

HIGH COUNTRY HOOTS

High Country Audubon Society - Serving Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties

The Mastery of Flight

The HCAS monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 15, at the Holiday Inn Express in Boone will feature another program from *The Life of Birds* series created by David Attenborough and first shown on PBS in late-1998. We enjoyed the first DVD "To Fly or Not to Fly?" at last January's meeting so much that we have decided to follow up with the second in the series.



Roseate Spoonbill

This one is "The Mastery of Flight" and examines the mechanics of flight. It's not as easy as the birds make it appear.



Wood Stork

Some of the birds in the program are familiar, such as peregrine falcons, while others are from far-off locations. But all have to deal with the same complexities of getting into the air, learning the aerodynamics of flight and then finishing up with a successful landing. Come and join us to learn not just the mechanics of flight but how their bodies have evolved for flying and the secrets of navigating long distances.

Photos by Don Mullaney

Great Backyard Bird Count

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15 – 18, 2013

Be sure to mark your calendar for this year's Great Backyard Bird Count. The count is an annual event that helps scientists and bird-lovers learn more about bird distributions and population numbers.



Statistics from the 2012 GBBC

Total Checklists Submitted:
104,285

Total Species Observed: 623

Total Individual Birds Counted:
17,382,831

January/February/March 2013

Volume 5 Issue 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January		
15 Tues.	HCAS monthly meeting Holiday Inn Express, Boone Program: David Attenborough's <i>The Life of Birds: The Mastery of Flight</i>	6:30 p.m.
25-26 Fri.-Sat.	Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting Nags Head http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/meetings/OuterBanks.html	

February		
15-18 Fri.-Mon.	Great Backyard Bird Count Where: wherever you want to do it! Who: hopefully everyone! How: http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc	
19 Tues.	HCAS monthly meeting Holiday Inn Express, Boone Program: Andy Heckert "Are Birds Really Dinosaurs? Is <i>Archaeopteryx</i> Not a Bird Anymore?"	6:30 p.m.
23 Sat.	Field trip: Burke's Garden, VA Trip leader: Jesse Pope (backup date Sun. Feb 24)	7:30 a.m. All day

March		
19 Tues.	HCAS monthly meeting Holiday Inn Express, Boone Program: "Getting Ready for Warblers"	6:30 p.m.

**Are Birds Really Dinosaurs?
Is *Archaeopteryx* Not a Bird Anymore?
Feb. 19 at the Holiday Inn Express**

In the past 20 years there have been an astounding number of fossils discovered that demonstrate that modern-day birds descended from dinosaurs. These fossils have thus helped "fill in the gaps" between dinosaurs and *Archaeopteryx* ("ancient wing"), and *Archaeopteryx* and modern birds. However, some of the most recent discoveries have indicated that *Archaeopteryx* itself may actually be a dinosaur.

Dr. Andy Heckert is a vertebrate paleontologist in the Department of Geology at Appalachian State University specializing in Triassic reptiles. In his presentation at our February 19 meeting, he'll review the history of the dinosaur-bird link and investigate some of the implications of recent discoveries, including looking at how paleontology is influencing how modern biologists view birds.

We hope you will all join us on Tuesday, February 19, at the Holiday Inn Express in Boone for this fascinating program. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. but we'll be there setting up by 6:15 if you want to come early and socialize before the program.

Knowing it All at Our State Parks



Whether you just want to find birds, or if you want to branch out to other critters, Elk Knob and New River State Parks want your help! Working with Curtis Smalling, Director of Land Bird Conservation for Audubon North Carolina, the parks are beginning an All Taxa Biotic Inventory (ATBI) to see what is living in the parks.

ATBIs have been started at several areas, most notably at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and have helped park managers learn what is living in the park. This allows them to make informed decisions on the best ways to manage these areas to protect all the animals and plants living there.

In 2012 Curtis and state park staff provided training for volunteers who committed to returning to the parks and recording what they observe. Some will be looking for birds (Golden-winged Warbler is just one of many bird species living in the parks) while others concentrate on butterflies or reptiles. Some will try to do it all.

You don't have to be an expert to participate, but folks who can identify birds, plants, insects, mushrooms, etc. are encouraged to volunteer. A camera is helpful to record what you find and each volunteer will be provided with a write-in-the-rain notebook. If you are interested in helping out in 2013, contact Curtis at csmalling@audubon.org to find out when the next training session will be held and how to help.

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High Country Hoots is published four times a year by the High Country Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Group email members receive the newsletter via electronic mail. There is also access to the newsletter on our website, and it is archived at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highcountryaudubon>

Visit our website at <http://highcountryaudubon.org> to join our group email.



**High Country
Audubon Society**

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A \$5 donation is suggested for field trip participation.

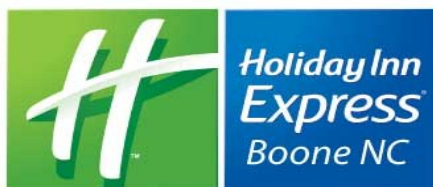
All events and meeting times are subject to change.

For updated information please visit

<http://highcountryaudubon.org>.

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Grandfather Mountain Christmas Bird Count Results

Despite frigid temperatures and a wicked wind chill, several members of HCAS helped out with the Grandfather Mountain Christmas Bird Count (<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>) on December 22. Spread throughout a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Grandfather Mountain, the frozen birders counted every bird observed or heard.

Although it was a less than stellar year, we did have some very exciting finds during the count. We managed to find 1,178 birds and 43 species, while adding two new species to the count's list. The first new species was a Northern Shoveler that Stewart Skeate found at the Lees-McRae College Millpond in Banner Elk. This bird had been on the pond for several weeks prior to the count, but it was great that it stuck around so long!

Richard Gray was lucky enough to get a great look at 12 Tundra Swans flying over the Valle Crucis Community Park (See his story on page 4). The swans, traveling overhead early in the morning heading due east toward the rising sun, were flying in a V formation at fairly high altitude when Richard spotted them. This is a first not only for the Grandfather Mountain CBC but also a first record for Watauga County.

We also had CBC high counts for Brown Creeper (2) and House Finch (68) this year although neither of these numbers was too surprising. Otherwise this year's count was very much what we expected to see for this time of year in the High Country. We did have a few big misses such as Golden-crowned Kinglets and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. They are very few and far between this winter, but both species were seen in the area prior to the count week and since then as well.

Species	Total	Species	Total	Species	Total
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Blue Jay	13	Fox Sparrow	6
Canada Goose	50	American Crow	252	Swamp Sparrow	3
Wood Duck	1	Common Raven	2	Song Sparrow	42
Mallard	162	Carolina Chickadee	66	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Tufted Titmouse	40	White-throated Sparrow	10
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	13	Dark-eyed Junco	121
Ruffed Grouse	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	14	Purple Finch	4
Wild Turkey	16	Brown Creeper	2	House Finch	68
Mourning Dove	41	Carolina Wren	12	Pine Siskin	22
Belted Kingfisher	8	American Robin	4	American Goldfinch	33
Northern Flicker	2	Eastern Bluebird	14	House Sparrow	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Northern Mockingbird	2	Northern Shoveler	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	European Starling	73	Tundra Swan	12
Downy Woodpecker	5	Northern Cardinal	42	# of individuals	1178
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Eastern Towhee	2	# of species	43



Great Blue Herons

Photo by Don Mullaney

Nature Studies in the SC Lowcountry

Bill Ehmig shared that he has a friend who is a great nature educator. Tony Mills is a wonderful teacher and spokesman for all creatures great and small. He has a series of 30-minute videos, mostly about natural areas in the SC lowcountry which feature both flora and fauna of the area. Even though there are no specific bird shows (yet), Audubon members will certainly find things to interest them about bird habitats and other creatures in their surroundings. The videos are easily available by streaming from the website CoastalKingdom.com

Tundra Swans over Watauga County

By Richard Gray

Early Saturday morning, Dec. 22, I was birding Valle Crucis Community Park for the Grandfather Mountain Christmas Bird Count. It was a cold and windy day, and I was not seeing very much except for a few Song Sparrows and Northern Cardinals. By 7:45 am I had worked my way over to the far edge of the park by the Tree Swallow bird houses.

I heard a faint “honking” which suggested a distant flock of geese. I looked up and saw a group of twelve Tundra Swans flying in a V-formation at a high altitude directly overhead. They were immediately identifiable – the completely white bodies with the long necks were unmistakable; Snow Geese, the only other possibility, have much shorter necks and black wing tips. I estimate they were one thousand, perhaps even fifteen hundred feet above me. They were flying at a remarkable speed directly toward the rising sun, and were visible through my binoculars for only about 20 seconds or so. Unfortunately, I did not have the time to pull my camera out and take a picture. Curtis Smalling tells me that this is a record for Watauga County – it is the first time anyone (at least anyone who has recorded it) has seen a Tundra Swan in this county. Probably, since the last ice age!

So the questions are – why were these birds in Watauga County, and why on Dec 22? The eastern population of Tundra Swans – the ones that winter primarily in coastal North Carolina – breed in the northern Canadian Arctic. They leave their breeding areas in late August or September and migrate via a number of staging areas in Canada and the Great Lakes area (such as Alma, Wisconsin –

as Pat Rusch has reminded us – and Long Point, Ontario on Lake Ontario). From there they first fly to the Chesapeake Bay region, and thence along the coast to wintering spots in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Some even reach Florida!

A study (Petrie and Wilcox 2003, Canadian Journal of Zoology 81, 861) captured seven Tundra Swans (some at Long Point, Ontario, others in their arctic breeding areas), equipped them with satellite transmitters, and released them to continue their migration. The median arrival time in the Chesapeake area was 5 Dec, but the first arrived on 5 Nov, and the last on 31 Dec.

Examination of eBird (www.ebird.org) records indicates that there is still considerable movement of Tundra Swans from their Great Lakes staging areas to the coast throughout December and even into early January. The flyway is well north of North Carolina, and so we should not expect to see Tundra Swans in the mountains of North Carolina at any time.

However, just prior to Dec 22, a strong winter storm was passing through the Great Lakes area. This strong low pressure system produced high-velocity winds over the Great Lakes, extending down to the southern Appalachians. During this storm, Jesse Pope told me, Grandfather Mountain recorded the highest wind velocity to date – over 120 mph! The winds moved in a counterclockwise direction around that low pressure system, producing the strong winds we experienced out of the northwest which on Saturday had turned to come from the west). But that same low pressure system would have produced strong headwinds for late-migrating Tundra Swans trying to fly from the Great Lakes staging areas to the east coast. It is likely that some were caught up in those strong counterclockwise winds and blown down to our area, only to pass over the head of an unsuspecting birder on the morning of December 22, 2012.



Photo by Richard Gray

Razorbill Invasion

By Beverly Saltonstall

While there have been a few records of a Razorbill in Florida, suddenly hundreds and possibly up to a thousand of them are being spotted all up and down the Florida coastline. These cold-loving birds are normally found in the frigid waters of Canada and New England, rarely traveling south of North Carolina.

Scientists are scrambling to try and find out why these birds are so far south. Two possible reasons are that the fish that they eat may have scattered due to ocean warming, so the Razorbill must look for new fishing grounds. The second reason may be that the monster November storm, Sandy, may have blown them farther south.

Things are going well for birders who want to add them to their life list since they are very close to shore, but the birds are not faring well. Several have been found in very poor condition and have been taken to wildlife rehabilitation centers where they have died. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

High Country Audubon members Robin Diaz and Don Mullaney both have seen the razorbills in Florida. Read about their sightings starting on page 5.

Photo of 3 Razorbills by Don Mullaney



Winter Watchers

We asked some of our HCAS members who have gone to warmer climes for the winter what they were seeing this winter. Following are the wonderful responses received from Robin Diaz, Bill Ehmgig, Don Mullaney, and Mary Carol Ochipa. So put yourself in their shoes and enjoy a little different winter birding.

Robin Diaz, Key Biscayne, Florida (mid-November - March)

It's been a somewhat strange late fall/early winter birding season here in South Florida. We're busy with Christmas Bird Counts and scouting for the counts is always exciting. A female **Western Spindalis** was discovered about 2 miles from our apartment on Key Biscayne and it's been a rewarding challenge to find her for visiting birders. She graced us on CBC day and is the third CBC record for Florida.

Offshore, there is a continual parade of southbound **Northern Gannets**, and **Magnificent Frigatebirds** are plentiful during winter. Early morning flights of **Common Loons** can be spectacular here; a flight of more than 1,000 birds occurred Sunday. This morning, there were a "mere" 215! However, the biggest and most exciting surprise was the large influx of **Razorbills** not far offshore. On our Miami CBC, more than 600 of these birds were tallied. My team had 32 birds, including a bird swimming among oblivious beach-goers!

Land birding in South Florida during winter is always nice and with a bit of effort, it's not difficult to tally 20 warbler species. Interesting warblers this winter are: **MacGillivray's**, **Wilson's**, **Blue-winged** and **Nashville**. **Blue-headed**, **Yellow-throated** and **Bell's Vireo** can all be found right now. The wet summer and fall in the Everglades made the sawgrass prairies great locations for rails. There are lots of **King Rails**, 2 **Virginia Rails** and 4 **Soras** in the restoration areas of the park. **Black and Yellow Rails** are usually in these areas, but not this year.



Our Western visitors are becoming standard and expected birds now: **Western** and 3 **Tropical Kingbirds**, **Scissor-tailed**, **Vermilion** and **Brown-crested Flycatchers** and 2 **White-tailed Kites**.

I keep tabs on our large wintering flock of **Piping Plovers**, only about 300 yards from our apartment. Each winter, Crandon Park Beach hosts the largest wintering flock of these birds in Florida. We are at 43 birds this winter, including 8 banded birds from ND, VA, NE and the Great Lakes. "Rocky," a very special male Piping Plover is with us for his 6th winter.

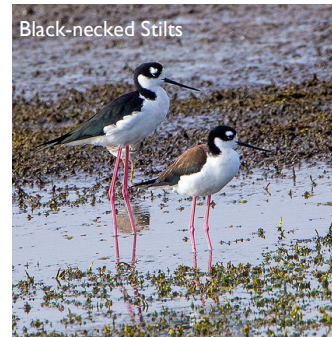
We're birding in shorts and T-shirts right now, with balmy 80-84-degree days! We even had a minor version of the winter finch invasion earlier this winter. **American Goldfinches** are throughout South Florida this winter and I had a flock of 8 **Pine Siskins** in Cape Florida earlier in the month. A lone **Evening Grosbeak** flew over the park during our heaviest finch day – quite out of place!

I hope everyone is having a great time birding, seeing great birds and enjoying the local birds.

Bill Ehmgig, Dataw Island, SC (late Oct. - early April... then to the NC mountains. Then back to Dataw Island in May so my wife, Kathy, can serve as a sea turtle rescue volunteer at Hunting Island State Park. Then back to the NC mountains in early-mid June until Oct.)

We live on Dataw Island, between Beaufort SC and Fripp Island. We are in a gated golf community about 8 miles from Beaufort and 9 miles from Hunting Island State Park which has 5 miles of first-rate beaches.

On our Island we have 2 nesting **Bald Eagles** and lots of **Ospreys**. There are several superb birding areas near us, Fripp and Harbour Islands which are both barrier islands. They are great places to see **Plovers** (Cornell Ornithology has annual programs and several post doc studies going on). Also, both are very important resting/feeding areas for **Red Knots** and **Oystercatchers**. Some Red Knots stop here for 2-3 weeks for rejuvenation after often flying for up to 50 hours without food. Somehow they get here THE DAY that millions of horseshoe crab eggs are laid - the perfect food for the birds.



At Donnelly Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 23 miles away, there are great areas for alligators, **Tundra Swans**, **White Pelicans**, **American Avocets**, and many **Black-necked Stilts**. Several **Whooping Cranes** have also been seen. Nearby, Bear Island WMA has great birding for warblers and most neo-tropical birds.



Further afield, about 65 miles from us, is the Frances Biedler Forest, the largest stand of old growth bald cypress left anywhere. It was donated by the Biedler family of Chicago 55 years ago to National Audubon Society. It is still owned and run by Audubon and has a great 3-mile boardwalk through the swampland. It is supposed to be the home of the largest group of **Prothonotary Warblers** in the US and we also see and hear lots of **Pileated Woodpeckers** there.

Earlier in December, we were seeing **Belted Kingfishers**, **European Wood Storks**, **House Finches**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Northern Cardinals**, **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Tufted Titmice**, **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, **American Oystercatchers**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Black-necked Stilts**, **Black Skimmers**, **Dunlins**, **Gulls** (**Laughing**, **Ring-billed**, **Bonaparte's**), and **Arctic**



Terns.

The Christmas Bird Count was held here on December 15. We worked the East side of Fripp Island, so mostly we saw shore birds, including lots of **Dunlins**, **Willetts**, 15 **Black Skimmers**, and lots of **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Our count included about 40 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** and about 40 **Yellow-crowned Night Herons**. These were in a rookery on Fripp Island.

Continued from p. 5

We also saw many **Buffleheads**, **Hooded Mergansers**, several **Loons**, an **American Kestrel**, 2 **Piping Plovers**, about 80-100 **Surf Scoters**, 5 **Myrtle Warblers**, 1 **Black-and-white Warbler**, a couple of **Swamp Sparrows**, 3 **Northern Cardinals**, 6 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 12 **Great Blue Herons**, 2 **Green Herons**, 50 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 10 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 3 **Tricolored Herons**. One of our other teams saw 6 **Clapper Rails** on some floating wrack!!!!

It was a good day. Birding is great in the SC Low Country!

Don Mullaney, Boynton Beach, FL (Oct. – early May)

For the past 31 years I have lived in Palm Beach County, and about six years ago I discovered the wonderful birding sites we have only minutes away from our condo. There are two wetlands within 20 minutes of my home, Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands, which were created by the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department. It offers birders and non-birders alike a splendid opportunity to see the herons, egrets, anhinga, cormorants and others close up during the nest-building, egg-laying and chick-rearing cycle. To the east, I have the Atlantic Ocean and you can actually see the Gulf Stream on the horizon. To the west are the northern portions of the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee.

Here is a sampling of where I've been going and what I've seen in the last few months.

Nov. 3: Audubon Society of the Everglades took a bird trip to the Storm-water Treatment Areas 1E (STA-1E). We were joined by a group from Tropical Audubon Society (TAS). According to the TAS bird board, 77 species were seen with the highlights being a pair of **Cinnamon Teals**. As with all trips to the STA facilities, scopes were needed to see many of the species. The photographers had to deal with these long distance views and the bright, contrasty sunlight from 10 am on. It seems that your lens is never long enough for these locations.



Nov. 7: I had an early departure at 5 am. My destination was south of Miami, out near the entrance to the Everglades National Park, where I hoped to see a reported **Vermilion Flycatcher**. Several folks had taken pictures of him on the chain link fence of a water utility building, but I was able to see the beautiful male in a more natural setting and get photos of him.

Nov. 9: I headed over to the Green Cay Wetlands with my new camera. I got a shot of a **Merlin** sitting in a dead tree eating what looked like huge dragonflies. When he finished one, he would fly off and return shortly with another. I also got some shots of birds in flight: **Tri-colored Heron**; **Roseate Spoonbill**; and **Wood Stork**.

Nov. 10: I drove over to Boynton Inlet. There was a strong onshore breeze blowing and sometimes this brings in some interesting species. It turned out that nothing special was happening, but I photographed shore birds (mostly **Sanderlings**) along with some **gulls**, **Ruddy Turnstones**, and one **Anhinga** surfing on the rolling ocean waves.

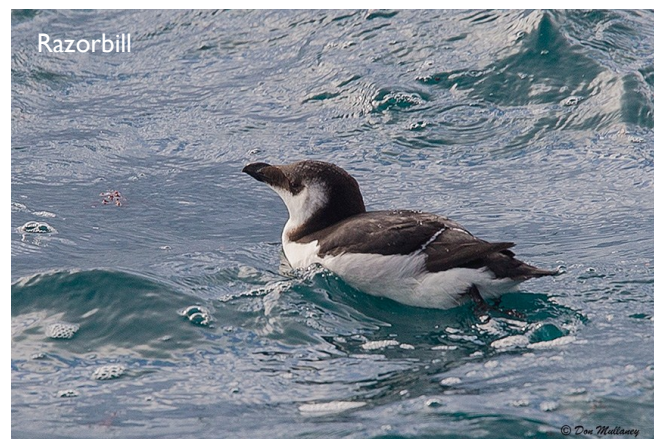


Nov. 14: Lake Worth's Snook Island in the Intra-coastal Waterway seems to be a favorite place at low tide for **American Oystercatchers**. While I have photographed both still and video of these birds on the NC coast, it was nice to see them locally here in Florida.

Nov. 18: Headed back to STA-1E. Some of the cells contain much less

water this trip, resulting in large concentrations of wading birds, such as **Pelicans**, **Egrets** and **Spoonbills**, jammed into close proximity. There were no unusual sightings, although the numbers of **Black-necked Stilts** and **Black Skimmers** have increased. Some **Forster's Terns** were mixed in with the Black Skimmers in flight.

Nov.28: ten days have passed since the last time I did any birding, so I grabbed the camera this morning and drove over to Green Cay and Wakodahatchee Wetlands. At Wako, the **Anhingas** and **Great Blue Herons** have started their nest-building. A couple of warblers were on view, and **grackles** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** were out in force. Green Cay had four **Black-crowned Night Herons** in the open and **Sora**, **Blue-winged Teals**, **Painted Buntings** plus the usual citizens.



Dec. 14: last Sunday, a birder reported a **Razorbill** sighting at the jetty at the Boynton Inlet. This bird is uncommon in south Florida, usually preferring colder climes. After two visits to the Boynton Inlet earlier this week in search of the Razorbill, I finally hit pay dirt today. This morning there were three very close to the jetty and in the channel where the fishing boats come through.

Dec. 17: This is a video taken at Green Cay Wetlands by one of my neighbors. For those of you who have never been there, it's a nice overview of this wonderful place. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8ZgMKjGF0>

Dec.22: I took a trip to STA-5 (out near Lake Okeechobee) where the target bird, **Cassin's Kingbird**, showed itself for all to see, but it was a little out of range for most cameras.

Mary Carol and Ron Ochipa, South Miami, FL (Nov. – May)

The birding around our neighborhood here in the south part of Miami has been really slow as far as warblers are concerned, but we've had more than our share of tropical birds. For instance, as I was going through the drive-thru at our local McDonald's last week, the banyan tree next to my car was loaded with **monk parakeets**. Then, at our Publix food store, the parking lot was alive with **monk parakeets** and **mitred parakeets** (larger parakeets with red faces).

In the evenings, Ron and I walk around the path at our local hospital where we always see flocks of **mitred parakeets**. Fairchild Gardens, a local botanical garden about 5 miles from our house, had dozens of **yellow-chevroned parakeets** in the banyan trees there.

In stop-and-go traffic yesterday, the cars were inching along when a **cattle egret** flew over and decided to land on the roof of the car in front of me. He hitched a ride for about 30 seconds and then flew off. I grabbed for my cell phone to get a picture, but I was too late.

Our back yard has about a dozen **white ibis** that show up digging for grubs each morning.....drives our dog crazy!!!

American Kestrel



Photo by Beverly Saltonstall

And, finally, our little **American kestrel**, who has repeatedly come down each winter for about 5 years, is back. He has a favorite phone pole that he hangs out on.

We'll be going to the Space Coast Birding Festival in Titusville, Florida in January. It's always a good time, so we're looking forward to that.

Half of the modern drugs could well be thrown out of the window, except that the birds might eat them.

Martin Henry Fischer

Recommended Reading:

by Martha Cutler

Books by Gerald Durrell, especially *My Family and Other Animals*

Dear Mr. Durrell,

The other day a woodpecker flew into my hall and started to peck a hole in my grandfather clock. Is this an unusual occurrence? (Introduction to chapter 4 of *Catch Me a Colobus*).

Unusual experiences with animals are common in the writings of Gerald Durrell, a zoological collector, naturalist, conservationist, zookeeper and highly entertaining author. From childhood Durrell was interested in wildlife and nature. He grew up to travel the world collecting animals. Eventually he opened his own zoo on the Channel Island of Jersey. Later this zoo was converted into the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Information about Durrell and about the trust can be found at <http://www.durrell.org/>

Durrell wrote numerous books about his collecting adventures, including *The Overloaded Ark*, *The New Noah* and *A Zoo in My Luggage*. He is an excellent raconteur and you will learn a lot about animal – and human – behavior while you are being entertained. His books normally consist of chapters dealing with a particular incident (“In which I am bitten by bandits”) or species (“A Bumble of Bears”, “A Superiority of Camels”) and can easily be read as short stories. For folks who enjoy reading aloud they are great fun.

The best place to start with Durrell is probably *My Family and Other Animals*, his autobiographical account of the five years he spent as a child on the island of Corfu. This work provides a good introduction to Durrell's anecdotal style of writing and a look at the origins of his passion for collecting and the natural world. It has also been successfully made into a movie of the same name.

Both the book and the movie of *My Family and Other Animals* are available at the Appalachian Regional Library as well as the Appalachian State University library. A few of Durrell's other titles are available as well and many more may be found at www.alibris.com for as little as \$99.

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