

# Back Yard Birds & Coffee

Birds on a wire

By  
Clyde Wilson



The pros, Adam, Paul and Jeff.



A Hooded Warbler

"The more we learn about birds the more we discover ourselves" - Noah Strycker, writer, author and birder.

The more I bird the more I remember about how much birds have somehow had always been a part of my life.

Once upon a time when my daughter, September, was a preschooler, we used to travel from South Hill to Philadelphia to visit her grandmother Markham. A typical question for a 3 year old to ask 40,000 times was, "Are we there yet?" So we invented this little game that we called "birds on a wire." I'd see five birds on a telephone or electrical wire and say, "Five birds on a wire and one fly away how many are left." She would answer, "four."

Of course the numbers would always change plus or minus.

This went on for hours until she would fall asleep or say, "I don't want to play this game anymore."

Birders are always count-

ing birds. It gets into your blood. So as I was driving the 15-minute ride the other day from my home to the Tobacco Heritage Trailhead near the airport, my mind went back (it does that occasionally, hopefully it will keep returning to the present), to the birds on a wire game, but I changed

it up a little and played it by myself. I was giving the Crows a point for each one that I heard or saw and giving any bird a point for each one that I saw perched on a wire. The game lasted from Bracey to Brodnax. The Crows took a 3-0 lead right off the bat. The birds

quickly caught up, and it was feather to feather, 12-12 as I passed Olive Branch. But what's that, a homerun, 10 birds together on the same line. Now it's Birds 22 and the Crows 12. As I pull into the parking lot the game ends, Crows 17-Birds 36.

Now that was early morn-

ing but remember there is always the trip back home.

I've spent several days birding at this location. The Warblers, Chats and Indigo Bunting as well as numerous other species are easily seen without having to leave the parking area. A male Hooded Warbler flew in my view as I got out of the car and turned on my camera. It is a small yellow warbler that habitually flashes its white outer tail feathers and calls out like the sound of two shot glasses being chinked together. Sort of sounds like a party bird.

When birding along the trail remember to look up in the sky as well. I spotted a Red-tailed Hawk and a Great Blue Heron flying over while on the trail. The ending journal remark from my Rails-to-Trails walks for the day, game 2, Crows 5, Birds 1.

### Birding with the pros

About 7:39 p.m., I received a text message from my birding buddy in South Boston, Jeff Blalock that read, "Adam, Paul, and I are going to meet See BIRDING, page 5B

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**Off Piney Creek Road, South Hill**  
Very secluded 40.25 Acres, \$125,000  
Great for hunters or Just get-a-way from it all, 840 SF House with Living Room, Kitchen, Pantry, 1/2 Bath, Bedroom & Full Bath, Propane Heater, Well & Septic. Acreage is Well Wooded Creek Running Through

**409 Chestnut Road, Alberta** Large 4 bedroom home w/ 3 baths, located on 4 acres. Country living yet close to Interstate 85 and just off Highway 1. This house offers a cozy den along with a formal living and dining room, a family room with a fireplace & gas logs and large master bedroom with walk-in closet and bath. The eat-in kitchen comes with all the appliances including freezer. Additionally there is a stairway to the second floor which could be finished off for more living area. This is a great family home with space to roam. An active alarm system is in place. Please call for an appointment to view. MLS 114160 - \$174,900

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**FANTASTIC MAIN LAKE HOME**

AWESOME SUNSETS! Completely FURNISHED, 3 BRs, 2 additional rooms for office/exercise room, etc., 3 BAs, 2-car detached garage, beautifully landscaped, sprinkler system. Hot tub & golf cart convey. #114881 \$699,000  
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One-level, 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, living rm w/fp, dining area, den, spacious kitchen, granite counters, stainless appliances, ceramic tile, gleaming wood floors. Professionally landscaped, whole house generator, irrigation system, att. LARGE 2-car garage. Dble. bthse w/lifts, storage shed, jet ski lift, 9' water end of pier. #114682  
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**\$172,500**

**IMMACULATE- CLIFFS ON THE ROANOKE**

3 BRs, 2 BAs, dining room/den, spacious eat-in kitchen, all appliances, large great room, utility room, security system. Hdwf floors, ceramic tile & carpet. Large deck, beautifully landscaped, nice storage shed, great landscape lighting, subdivision boat ramp. #114696  
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**\$206,000**

**AWESOME WATERVIEW!**

Immaculate! 2 BRs & 1 undesignated room, 2 BAs, 2003 doublewide on .58 acre with stone walkway to 150' of waterfront. Open, airy living room & kitchen, 1 BR water view, master BR is nice size w/huge bath. Great screened porch. Shed on property conveys. #114625  
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**REDUCED**

**\$305,000**

**COZY AUTHENTIC LOG CABIN**

Gleaming wood floors, fp, covered lakeside porch. Waterfront & secluded, 2 BRs plus undesignated room, 3 BAs, kitchen w/dining area, living & family rooms. Unfinished basement for workshop, storing lake toys or kids' play area. Terraced walkway to water access, dble bthse. GREAT fishing location, minutes from I-85. #114708  
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**REDUCED**

**\$129,000**

**CLOSE TO HOSPITAL**

3BRs, 2 BAs, formal living & dining room, eat-in kitchen, large great room w/fp, hdwd floors, partial unfin. basement great for storage, floored walk-up attic. #112421 \$129,000  
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**\$209,900**

**WONDERFUL LOW-MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME**

Pettustown in South Hill - 3 BRs, 2 BAs, lge grt rm, dining rm & living rm. Spacious kitchen w/ceramic tile counters, eating area, wood floors, pantry & utility room. All appliances included! 16x24 deck, large back yard. Utility shed & play gym convey. #114142 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

**REDUCED**

**\$158,500**

**CONTEMPORARY BRICK HOME - CORNER LOT**

2300± sf, 3 BRs, 2 BAs. Spacious updated kitchen has beautiful marble floors & granite countertops. Breakfast room, DR, den w/cozy fireplace, PLUS 55 INCH TV. Large utility rm w/WD. Wonderful loft area/office, Concrete drive, dble att. garage, large utility shed. #112902 Call Beth Smith 434-447-9223

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**\$237,500**

**EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-MAINTAINED**

3 BRs, 2 BAs, hdwd floors, solid wood doors, ceramic tiled kitchen, laundry room & BAs. Screened porch, large deck. New paint, kitchen counters & all appliances within year. 2-car garage w/partially finished room. Covered, deeded boat slip w/elec. & boat lift across the road, large, secluded flat lot. #114361  
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**\$140,000**

**SURPRISE INSIDE!**

Stick-built home on 1.03 ac. located in Mecklenburg County. Very spacious open kitchen & dining room, nice laundry room. 3 BRs plus 1 undesignated room, 2 full BAs. 25x16 great room w/small gas heater plus small sunroom. 2 patios for entertaining. Double detached carport & large utility shed. #114643  
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