



Reviews of the book **Birds of the Central Carolinas**

by Don Seriff; illustrated by Leigh Anne Carter

For everyone in the Central Carolinas that loves birds....

What a book! I must admit, being a penny-pincher, and thinking that all the information about NC birds was online or I already knew everything I needed to know (big laugh there), I was reluctant at first to buy a copy of Don and Leigh Anne's *Birds of the Central Carolinas*, but now that I have a copy I'm so happy! This IS NOT just a compilation of our Breeding Bird Atlas efforts with data extending into neighboring counties. Not by a long shot. What Don has done is taken each bird and put it on a fascinating historical trajectory by interspersing records going back well over a century that give insight not only into the biological history of the bird, but also changes in our attitudes about conservation (consider this quote from page 77 about an unexpected flight of Wood Storks in Iredell County in 1955 documented by Linville Hendren – "...they came in flocks. The total was estimated at 150 to 200. The local men and boys attempted to kill as many as possible.") Makes you stop and think, doesn't it? Simply put, once I started reading the book I couldn't put it down. I can't imagine the amount of work Don must have put into composing such rich accounts of each bird.

And to all of you (young?) folks that are abandoning written materials in favor of online sources, Leigh Anne's drawings of each bird, plus the overall presentation of the book, makes it a pleasure to just leaf through and hold. Just like birds are pleasing to our eyes, so does this book give pleasure in its beauty. Not only with the outstanding artwork, but also with the easy to comprehend presentation of data that summarizes each bird's status via the Atlas surveys.

Don and Leigh Ann, I don't know how you were able to wrap your heads around what I see now was an enormous task and create a vision that has come out so well. Thanks for producing a showpiece that makes me feel proud to be part of this birding community.

Ken Kneidel, Past President

Mecklenburg Audubon, Charlotte, NC

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I was worried it might be another (beautiful) bird book that I stick on a shelf but I am really enjoying it. The introductory sections were fascinating and real page turners and I find myself reading about a random bird each night - the historical accounts are very interesting and not to be found elsewhere, and the local information is unsurpassed. There are details about the particular species that I have not seen or heard elsewhere, except maybe from the mouths of people who've spent years in the field. Highly recommended!

Peter Quadarella
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