

Quilt: #211 Mountain Rest Birds

Quilters: Etcetera Club members; Muriel Darling, Donna Turpin, Pat Allen, Emily Westbury & Linda Smith

Sponsor: Sally Gravino

Nestled in the northwestern corner of Oconee County is the small community of Mountain Rest. Aptly named, it perches on the first of the mountains that rise toward North Georgia and the highlands of North Carolina. Mountain Rest Birds was inspired by a group quilt completed by the members of the Mountain Rest Etcetera Club that has been in existence since 1969. In keeping with the Appalachian heritage of needlework and quilting, the ladies of the club each year hand make the large quilt raffled at the annual Fourth of July Hillbilly Day in Mountain Rest.

Mountain Rest Birds incorporates four birds from the original group quilt: the Pileated Woodpecker, South Carolina's state bird—the Carolina Wren, the Goldfinch and the Kingfisher. Each bird is set against a sky blue background inside an "attic window" frame that gives each part of the block a three dimensional quality. This block reflects the beauty and abundant wildlife of the Upstate's mountains.

The original quilt was crafted by the following Etcetera Club members: Muriel Darling, Donna Turpin, Pat Allen, Emily Westbury, and Linda Smith. Each of the sixteen birds was constructed using "paper piecing." This technique utilizes a paper image of the design. The quilter sews fabric onto each section of the paper pattern, and then removes the paper to reveal a completed fabric image. Paper piecing is especially useful where many small fabric pieces must be sewn together and where accuracy is essential. The design was adapted from patterns in *Backyard Bird Quilts* by Jodie Davis and in *Feathered Friends: 18 Paper-Pieced Blocks for Bird Lovers* by Jette Norregaard Nielsen.

Three of the quilted bird patterns were original designs by club member Muriel Darling, including the Pileated Woodpecker which is one of the birds featured in the painted quilt panel.

Sally Gravino owns the original quilt and commissioned UHQT to paint the panel for the Mountain Rest Community Club. The Club plans to install a total of seven panels across its front, and Mountain Rest Birds is the second panel to grace the Community Club's entrance. The block was officially installed February 18, 2018. The Mountain Rest Community Club is located at 120 Verner Mill Road in Mountain Rest. For additional information about the Community Center and its activity check on their web site, <https://mountainrestcommunityclub.com/>.