

Back Yard Birds & Coffee

Consider the Raven

By
Clyde Wilson

Life is filled with many issues for which we do not have all the answers. Many people that I talk to are searching for life's answers. Some are dissatisfied with their job, some are worried about making ends meet and so on the list goes. If we were all honest we all have something of great concern and we are not sure of the outcome. What does the Raven have to do with any of this you might ask?

According to National Geographic's "Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America," the Raven is large with a long heavy bill and a long, wedged-shaped tail and has shaggy throat feathers. We do not have any Ravens in Mecklenburg, however, Jeff Blalock of South Boston did see one flying in his area and sent me the picture with his permission to publish it one time. Thank you Jeff.

According to the Bible we are told the answer is found with the Raven. Psalms declares that God hears the cry of the young raven for food and feeds him. The book of Luke chapter 12 and verse 24 tells us to do this, "Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!"

As I think about this, then we are in good hands and have no need of worry for the creator who takes care of the Raven will also take care of us. It comes down to the old song, "Trust and Obey," for there's no other way. Hope this encourages you in some way.

It could be your backyard

Getting up at 4 a.m. is for the birds unless you're used to that sort of thing. Anyway I did, and it was for the birds.

I traveled to Staunton View the other week with some friends to see what shore birds might have migrated through. We were to meet at 6:45 a.m. It's an hour drive for me. I need an hour to wake up, eat, have coffee, etc. So that's why 4 a.m.



This picture of a common Raven was contributed by Jeff Blalock.

We spent a couple of hours there and then went to Tailrace Park for another couple and then out in the country looking for birds of prey. Eight hours is a pretty full day, and I'm on my way home. By now I'm feeling the effects of going to bed late and getting up early so I'm getting fairly tired and your mind can play a few tricks.

I drive past the Roanoke River Service Authority, and I spotted what I thought was an eagle on top of a pole there. I slam on brakes (good thing no one is behind me), grab my camera (which is as close to me as my wallet) and start taking pictures. It's an Osprey and close to its nest. You can see it as you drive south on Highway 1 going toward the Steel Bridge.

Now I'm almost home, and less than a block from my house I spot what I thought were two Green Herons. Again I not only hit the brakes but drive in reverse and jump out with my camera and start taking pics. They were not Green Herons but two Great Blue Herons.

No Eagle pics and no Green Heron pics but I did get the Osprey and Great Blues. I may have been tired, and they were not what I thought at first, but they were still great finds. My point is this, when you go out of your backyard to bird be prepared as when you leave or return sometimes you find the treasures (the birds) right under your nose.

Take a child birding or a family walk to see what birds are in your

backyard then send me an email or pic to tell us about it.

Bird notes and quiz

I was awakened out of a deep sleep by the ringing of my phone. It was Doris and the first thing she said, "It was the dove and the raven. I guess Wendy beat me to it." "No," I answered. "You are the first."

Actually Wendy did call me first but only said she knew the answer but did not tell me as she wanted someone else to win. Feathers off, I mean hats off to you, Wendy. Then I received an email from Ashleigh stating the first bird Noah released was the raven.

Since my question was meant to be a trick question by asking what bird Noah released, as he released two birds, the raven and the dove, we have two winners from last week, Doris Arrington of Bracey and Ashleigh Zincone of South Hill.

Doris, you have mentioned to me several times that you like those yellow birdhouses. Well one is coming your way. Ashleigh wins a copy of "What's that Bird?"

This week's two quizzes, where do you find seven muddy ducks in the Bible? Hint, it's not what you think. A great uncle told me this joke many years ago. So put on your thinking caps. The answer is found in 2 Kings chapter 5.

The other quiz is to ID the bird pictured with the caption, "What bird is this?"

All answers must be emailed to

joinclyde@gmail.com. No more wake up calls, please and thank you.

Also a big thank you to the young teenagers I hear of who are reading the birding articles and enjoying them. And to young at heart for your kind comments on how much you enjoy them also.

Birding news

Kerr Lake Bird Club's next meeting is Sept. 11 at Backyard Birds & Coffee in Bracey. Social from 6-7 p.m. and meeting from 7-8 p.m.

VSO (Virginia Society of Ornithology) has a field trip to Chincoteague, Va., Sept. 11-13. See www.virginiabirds.net for more info.

Birding walks and kayak tours available anytime. Make your reservations at joinclyde@gmail.com or for more info go to www.backyardbirdscoffee.com.

Next week's article with focus on my current trip with 64 others to the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area in Portsmouth, Va., this past week to see more migrating shore birds.



A Great Blue Heron



An Osprey



What bird is this?

Harrison

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"In the military if you didn't take advantage of continued education, you would not be considered for a promotion," Harrison said.

When asked about the challenges facing Brunswick County he said he was concerned about the county's financial situation. He is very concerned about the closing of businesses and remembers a time when Lawrenceville and Brunswick County were flourishing.

"I remember several car dealerships, department stores, drug stores. On Friday and Saturday the police were needed to direct traffic," Harrison said.

Harrison said he is excited about Dominion

Virginia Power building in Brunswick County and feels it will help ease the burden on taxpayers.

"We have to stop the decline, and that will come by working together," Harrison said.

Harrison is very proud of his affiliation with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. He has a Class B General Contractor's License that is not active now, but Sheriff Brian Roberts asked him to supervise the remodeling of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office using inmate labor. Harrison said using the inmates saved the county a tremendous amount of money, and he is very proud of the finished product.

"Participating in the workforce program is vol-

untary. There is a wealth of knowledge, and we were able to use the skills of the inmates in the remodeling project," Harrison said.

Harrison has strong ties to Brunswick County and is one of 13 children, 11 are still living. He said growing up on a farm taught him how to work and the importance of working together. He feels he has been very blessed and wants to give back to a community that has given him so much.

"When you have been blessed as I have you want to give back. If elected I promise to listen to my constituents and make the best decisions I can make," Harrison said.

Harrison said his wife, Hortense, supports his decision to serve as supervisor.

Wiley

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ing from Steed College, Johnson City, Tenn., and attended Graduate School for Savings and Loans, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Wiley said he will work to help businesses and attract more jobs.

"We have to get the school system involved in planning if we want to move forward. There needs to be a two-way conversation with the school system. Some of our schools are not accredited, and that hurts economic development. Money is not going to solve the problem. I think there should be more technical and vocational training in our school system," Wiley said.

Wiley said Dominion Virginia Power is presently building a power plant in the county with an estimated completion date of May 2016. When the plant is completed there will be approximately 45 full-time employees, and hopefully some of these employees

will already live in the county and the remainder will locate in the county.

Wiley feels the county should not be relying on the IDA to bring businesses to the county but should be involved with the governor, secretary of commerce and other state agencies that are involved with businesses looking to locate to Virginia. He feels the county should be business-friendly to all new businesses and existing expansions. Wiley said agriculture and forestry are the county's major industries, but being located on Highway 58 between Interstate 85 and Interstate 95 make the county a great location for warehousing and distribution.

Wiley is very concerned about the county's financial situation. He said for the last several years the supervisors have approved budgets with deficit spending over \$1.5 million each tax year. He supports the decision to remove the Merchants Capital Tax,

which he said is a move in the right direction.

Wiley feels Lake Gaston is a major attraction, and the county should work on bringing more tourists and businesses to this area. He said people like sunshine and water, and Lake Gaston offers both.

Wiley is a member of the Lawrenceville Lions Club, is a Brunswick Health Ambassador, teaches Sunday school at Reedy Creek Baptist Church and is a bus driver for Greenville County Public Schools.

"These challenges I have discussed are very important to me, and I will work diligently as a supervisor for Brunswick County to see these challenges are resolved. Jobs, education, budgets and taxes are always a concern to any county. Our attention needs to be focused at all times on these matters. After all, as supervisors, we owe this responsibility to our citizens and businesses," Wiley stated.

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* All prices are plus 20% down 2.75 APR plus tax, tags, and all fees. Photos are for illustration purposes only. Colors may vary.

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