

THE BULLETIN

Chapel Hill Bird Club

c/o C. W. Cook
418 Sharon Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Vol. XXVIII, No. 4

April 1999

Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 26, 1999, at 7 pm

Program — *the Albatross Project*

Presented by Dave Anderson, Wake Forest Univ.

Location — Binkley Baptist Church, *the Fellowship Hall (this month only!)*. Binkley is on Willow Drive at 15-501 in Chapel Hill, near University Mall.

April Meeting Program — Albatross!

by Ginger Travis

Dave Anderson, a biologist at Wake Forest University, is our April speaker. He's been tracking albatrosses for several years by attaching radio transmitters to them and following the signals by satellite. The results show that albatrosses often fly thousands of miles on a single feeding trip. Dr. Anderson has turned his albatross research into an opportunity for elementary school students to learn science and other subjects in a more interesting way. Classrooms all over the U.S. follow the Albatross Project on the Internet to learn math, physics, ecology and geography. (If you want to check out the Albatross Project on the Internet, go to www.wfu.edu/albatross/) Dr. Anderson will show us slides and a video of his work with these amazing long-distance fliers.

Spring Bird Counts

It's that time of year again — the local count organizers are looking for fresh recruits. Birders of all ages and skills are welcome — beginners will normally be paired with more experienced observers. Contact the folks listed below to sign up.

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|-------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| DURHAM | Apr. 25 | Mike Schultz | 490-6761 |
| CHAPEL HILL | May 2 | Maury Graves | 933-4561 |
| RALEIGH | May 8 | Bob Hader | 782-1898 |
| JORDAN LAKE | May 9 | Barbara Roth | 967-4732 |

Field Trips

Sorry, no more Saturday morning field trips until September. We may have a special field trip in the summer, though — stay tuned!

You Might Be A Birder If...

(circulating on the Internet, original source unknown)

Someone yells "Duck!", and you look up and shout "Where?"

Vacations are planned to maximize the number of life birds.

You criticize television programs and commercials that depict a Bald Eagle but play a Red-tailed Hawk call.

Your kids are named Buteo and Accipiter.

People stop and stare when you pish at the shrubbery at the local mall.

Lunch breaks find you driving to check out your favorite hot spot.

Your spouse says, "Its either me or the birds," and you have to think about it.

On sunny days you hop in the car, crank up your tape of bird calls, and drive like crazy to the nearest mountain where the thermals are great for soaring hawks.

You pay a neighbor kid \$20 to roll on a carcass and lay still while you search the sky for vultures.

Membership Information

Calendar-year (Jan.-Dec.) dues for most individuals and families are \$15; for students, \$10. If you wish to renew for more than one year, multiply the annual dues rate times the number of years. Please send your check (payable to the *Chapel Hill Bird Club*) to club treasurer Fran Hommersand, 304 Spruce Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. If you have questions, please call Fran at 967-1745.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

You try to talk your kid into going to college in Belize so that you have an excuse to go and bird there.

It's a northeaster, the rain is horizontal, a small craft advisory has been issued, but it's birdathon and you need to up the day's list.

Clouds take on the shape of birds, and you can distinguish male from female, and adult from immature plumage.

A machine squeaks at work and you describe it to maintenance as sounding like a black-and-white warbler.

The first time you meet your future in-laws, you demonstrate the courtship dance of the woodcock, replete with sound effects.

You spend fifteen minutes preparing dinner for your family, and thirty minutes mixing and placing seed for your birds.

You wake up your spouse at 5:30am and exclaim, "Is that a phoebe I'm hearing outside the window?"

Preparing for trips to visit out-of-state relatives involves contacting local birders, securing local bird lists, and buying the appropriate Lane's Guide.

You identify calls of birds in the soundtracks of television shows and movies.

You're willing to fight with anyone who criticizes your optics.

You participate in hours-long discussions about the pros and cons of using a certain field guide.

You lose friends, and perhaps even your spouse, from fighting over the pronunciation of "pileated."

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A trip to the local sewage treatment plant is as important (or more important!) as seeing museums and other cultural sites when you visit a foreign country.

— *Dennis Burnette, Greensboro*

You spent most of the day on Saturday, after getting up at 4 AM and making a five-hour drive, in near-zero degree weather in snow and sleet with wet feet and inadequate clothing looking for an unusual bird, and then say "Yes" on Monday morning when someone at work asks you if you had a good weekend.

— *Dennis Burnette, Greensboro*

You carry your binoculars to watch the birds and your field guide to help convince suspicious police that you really are just bird-watching.

— *Eran Tomer, Atlanta*

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Bird droppings on your car windshield do not make you unhappy because you have to clean them off, but because you recognize them as the work of a Mangrove Cuckoo and you STILL can't add the bird to your life list.

Your children have not had new shoes in two years but you own a Swarovski.

You have actually been to the Brownsville Dump.

You often call your four children by each other's names but you never misidentify Lesser or Greater Yellowlegs.

When pulled over by a local gendarme (Hat, Badge, Gun, No Smile) for speeding you ask him to step to one side while he is writing out your ticket because you think that that might be a Bicknell's Thrush in the tree across the road.

You are reading this list and preparing your own.
— *Dick Beeler, Cape Coral, FL*

Heronries Increasing in Triangle Area

I received a call April 5 from an old canoeing buddy Elmer Eddy and reported finding a heron rookery! He was scouting downstream of the dam at the Falls of the Neuse and apparently beavers have made a big dam resulting in a sheltered swamp. Elmer estimated about 20 active nests. He parked at the end of Dunn Rd and walked toward the river and discovered it. — *Randy Emmitt*

On March 20 I discovered that two of our Great Blue Herons are building a nest in a snag at Greenview Pond. (Greenview Pond is located in southern Wake County, NC adjacent to Lake Wheeler.) This is the first time we've had a nesting pair to my knowledge. It is a solitary nest which is a little unusual.

Directions to Greenview Pond: Follow 40 to Exit 297, the Lake Wheeler Rd Exit. Turn south (right if your coming from RTP) onto Lake Wheeler Rd and travel approximately 1 mile. Follow Lake Wheeler Rd across Tryon Rd and travel another 2 miles. On the way you'll pass a large farm with lots of cows (NC State Research Farms). At 2 miles, you'll come to a traffic light next to Yates Mill, turn right onto Penny Rd. Just after you turn onto Penny, there is a fork. Keep left. Go three miles (you'll cross Lake Wheeler) and turn left at the farm with the two big silos (Greenview Farm) onto Blaney-Franks Road. Go 1/2 mile. At the bottom of the hill on the right side is Greenview Pond. There is a gravel road where you can park. — *John Argentati*

Club officers

President: Monica Nees (968-8549)

Vice President (CH): Magnus Persmark (933-2255, emp34157@glaxo.com)

Vice President (Dur): Ginger Travis (942-7746, Ginger.Travis@unc.edu)

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<http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/chbc.html>