The Wandering Birder: Beautiful Belize

Now that the cold weather has set in, our thoughts have turned to warmer climes. Especially places with lots of birds. Being cooped up also makes us yearn for wild places far and near. That’s why we reserve our January meeting to spotlight places our members have been and would like to go even if it’s only vicariously. Yes, that means Member’s ‘slides’ night as well as our annual Pot Luck.

Chris Baldwin will anchor our photographic tour by sharing with us about his trip to Belize. As he puts it - he’s not an expert but he sure had a great time! And he wants to share that with others. The rest of you are charged with bringing slides, photographs, videos*, etc. to the meeting so the rest of us can drool over the great places you have been. Pictures do not have to be specifically about birds. Scenery, other animals, plants, etc. are fair game. Your new grandchild probably should wait for another day.

Everyone is also encouraged to come early at 6:30 PM for a potluck dinner. Bring all the leftovers from the holidays if they’re still edible. This is a great time to meet people and get caught up on everyone’s travels.

Please note the January meeting will be a week later than usual-January 9th. The MAS board thought we would be too hungover to meet on the 2nd. Or at least still out of town enjoying the holidays.

So join us on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall of the Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church at 920 Sharon Amity Rd. Bring your pictures and your appetite!

* Please let me know if you have video so I can remember to bring a video player.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- Sat. 12/28 – Charlotte Christmas Count [Full Day]
- Sat. 1/4 – Pee Dee NWR Christmas Count [Full Day]
- Thu. 1/9 – Beautiful Belize [Members slides and Potluck Meeting]
- Sat. 1/11 – Winter at the Beach [Huntington Beach Field Trip]
- Sat. 1/25 – Windsor Park and SE Charlotte [1/2 day Field Trip]
- Thu. 2/6 – Four Holes Swamp [Monthly meeting]
- Sat. 2/8 – Local Field Trip [1/2 day]
- Sat. 2/22 – Swamp Stomp [Four Holes Swamp Field Trip]
- Thu. 3/6 – Amazing Amphibians [Monthly Meeting]

For additional activities and information go to http://meckbirds.org
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than welcome.
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Charlotte Christmas Count
The granddaddy of local counts, this
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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 cover-
age of the area those who wish to
participate should contact Wayne
Covington at 704-362-1774 or
WayneCovington@hotmail.com.
Saturday, January 4:
Pee Dee NWR Christmas Count
The Pee Dee Christmas Count is a
great way to start the year birding.
Every year it produces surprises. Last
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 on Independence and
Idlewild at 6 AM. Otherwise meet at
the Pee Dee Maintenance Building [at
the 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. If
you want to be part of this exciting
count contact Judy Walker at 704-537-
8181 or birdwalker@mac.com.
Saturday, January 11:
Huntington Beach St. Park, SC
Although January is often cold and
dreary, Mecklenburg Audubon
Society's annual field trip to Hunting-
ton Beach State Park in South Caro-
ilina 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! We can expect to
see lots of ducks, shore birds and
hopefully a few rare species like
longspurs, an eider or oldsquaw.
Bring warm clothes and lunch. Since
most participants stay for the week-
end, we will plan to go out to dinner
on Saturday night. At dinner we will
plan where we will go on Sunday. A
favorite and inexpensive Mom & Pop
t motel in Murrel's Inlet is the
Brookwood Inn - 843-651-2550. If
you have questions or plan to go
contact Taylor Piephoff at 704-532-
6336 or piephoffT@aol.com.
Saturday, January 25:
Windsor Park/SE Mecklenburg
This is a new field trip for MAS. We
have been hearing about Windsor Park
on MAS-L [our local discussion
group] so we thought we would take a
morning to investigate and explore
some of the other areas in SE
Mecklenburg Co. We should see
typical winter birds and perhaps a few
oddities. You never know when you
have a lot of eyes looking interesting
things show up.
We will meet the McDonalds at
Windsor Square shopping center on
Independence Blvd [Rt. 74] at 7:30
AM. We should wind up about noon
time. If you are interested in going
contact Rob Bierregaard at 704-333-
2405 or rbierreg@email.uncc.edu.

Announcing the 6th Annual
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
February 14-17, 2003
Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the
birds are. Now that winter has gripped much of the continent, what are our
birds doing? Bird populations are dynamic, they are constantly in flux. We
want to take a snapshot of North American bird populations and YOU can
help us. Everyone's contribution is important. It doesn't matter whether
you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard
feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.
Your data can help us answer many questions:
* How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird
populations?
* Where are the WINTER finches and other irruptive species?
* Will late winter movements of many SONGBIRD and waterfowl
species be as far north as they were last year?
The data that you collect will be combined with Christmas Bird Count
and Project FeederWatch data to give us an immense picture of our winter
birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more important
and meaningful. So as we see patterns, discover new questions and in-
sights, we'll update you. And we'll ask for your help again.
For information about participating go to www.birdsource.org
January is the time to start thinking about what you will plant in your backyard this year. There are a lot of plants you can use to entice wildlife. Here is a brevitated version of Will Cook’s Great Plants for Attracting Birds in Central North Carolina. You can find the complete version along with one for butterflies at (http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/plants4birds.html)

**Food And Cover Plants**

*Evergreen trees and shrubs*
- Atlantic White-Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)
- Eastern Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry (*Morella Myrica cerifera*)
- Pine (*Pinus spp.*) Lobolly Pine (*P. taeda*) Longleaf Pine (*P. palustris*)
- Carolina Laurel cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*)

*Deciduous trees and shrubs*
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Oak (*Quercus spp.*) White Oak (*Q. alba*) Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*).
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium spp.*)
- Viburnum (*Viburnum spp.*) Downy Arrowwood (*V. rafinesquianum*) Rusty Blackhaw (*V. rufidulum*)

*Woody Vines*
- Carolina Jessamine, Carolina Yellow-Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
- Virginia-Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

*Herbaceous Plants*
- Coreopsis, Tickseed (*Coreopsis spp.*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea spp.*)
- Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

**Hummingbird Nectar Plants**

*Trees*
- Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)

*Woody Vines*
- Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)
- Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
- Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

*Shrubs*
- Mountain Sage (*Salvia greggii*)
- Mountain Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
- Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Jewelweed, Spotted Touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*)
- Cypressvine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*)
- Standing-Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*)
- Scarlet Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)
- Beard-tongue (*Penstemon spp.*)
- Scarlet Sage, Tropical Sage, Blood Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
- Galeana Red Sage (*Salvia darcyi*)
- Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans*)
- Guaraní Sage, Blue Brazilian Sage, Anise-scented Sage (*Salvia guaranitica*)
- Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*)
- Red Salvia, Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
- Van Houtte’s Sage (*Salvia splendens* ‘vanhouttei’)

*Good cover/food plants to AVOID*
- Mimoso Tree, Silktree (*Albizia julibrissin*)
- Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- Autumn-Olive (*Elaeagnus spp.*)
- Wintercreeper, Climbing Euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*)
- Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Sericea, Chinese Bush-Clover (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
- Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
- Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
- Redtips (*Photinia spp.*)

**Speaking of Backyards...**

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**
  704-547-4059
  larry@lbarden.com

- **Lucy Quintilliano - Treasurer**
  704-364-9028
  LucyAQ@aol.com

- **Taylor Piephoff - Field Trips**
  704-532-6336
  piephoffT@aol.com

- **Wayne Covington - Bird Counts**
  704-362-1774
  jacoving@bellsouth.net

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

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

- **Pam Popovich - Conservation**
  704-535-8988
  ppopovich@hotmail.com

- **Rita Leonard - Member-at-large**
  704-569-9622

Mecklenburg Audubon is a chapter of National Audubon. Meetings are held at Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church, 920 N. Sharon Amity Rd. on the first Thursday of each month, September–May at 7:30 PM.
ATTENTION!!!!

THIS MONTH’S MEETING WILL BE ON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH.

Join Now

Important: Please use this form for new membership or add our chapter code [R50 7XCH] to your renewal the renewal form you receive in the mail. this will ensure our chapter receives membership dues reimbursement from National Audubon.

National Audubon Membership

☐ 1 year - $20 ☐ Senior [62+] - $15 ☐ Student [full-time] - $15

Name

Address

City $1 Zip

Phone

Please make all check payable to National Audubon and mail to: National Audubon, Membership Dept., P. O. Box 51005, Boulder, CO 80323-1005

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