The book is packed with easy and fun activities and information about birds, how to find them and their part in the nature around us. The information in this book will not only help you identify and learn more about birds, but you'll have a blast doing it.

Nate Swick is the editor of The American Birding Association (ABA) blog, a frequent contributor to 10,000 Birds and has been a birder for more than 20 years. He helps lead birding excursions for ABA events and the Carolina Bird Club and is a member of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. He lives with his wife and two young children in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Robin Green • <http://goo.gl/vfKBzt>

Do you Know this bird? Black & White Creeper



Black and White Creeper, now called the Black-and-white Warbler. Illustration by John James Audubon.

This nimble and expert little species seldom perches on the small twigs; but circumambulates the trunk, and larger branches, in quest of ants and other insects, with admirable dexterity. It arrives in Pennsylvania, from the south, about the twentieth of April, the young begin to fly early in July; and the whole tribe abandon the country about the beginning of October. Sloane describes this bird as an inhabitant of the West India islands, where it probably winters. It was first figured by Edwards from a dried skin sent him by Mr. William Bartram, who gave it its present name. Succeeding naturalists have classed it with the warblers; a mistake which I have endeavored to rectify.

The genus of Creepers comprehends about thirty different species, many of which are richly adorned with gorgeous plumage; but, like their congenial tribe the Woodpeckers, few of them excel in song; their tongues seem better calculated for extracting noxious insects from the bark of trees, than for trilling out sprightly airs; as the hardened hands of the husbandman are better suited for clearing the forest or guiding the plough, than dancing among the keys of a forte-piano. Which of the two is the most honorable and useful employment is not difficult to determine. Let the farmer, therefore, respect this little bird for its useful qualities, in clearing his fruit and forest from destructive insects; though it cannot serenade him with its song.

Excerpted from *American Ornithology, Volume 3*, released in 1811.

See more at: <http://goo.gl/tw0G1b>

Time to Plan Your Fall Bird-Friendly Plants

Fall planting season is right around the corner and now is a great time to prep your yard for fall migrants. Audubon's Bird-Friendly Native Plants of the Year program makes buying and growing bird-friendly native plants easy!

The Bird-Friendly Native Plants of the Year program has everything you'll need to begin a bird-friendly backyard or add to your existing landscape. Audubon has prepared a list of perfect plants that benefit birds near you, as well as plant profiles and growing tips. They've even worked with local nurseries to stock bird-friendly native plants.

Now let's get growing with the Bird-Friendly Native Plants of the Year!



Handy Links:

- Learn more about the Bird-Friendly Native Plants of the Year program - <http://bit.ly/birdfriendlygarden>
- Print the 2015 Plant List - <http://bit.ly/birdfriendly15>
- Find a nursery near you - <http://bit.ly/birdfriendlynursery>
- Watch a short video to meet a retailer and gardener participating in the program <http://bit.ly/birdfriendlyvideo>

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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 website - meckbirds.org.

75th Anniversary Celebration Tickets

Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:

Treasurer, Mecklenburg Audubon,
P.O. Box 221093, Charlotte, NC 28222 by Oct. 3rd.

We will have your tickets waiting for you at the will call table the day of the celebration.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone# _____

In case we need to contact you about anything.

Additional names (if you are ordering more than one ticket):

	#Tickets	Total Cost
Adult tickets (\$12)	_____	_____
Child tickets [12 and under] (\$6)	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____

Number of meatless meals: _____

Who's New?

-
- Patricia Campbell
 - Susan Cathcart
 - Amy Cole
 - Larken Egleston
 - John & Louise Fedorczyk
 - Orlando & Jude Gonzalez
 - Carol Hicks
 - Patrick & Linda Jennings
 - Patty Masten
 - John McAlister III
 - Ruth & Paul McDevitt
 - Charlotte Morley
 - Brian Niekras
 - Chris Pruitt
 - James Ryder
 - Peter & April Stollmack
 - Lynne Wilson



As the MAS activities wind down for the summer, it's a reminder that it's time to Renew your membership. Don't worry if you recently joined you are good until June 2016. But the rest of us have to dig into our piggy banks to find some funds to renew our memberships for another year.

Local membership dues help cover administration costs such as the website, programs, printing display materials and much more. In contrast, all of the monies we raise through coffee sales, raffles, auctions, etc. are used for conservation and education efforts.

Take a few minutes to fill out the form below and send it to our illustrious treasurer. Or go to the website (meckbirds.org/membership.html) and pay with a credit or debit card.

Mecklenburg Audubon Society

Join now and your membership will be effective until June 2016.

Local Membership covers the cost of the newsletter, web site, meetings and other administrative commitments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

- Individual Membership [\$10]
- Family Membership [\$15]
- Additional Donation \$ _____

Volunteer Opportunities

- Lead field trips
- Do a program
- Help at events