Nicaragua: The birds, coffee and people

Thursday, October 5th
7:15 PM

Over the years more than volcanos have erupted in Nicaragua. There has been a considerable amount political turmoil for much of the country’s history. But in the 1980’s, things calmed down and since then, Nicaragua has made great strides in understanding its biodiversity, and showing it off to the rest of the world.

This month’s speaker, John Gerwin, research curator and educator of ornithology with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, has made 15 trips to Nicaragua often staying for 4+ weeks at a time. John began co-leading eco-tours to Nicaragua in 2005, along with some limited bird surveys. In 2012, he began collaborative research on the Golden-winged Warbler. His presentation will introduce us to some of the birds and other wildlife found among various “wildlife-friendly” coffee farms, along with highlights from his bird research. He’ll also discuss the coffee growing/harvesting process in Nicaragua and the criteria for some of the different certifications involved in producing bird friendly coffee and the burgeoning tourism industry in Nicaragua.

So join us on Thursday, October 5th at the Tyvola Senior Center (2225 Tyvola Rd.) to learn more about Nicaragua & its wildlife treasures. Come early, 6:45 PM, to enjoy some of the coffee produced on Nicaraguan plantations. Bring a mug & take some coffee for the drive home. Program begins at 7:15 PM.

Chimney Swift Tower Dedication & Bird Walk
Clark’s Creek Nature Preserve
Saturday, Oct. 14 • 8:30 AM

Last spring MAS erected a Chimney Swift tower at Clark’s Creek Nature Preserve. Join us for the dedication of this tower in honor of David Wright a 8:30 AM and then a bird walk through the preserve. The address for the preserve is 5542 Hucks Rd. Charlotte, NC 28269. Link to Google map - https://goo.gl/ vEP1JY
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/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!

Saturday, Sept. 30th: Latta Plantation Prairie (Beginner Walk)
1/2 Day • Moderate • Contact: Marcia Howden [howden32@aol.com] • MAP

Latta Plantation Prairie is a great place to begin learning about birds and birding. Although folks of all levels are welcome, we will concentrate on helping folk new to birding learn their basics of using binoculars, spotting a bird, and identification. This will be a two-mile walk on dirt and gravel roads. We’ll have power line right-of-way, woods and prairie/field. Fall migration could produce a variety of migrants. We’ll start at 8:30 AM in the parking lot to the right just inside the gate of Latta Nature Preserve.

Saturday, October 7th: Ribbon Walk Nature Preserve
1/2 Day • Moderate • Contact: Ron Clark [waxwing@bellsouth.net] • MAP

This area is mostly wooded, & includes three ponds and a large field. We’ll cover about 1.5 miles. Meet at 8:30 AM in the parking lot on Hoyt Hinson Rd.

Sunday, October 8th: The Big Sit (Cowan’s Ford Refuge)
All Day • Easy • Contact: Ron Clark [waxwing@bellsouth.net] • MAP

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 21st-22nd: Huntington Beach State Park
Weekend • Strenuous • Contact: Judy Walker [birdwalker@me.com] • MAP

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 for Sunday.

Saturday, October 28th: McDowell Prairie
1/2 Day • Moderate • Contact: Jeff Lemons [birdsalot@gmail.com] • MAP

This carefully managed piedmont prairie has produced some interesting birds in the fall. We will be looking for early winter migrants. Brief directions: Turn right on Shopton Road off Hwy 49. In 0.7 miles, turn left on Four Horse Road. Follow it about 3/4 mile to the green gate on the right. We will meet at 8:00 AM.

Physical Difficulty Key

Easy - Trails are level to slight grades usually paved; .5-3 miles walking
Moderate - Trails can be uneven with some hills; 2-4 miles walking.
Strenuous - Trails vary greatly; 4+ miles of walking.
* Trails are handicapped accessible.
Three Basic Ways to Identify Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, and Other Raptors

First, break them down into groups. Then you can start picking out the finer details, like size and flight.

Birders trained to ID birds by their plumage are typically mystified by their first hawk-watching experience—from a distance, raptors may be near impossible to tell apart. Focus on the traits you can make out: size, shape, overall color or tone, and the manner and cadence of the bird’s wing beats.

**Some advice:** Don’t be intimidated, but don’t be dismissive either. If you want to play in the hawk watching arena, you’re going to have to rethink your concept of a field mark. Distant IDs aren’t made instantly—they’re built, by piecing together multiple clues that favor one species over another.

**Size and Shape**

Most birds of prey fall into four major categories. (Northern Harrier, Osprey, and kites are a few exceptions.) These are the core attributes for each:

- **Buteos** are the large, broad-winged, short-tailed lugs with spare and labored wing beats.
- **Accipiters** are small, narrow-tailed forest dwellers with short, rapid, bursting flaps, punctuated by a glide.
- **Falcons** are slender- and pointy-winged speedsters with steadier wing flaps.
- **Big Black Birds** (eagles and vultures) are the super-size, darker-plumed titans that make spare use of their wings.

**Complexion**

Once you’ve sorted your groups, it’s time to narrow down the candidate species. Look for specific features—though fine distinctions in plumage might still be hard to pin down. For instance, the signature double ‘stache on an American Kestrel’s face may not be so obvious, so rely on its overall paleness to help distinguish it from the slightly larger and darker female and juvenile Merlin.

**Motion**

Manner of flight can also be a defining feature. The American Kestrel’s flight is batty and flat, for example, while the Merlin’s wing beats are fast, powerful, and piston-like. Kestrels float when they glide; the heavier Merlins sink. Peregrine Falcons, on the other hand, have shallow, elastic wing beats—you can practically see the motion rippling down the falcon’s long and tapered wings.

As the bird approaches, make sure to test your hypothesis; other clues will become more obvious as the distance closes. And don’t worry, even the experts get fooled. It’s what keeps them coming back, season after season.

By Pete Dunne (Fall 2016) http://www.audubon.org/node/113116

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Loons on the Lake

Normally we have our annual Potluck & Photos meeting in January. This year we are moving it to December because we are excited to have Dr. Jim Paruk at our monthly January meeting (01/04/18). Dr Paruk is one of the country’s leading researchers in the study of common loons. He will be talking about his research at Lake Jocassee in SC. As a follow-up to his presentation we have arranged for a guided boat tour on the lake to see the loons up-close and personal on Saturday, 01/06/17. The cost will be $35 per person for the boat trip. Please sign up with our Paypal link (https://goo.gl/F9Jued) as we need to give a preliminary count by Dec 11th.
Priority Bird:

Brown Pelican

Sources: All about Birds (https://www.allaboutbirds.org) and Audubon Online Field Guide (http://www.audubon.org)

An unmistakable bird of coastal waters, the Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis) is a comically elegant bird with an oversized bill, sinuous neck, and big, dark body. Squadrons glide above the surf along southern and western coasts, rising and falling in a graceful echo of the waves. The groups fly low over the waves in single file, flapping and gliding in unison. Their feeding behavior is spectacular, as they plunge headlong into the water in pursuit of fish. The current abundance of this species in the United States represents a success story for conservationists, who succeeded in halting the use of DDT and other persistent pesticides here; as recently as the early 1970s, the Brown Pelican was seriously endangered.

Brown Pelicans live year-round in estuaries and coastal marine habitats along both the east and west coasts. They breed between Maryland and Venezuela, and between southern California and southern Ecuador—often wandering farther north after breeding as far as British Columbia or New York. On the Atlantic and Gulf Coast they breed mostly on barrier islands, natural islands in estuaries, and islands made of refuse from dredging, but in Florida and southern Louisiana they primarily use mangrove islets.

On the West Coast they breed on dry, rocky offshore islands. When not feeding or nesting, they rest on sandbars, pilings, jetties, breakwaters, mangrove islets, and offshore rocks.

In North Carolina, Brown Pelicans are found in coastal marine and estuarine waters. Most migrate south for the winter, but small numbers remain year-round, though severe cold snaps result in frostbite to their webbed feet and pouches. They can be found nesting in the Cape Fear River, and in Pamlico and Bogue Sounds on small islands where they are relatively safe from disturbance and predation.

Pelicans were first recorded breeding in North Carolina in 1929 on Royal Shoal, one of the state’s first Audubon sanctuaries, and from those 14 pairs the population grew to more than 100 pairs nesting around Ocracoke Inlet on islands Audubon still protects today. The pesticide DDT compromised many species’ eggs, including Brown Pelicans’, decreasing populations throughout its range and landing them on the endangered species list. Following the ban of DDT in 1972, Brown Pelicans became a conservation success story, with North Carolina populations exceeding historic levels and expanding to islands in the Cape Fear River. Today 4,000-5,000 pairs nest in North Carolina.

Though DDT is no longer a threat, Brown Pelicans are still affected by human disturbance at their coastal nesting habitats which cause problems as panicked pelicans often abandon or accidentally destroy their nests. They are highly susceptible to oil spills and other contaminants. Abandoned fishing line also threatens this species along with many marine animals. It has been estimated that more than 700 adult and immature pelicans die each year in Florida alone from entanglement in sport-fishing gear. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and Audubon North Carolina monitor and protect Brown Pelicans nesting sites. About half of the state’s Brown Pelicans nest on Audubon’s islands.

Adult Brown Pelicans are gray-brown birds with yellow heads and white necks. In breeding plumage, the back and sides of the neck turn a rich, dark reddish-brown. Immatures are gray-brown above (including the head and neck) with pale whitish belly and breast. There are regional differences. On the Pacific Coast, Brown Pelican adults have red skin on their throats in the breeding season. On the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, Brown Pelicans are slightly smaller and their throat skin is greenish black.

Though they have an awkward gait on land, Brown Pelicans are strong swimmers and masterful fliers. They fly to and from their fishing grounds in V-formations or lines just

©Lindsay Addison, Audubon NC

©Kathy Hannah, Audubon NC
above the water’s surface. They and the closely related Peruvian Pelican are the only pelican species to perform spectacular head-first dives (typically ending in a huge splash visible from far away) to trap fish.

**Feeding Behavior**

Brown Pelicans feed by plunge-diving from as high as 60’ above water, using the force of impact to stun small fish before scooping them up with their bill. Once their bills are full, they first tilt their bill down to drain water out of pouch, then toss their head back to swallow. Gulls or terns often try to steal fish right out of their beaks. They will scavenge at times and will become tame, approaching fishermen for handouts. Pelicans usually forage during the day, but may feed at night during a full moon.

Pelicans mostly eat small fish that form schools near the surface of the water—including menhaden, mullet, anchovies, herring, and sailfin mollies. A foraging pelican spots a fish from the air and dives head-first, tucking and twisting to the left to protect its trachea and esophagus from the impact. As it plunges into the water, its throat pouch expands to trap the fish, filling with up to 2.6 gallons of water. Pelicans usually feed above estuaries and shallow ocean waters within 12 miles of shore, but sometimes venture over the deeper waters past the narrow continental shelf of the Pacific coast. They occasionally feed by sitting on the surface and seizing prey with their bills, usually when a dense school of fish is close to the surface and the water is too shallow and muddy to plunge. They also steal food from other seabirds, scavenge dead animals, and eat invertebrates such as prawns.

**Breeding Behavior**

Highly social all year, pelicans breed in colonies of up to several thousand pairs—usually on small islands where they are free from terrestrial predators. The male defends a nest site and nearby perches for up to 3 weeks until he attracts a mate, and the pair is monogamous throughout the breeding season. Once the male has selected a nest site on the ground or in an exposed treetop and he performs head-swaying displays to attract a female. Ground nests range from depressions lined with grass to bulky structures of sticks, grass, and seaweed, while tree nests are usually well-built platforms of sticks lined with grass or leaves. Nest sites are often covered with dense vegetation or surrounded by low shrubs, but they have nearby perches and enough open space for parents to land, take off, preen and loaf when not on the nest. Pelicans occasionally nest on bare sand or shell. In tidal areas, experienced breeders choose higher sites to keep the nest safe from flooding.

The female builds the nest in 7–10 days as the male gathers progressively smaller sticks for her. She pushes sticks together with her bill and then forms a nest cup by pressing with her feet and body. The male brings new material for the female to add throughout incubation, and he may rearrange the nest while inside. Nests measure up to 30 inches across and 9 inches high on the outside, with an interior space up to 12 inches across and 4 inches deep. The female usually lays 3 eggs but may as many as 4 and as few as 2. Both parents incubate their eggs with the skin of their feet, essentially standing on the eggs to keep them warm. In the mid-twentieth century the pesticide DDT caused pelicans to lay thinner eggs that cracked under the weight of incubating parents. If disturbed suddenly they fly hastily, sometimes crushing their eggs. Incubation lasts roughly 28-30 days. The young are born helpless. Pelicans regurgitate predigested fish onto the nest floor for their nestlings, later switching to whole fish once the young are big enough. The young may leave their ground nests after about 5 weeks and gather in groups, where returning parents apparently can recognize own offspring. They can fly and fend for themselves after 3 months, but take 3–5 years of age to reach sexual maturity.

**Migration**

After breeding season, flocks move north along both Atlantic and Pacific coasts. These birds return southward to warmer waters by winter. Small numbers of immatures regularly wander inland in summer, especially in southwest.

**Cool Facts**

The oldest Brown Pelican on record was 43 years of age.

The brown pelican is the national bird of Saint Martin, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the official state bird of Louisiana.

It is exceptionally buoyant due to the internal air sacks beneath its skin and in its bones.
10 Ways to Get Better at Identification

by Bill Thompson, III | Editor, Bird Watcher’s Digest

Many backyard bird watchers struggle to identify certain birds. This is perfectly natural. Almost every bird watcher—even a seasoned pro—gets stumped once in a while by a fall-plumaged warbler or a confusing recent fledgling. The trick is to not let it ruin your fun in watching birds. Here are a few tips to help you get better at bird identification. These tips will work for you with the birds at your feeder and with the birds you’d encounter while hiking up Macchu Pichu. Doesn’t matter: bird ID is bird ID.

1. PRACTICE WITH YOUR BINOCULARS. Am I a master of the obvious or what? Still, you’ve got to admit that you’ve missed a bird or two because you couldn’t find it in your binoc. Or because you did not have your binocular pre-focused with the dipter properly set for the situation. Or maybe you found the bird but turned the focus wheel the wrong way. I’ve made all these mistakes, and I’ve seen them made hundreds of times. It’s frustrating, because the bird you missed might have been something really special. Next time you’re out birding, take the time to practice the quick draw with your binoculars. Imagine a bird on a distant tree or power pole. Whip your binoc into viewing position and focus. How did you do? A little slow on the draw? You can’t get better at identifying birds if you’re not good at finding them in your binocular in the first place.

2. LEAF THROUGH THE FIELD GUIDE. Again, perhaps an obvious suggestion, but a few hours spent really looking at the illustrations and reading the species descriptions will help your knowledge base grow. You won’t remember everything, but what you do remember will surely help you the next time you’re faced with an unfamiliar bird. Not all field guides are created equal, so choose the one or two that you prefer and spend some quality time with them.

3. LISTEN TO BIRD SONG RECORDINGS. This really helps. Of all the practicing that most bird watchers do, few of them spend enough time learning bird sounds, calls, and songs. These days this is easy with all the recordings and apps available. If you are not sure about to get started birding by ear, ask your fellow birders. Your region may have its own set of bird recordings. Once you choose a set of recordings, I suggest you start with a group of birds, such as vireos or thrushes, rather than trying to tackle all the birds of North America at once. Larkwire.org turns learning bird sounds into a game.

4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COOPERATIVE BIRDS. Shorebirds are tough for me, especially the small sandpipers known as “peeps.” When I first sit down at a mudflat full of these small brownish shorebirds, they literally all look alike. But after I spend some time looking at one bird and noting its shape, behavior, general field marks, and then another bird, and another, some differences between the species begin to emerge. Taking your time and taking advantage of cooperative birds is a great way to get better at bird ID. As you become a more careful, experienced observer, you will begin to know what to look for among groups of confusing birds, such as fall warblers, sparrows, or even peeps. The next challenge is to have regular encounters with these confusing species so that you don’t become rusty or forget what you’ve learned.

5. START AT THE TOP OF THE HEAD AND WORK DOWN AND BACK. You see an unfamiliar sparrow. It’s got lots of subtle field marks, almost too many to count. The best way to get a handle on the situation is to be methodical. Start at the top of the bird’s head and note any field marks there. Then work your way visually down to the breast/belly and back toward the bird’s tail, keeping track of notable field marks. If there are a lot of field marks to remember, make a few notes or a quick sketch. If you get confused, start over. Most birds, especially most sparrows, can be identified by the field marks on the face and head. Look through the field guide and you’ll see what I mean.

6. ASK QUESTIONS. Any time you are with another bird watcher who is as good or better at bird identification, ask them questions. Not sure what to ask? One example might be, “How did you know that flying speck in the sky was a chimney swift?” More than 98 out of every 100 bird watchers will gladly answer you (and will be secretly flattered that you asked). The only bad question about bird identification is the one you don’t ask.

7. KEEP A LIST. There’s almost nothing I like better in bird watching than keeping a list of all the species I see in each of my sessions in our birding tower. It’s not so much help with identification...
Each Month the MAS Newsletter will Feature a Section on Bird Trivia/Facts or Puzzles. Whether a Novice, Intermediate, or Expert Birder, it’s fun to learn fun bird tidbits/facts to share with others. We hope you enjoy this new section!

**Migration Factoids**

- The Word Migration come from the Latin migrates that means “to Change” and refers to how birds change their geographic locations seasonally.
- Hawks, swifts, swallows, and waterfowl migrate primarily during the day. Songbirds migrate at night, in part to avoid the attention of predators like migrating raptors.
- The cooler, calmer air at night also makes migration more efficient for many species.
- Birds may fly 15-600 miles a day during migration.
- Migrating Birds use the stars for navigation, as well as the sun, wind patterns, and landforms, all of which help guide them to the same locations each year. The earth’s magnetic field also plays a part in how birds navigate during migration.
- Ruby Throated Hummingbird weighs less than a nickel & can eat one to three times their weight in nectar and insects a day. They can fly non stop across the Gulf of Mexico for 18 hours straight.
- Artic Tern has the longest recorded migration of any bird on the plant. Banded terns have confirmed a round trip migration of roughly 22,000 miles, a feat that astonishes Ornithologists & Birders alike.

Taken from www.thespruce.com – Fun Facts about Bird Migration

**Better Identification**

as it is in seeing seasonally what to expect. This is how I knew, before raising my binoculars, that the little greenish-yellow bird wagging its tail in our lawn was probably a palm warbler. I looked at last year’s tower nature notes and saw that the first week of October last year had a lot of palm warbler sightings. Knowing what you’re likely to see and when you’re likely to see it can help you make an identification more quickly.

8. MAKE NOTES AND SKETCHES. It can be tough to tell a sharp-shinned hawk from a Cooper’s hawk. There are lots of clues and field marks outlined in the field guides, but I always had trouble remembering them until I took the time to write them down when I was at a hawk watch site with an experienced hawk watcher. She rattled off several ID tips and I wrote them in the back of my field guide. I can still remember them to this day. Next to the words I drew a little sketch showing how the Cooper’s hawk’s head protrudes farther in front of the leading edge of the wings and the tail extends farther back from the trailing edge. Those two acts – writing and drawing – really helped cement the knowledge in my mental reference library.

9. USE MEMORY DEVICES. DOWNY DINKY, HAIRY HUGE. This is how I learned the difference between downy and hairy woodpeckers. It refers to the size of the bill relative to the size of the bird’s head. The alliteration helped this to stick in my brain. Memory devices work for field marks and for bird songs, too. That’s how I learned that the eastern (rufous-sided) towhee says “Drink your tea!”

10. LOOK AT EVERY BIRD. Sure this can get boring, but it will make you familiar with the common birds more quickly, so when something unfamiliar shows up, you’ll know what it’s not. A corollary to this tip is to look at the bird, not at the book. The field guide will be there long after the bird flies away.

Reason for the Pelican
by John Ciardi

The reason for the pelican
Is difficult to see;
His beak is clearly larger
Than there’s any need to be.

It’s not to bail a boat with—
He doesn’t own a boat.
Yet everywhere he takes himself
He has that beak to tote.

It’s not to keep his wife in—
His wife has got one, too.
It’s not a scoop for eating soup.
It’s not an extra shoe.

It isn’t quite for anything.
And yet you realize
It’s really quite a splendid beak
In quite a splendid size.
Plants for Bird Friendly Communities

Butterfly Weed

Better than a weed!

You may know this easy to grow garden plant as Butterfly Weed, but as Larry Mellichamp says, Asclepias tuberosa is “a classic roadside plant, so don’t let the ‘weed’ designation fool you.” All it needs is lots of sun (can tolerate some shade) and lean, well drained soil. It can handle clay and drought, just be sure to avoid a wet area, as the long taproot will rot. Butterfly Weed makes a perfect meadow plant and has a long bloom season, often re-blooming several more times with a little water. Because Butterfly Weed is late to break dormancy each spring, it is a good idea to mark their spot so you don’t dig and damage the crown. Instead plant it with early bloomers such as Oenothera and Baptisia or with other hot summer plants such as Blazing Star, Tickseeds, and grasses such as Little Bluestem or Indian Grass.

Dianas, coral hairstreaks, fritillaries, crescents, swallowtails, spicebush and monarch butterflies take nectar from the vivid flat flower clusters. A wide array of bees and wasps, and other pollinators can also be found on Butterfly Weed.

Downy parachutes

Butterfly Weed will reseed in your garden from the thousands of seeds each summer contained in those distinctively long seed capsules. It does attract annoying aphids in late summer, but these can be easily removed with a spray of the garden hose, or soapy water. Asclepias tuberosa is the only one in this genus with clear sap, the rest are known for the milky sap could be mildly irritating to skin.

Words of caution

Butterfly Weed is easy to find in most nurseries. However, NCNPS encourages you to be aware that some plants have been sprayed with Neonicotinoids, a nursery chemical that may be harmful to pollinator populations. It is easy to grow your own Butterfly Weed from seed as an alternative. Another word of caution is to be sure you are not buying Tropical Milkweed, Asclepias curassavica, which is not native to NC.

For more Eco and Bird Friendly pages visit:
ncwildflower.org
ncnpssouthernpiedmont.wordpress.com
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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.
What is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders sponsored by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You simply identify and count the birds outside your window. You can count every week between November and April, or you can count once all season — the time you spend is up to you. Using the easy online data entry, you can see all of your counts and view colorful tables, graphs, and summaries.

Who can participate?

Anyone interested in birds can participate; you don’t have to be an expert. If you attract birds to your yard with food or habitat, then you just need a window to watch and an interest in who shows up. We’ll send you all that you need to get started identifying the visitors.

Why participate?

You will learn about your backyard birds and contribute to a 30-year-and-running dataset of bird population changes. With FeederWatch, you become a scientist in your own backyard.

As the MAS activities begin to ramp up for the fall, it’s time to renew your membership if you haven’t already. Don’t worry if you recently joined as a new member you are good until June 2018. 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

Renew now and your membership will be effective until June 2018.

Local Membership covers the cost of the newsletter, website, meetings and other administrative commitments. If you are requesting a family membership please include all relevant names & emails.

- Individual Membership [$10]
- Family Membership [$15]
- Renewal
- Additional Donation $ _______

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Name(s): __________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________ E-mail(s): ____________________________

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

Join Project FeederWatch
Help scientists track feeder bird populations.

Join Now!