

Vol. 31

May—June 2007

No. 6

**MAY PROGRAM**  
Thursday, May 10, 7-8:30 p.m.,  
at the  
**Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library**  
at Price Park

**Sex and Mice in the City**  
**Rob Bierregaard**  
**Biology Dept., UNC-Charlotte**

Since 2001, Rob Bierregaard and his graduate students have been studying the apparently thriving population of Barred Owls in Charlotte's older suburbs and comparing them to their country cousins nesting in the less heavily populated forests and nature preserves surrounding the city.

In seven years, Rob and his crew have collected data from over 80 pairs of Barred Owls, making this the most comprehensive study of the species ever undertaken. Using a modification of the "mousing" technique favored by Spotted Owl researchers in the Pacific Northwest (mice are provided to the owls which can then be followed to nests or dependent young), the research team trapped and tagged both adult and fledgling owls with radio telemetry transmitters. Following these tagged birds, Rob and his students were able to determine the size of home ranges and to follow the dispersal of young owls after they leave their natal territory and set up one of their own. Recently, the researchers have focused on feeding habits, recording prey items delivered to nest via video cameras mounted in the back of nest boxes.

**SPRING BIRD COUNT**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 5**

HAVE YOU TRIED COUNTING BIRDS?

Saturday, May 5, is our annual spring bird count. Mostly by car, with brief stops and short walks, we count species and numbers within a 15-mile circle.

If you are a novice and want to learn more, this is a great way to do so by joining a group. If you know your birds and would like a territory assigned to you we have one waiting. We do need new people in order to cover our area.

This count is run by the *Piedmont Bird Club*. Call or email Elizabeth Link to join in the fun at 273-4672 or [linkh@bellsouth.net](mailto:linkh@bellsouth.net).



These pictures are taken from the Audubon website depicting backyard and Christmas bird count scenes. Visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)



*Our mission: TO FOSTER APPRECIATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ENJOYMENT OF NATURE, AND WORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL.*



**T. Gilbert Pearson**  
**Audubon Society**  
 Updated Schedule of 2007 Events

**Sat., May 5** - Spring Bird Count with Piedmont Bird Club. RSVP\*

**Thurs., May 10** - **“Sex and Mice in the City: Barred Owls Come to Town.”**

Speaker: Rob Bierregard.

**Sat., May 19** - Field trip to Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area at Eno River State Park. RSVP to Alice McCall.

**Sat., June 2** - TGPAS exhibit at Bur-Mill Park Ecotourism Fair

**Thurs., June 9** - T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society Annual Planning Meeting (see article below.)

**Thurs., June 14** - **“On the Bluebird Trail.”**  
 Speaker: Dan Chambers. (See article.)

**Sat., June 16** - Bluebird activities for families, 9:30 -11:00 a.m., Price Park. RSVP to Dan Chambers.

**Sat., June 23** - Field trip to the Carolina Raptor Center. RSVP to Alice McCall.

**Thurs., July 12** - Price Park Family Nature Walk



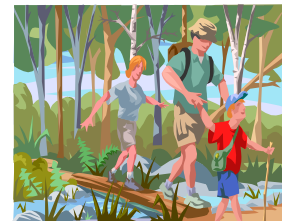
\* RSVP – Contact the field trip leader if you'd like to participate. See the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon newsletter at our website for details or call one of the officers listed with this newsletter:

**Occoneechee Mountain Field Trip**  
**Saturday, May 19**

On Saturday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. join us for a nearby adventure. We will travel to the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area in Orange County to see the habitat of the Brown Elfyn Butterfly and many other animal and plant species.

While walking the beautiful trails, it's hard to imagine that you are just off I-85. The laurel and galax-covered hillsides are reminiscent of our state's much higher mountains to the west, but the elevation of Occoneechee Mountain at 867 feet is a much friendlier walk. If you plan to attend please contact Alice McCall at [alyb68@hotmail.com](mailto:alyb68@hotmail.com) or at 698-0220.

Driving directions: Take I-85 east. Take exit 164. Turn north on Churton Street. Turn left onto Mayo Street. At the next stop sign, turn left onto Orange Grove Rd. Turn right onto Virginia Cates Road and follow the signs to the parking lot.



**CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED**

The annual planning meeting of T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon is scheduled for June 9, 2007 at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library in Price Park. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM.

Chapter members are welcome to attend and take part in planning for next year. Activities at the meeting will include determining the tentative schedule of programs and field trips, a discussion

of the budget for the coming year and setting chapter goals and objectives.

Attendees will also elect the 2007-2008 chapter Board of Directors. Bring a lunch if you like. Weather permitting, we can eat outside in the park and perhaps take a midday walk on the trails.

For more information, contact Gregg Morris, 883-3270 or [gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov](mailto:gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov).

ON THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL  
 June Program at the KCE Library  
 Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m.

“Prior to the 1930s, the Eastern Bluebird was one of North Carolina's most common songbirds. By 1979, bluebirds were declared rare and uncommon by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Man's activities and severe winters resulted in a 90% decline in our bluebird population. The continuing loss of natural nesting sites and other problems faced by bluebirds indicate that this beloved bird will always need man's help to survive.”

Come listen to a talk by Dan Chambers on what you can do to help [the bluebird] on Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library. As always, this program is free and open to the public.

SLATE OF BOARD CANDIDATES  
 FOR  
 2007/2008

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates for the 2007/2008 T. Gilbert Pearson Board of Directors:

Chair, Ann Walter-Fromson;  
 Past Chair, Gregg Morris;  
 Secretary, Mary Woodrow;  
 Treasurer, Sue Cole;  
 Conservation Chair, Gregg Morris;  
 At-large, Bob and Marie Dow.

Nominations are still open, however. To make a nomination, please contact Jack Jezorek at [suejack@bellsouth.net](mailto:suejack@bellsouth.net).

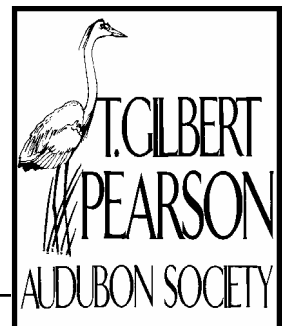
CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER –  
 JUNE FIELD TRIP  
 June 23, 2007

Perhaps you've wanted to travel to the Carolina Raptor Center in Charlotte for a while, but you haven't quite found the time. If so, you're like me, and I am looking forward to the chance to get to see where so much work to save injured and orphaned raptors is done. Please join us on June 23 for this field trip. We will plan to begin our tour of the center at 10:00

Admission to the Carolina Raptor Center is as follows:

Members	Free
Adults	\$6.00
Seniors	\$5.00
Students	\$4.00
Children under 5	Free

Please contact Alice McCall at [alyb68@hotmail.com](mailto:alyb68@hotmail.com) or 698-0220 if you plan to attend.



Chapter Officers

**Co-Chair** Gregg Morris, 883-3270  
[gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov](mailto:gregg.morris@highpointnc.gov)  
 (open)  
*and*  
**Secretary** Mary Woodrow, 316-1339  
[mandrwoodrow@aol.com](mailto:mandrwoodrow@aol.com)  
**Treasurer** Sue Cole, 854-3346  
[sclyle65@netscape.com](mailto:sclyle65@netscape.com)  
**Programs** Ann Walter-Fromson 299-9494  
[walterfromsona@gborocollege.edu](mailto:walterfromsona@gborocollege.edu)  
**Natural Area** Dan Chambers  
[instructus@aol.com](mailto:instructus@aol.com)

Volunteers

**Membership** Tom Duckwall, 337-0811  
[tomduckwall@cs.com](mailto:tomduckwall@cs.com)  
**Chapter historian & Bird Seed Sale** Sherri Forrester, 851-0354  
[bouncerm@msn.com](mailto:bouncerm@msn.com)  
**Newsletter** Karen Hogarth, 292-4598  
[khogarth4@triad.rr.com](mailto:khogarth4@triad.rr.com)  
**Web Page** Robb Fulkerson  
[robb@riverdaze.com](mailto:robb@riverdaze.com)  
[www.tgpearsonaudubon.org/](http://www.tgpearsonaudubon.org/)