



Great Backyard Bird Count

By Yvette Bannen

Mark your calendar for Valentine's Day/ Presidents' Day weekend (February 14-17) for the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. This project is organized and led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada, with sponsorship by Wild Birds Unlimited. Novices to expert birdwatchers of all ages count birds

to present evidence of where the birds are during winter. In 2013, almost 135,000 checklists were submitted and over 3.4 million individual birds were counted.

Go to birdsource.org/gbbc, read about this project, sign up, print a regional checklist, get your binoculars and bird book ready and help the scientists in their work. The important thing to remember is to count the highest number of individuals of each species that you see at any one time, but don't add those to previous sightings because you could be counting the same birds twice.

If you have a bird feeder, or two or three, you are familiar with the usual birds that come to your yard, but you can count in more than one place (keep a separate list for each location and each day). Fort Macon has a good assortment of both backyard birds and shore birds. This is a free and fun activity, and multi-generations can participate.

Photo Illustration by Dan Law



Pictured is a small sampling of the specimens found in the bird-friendly yard of Pine Knoll Shores residents Bonnie and Chuck DeLong and elsewhere in town: Red-bellied Woodpecker, female and male Cardinals and Cedar Waxwings.

Garden Club

By Clare Winslow

An abundance of creative talent was displayed by members of the Garden Club at their January 8 meeting, held at "Pottery 2 Paint" in Emerald Isle. Jean McDanal and Karen Zaenker planned the event.

Members chose from among pre-fired bisque plaques, large and small bowls, flip-flop hooks, coffee and soup mugs and a seahorse dish to add their own bright colors and designs. A favorite design created on the dishes and bowls was a beach scene, complete with shovels, pails, sandcastles and sailboats. The plaques were another popular choice and displayed the most lovely and artful motifs of all. Finished pieces were left with shop owner Daisy Spell for firing before being returned to the artists. The club was pleased to welcome Arlene Terrell as its guest painter for the day. The hospitality committee, Karen Zaenker, Susan King and Barbara Yankauskas, provided tasty snacks for everyone to enjoy as they worked.

Prior to the trip to Emerald Isle, President Donna Belanger conducted a brief business meeting at town hall. Members JoAnn Shallcross, Susan King, Linda Pearson and Karen Zaenker formed a committee to advise Crystal Coast Country Club Manager Chip Chamberlain on horticultural ideas for landscaping the Oakleaf Drive entrance to the country club. Martha Edwards and Mary Hudak are serving on a nominating committee to elect next year's Garden Club officers.

The club meets every second Wednesday of the month at town hall at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments, followed at 10 a.m. by the program of the day. Guests and visitors are always welcome to attend the meetings and join the club. On February 12, North Carolina extension agent Karen McNeill will speak on "Beneficial Insects and Pollinating Gardens."

Photo by Karen Zaenker



Helvi Larson shows off her artwork created during the Garden Club's recent trip to Pottery 2 Paint in Emerald Isle.