

# THE BULLETIN

## Chapel Hill Bird Club

November, 2001

(Vol. XXX, No. 11)

c/o Ginger Travis

5244 Old Woods Rd.

Hillsborough, NC 27278

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### CHBC November meeting

*When:* Monday, **Nov. 26**, refreshments at 7:15 p.m., program at 7:30.

*Where:* The lounge, Binkley Baptist Church. Binkley is on the corner of Willow Drive and the 15-501 Bypass in Chapel Hill (next to University Mall).

*What/Who:* “**Wattles to Wallabies,**” a tour of Australian ecosystems and wildlife. **Pat Coin**, long-time local field trip leader for New Hope Audubon, all-around naturalist and enthusiastic teacher, is trained in environmental health, but his passion is natural history. (Pat last spoke to the Chapel Hill Bird Club about Costa Rica.) Pat teaches at Durham Technical Community College. You can see some of his photographic work at:

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/media/coin>

*Reminder:* We do **not** meet in December. After November, our next CHBC meeting will be Jan. 28.

### Regular Sat. a.m. field trips

Weekly CHBC trips continue on Saturday mornings through November (but not Thanksgiving weekend) and into early December. Dec. 8 will be the last regularly scheduled field trip. Thereafter, members are encouraged to take part in or all of the five local Christmas bird counts.

On Sat. trips, we'll leave the Glen Lennox shopping center parking lot (on the north side of 54 just east of the intersection with 15-501 in Chapel Hill) at 7:30 a.m. sharp and return by noon. Reservations are not necessary, and trips are free. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for a hike. Beginners and visitors are welcome.

Call Doug Shadwick for details of the destination du jour (942-0479).

### Oct. 13 field trip: a 7-woodpecker sweep!

The Oct. 13 field trip to the Hwy. 54 impoundments was led by Bruce Young and accomplished a clean sweep of all seven winter woodpecker species in our section of the state: Downy, Hairy, Pileated, Red-

bellied, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. These birds all were seen at the New Hope Creek impoundment on Hwy. 54 just east of I-40. A great trip.

### ... and what you might see soon ... winter finches, western wanderers

Keep your eyes peeled on future field trips and also at home around your bird feeders. Numerous reports from CHBC members and others to Carolinabirds suggest we're in for a winter finch invasion. Many Pine Siskins have already been reported in the Triangle (Barb Brooks, Jill Froning), a Red-breasted Nuthatch or two (Steve Shultz); a handful of Evening Grosbeaks (Karen and Joe Bearden); and Purple Finches (Shelley Theye, Kent Fiala). Also, there seems to be an unusual number of western species being reported in the eastern U.S. this year, with a couple of examples right here in the Triangle: a Selasphorus hummingbird in Orange County and a Western Grebe at Falls Lake. It'll only get better. Enjoy!

### Planning ahead – Outer Banks trip in Jan.

Doug Shadwick will lead the club's traditional Outer Banks field trip on the three-day Martin Luther King birthday holiday weekend: Jan. 19-21. Pea Island is the main destination. Lake Mattamuskeet is a possibility. Let Doug know if you're interested.

### Local Christmas bird counts

It's almost time to sign up for Christmas counts. Here's the list of local dates and contact folks:

**12/15** (Sat.) **Raleigh**, John Gerwin, 919-715-2600 or Susan Campbell, 910-949-3207.

**12/16** (Sun.) **Durham**, Mike Schultz, 490-6761

**12/23** (Sun.) **Chapel Hill**, Will Cook, 660-7423

**12/29** (Sat.) **Falls Lake**, Brian Bockhahn, 676-1027

**12/30** (Sun.) **Jordan Lake**, Carol Williamson, 383-2364

If you need to brush up on procedures or copy the count forms, go to Will Cook's website:

www.duke.edu/~cwcook/chbc. Scroll down to the section on counts and print out whatever you need.

## **Dare County needs CBC counters**

*by Jeff Lewis*

The new Dare Mainland (Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge) Christmas Count will take place on Sunday, December 16th. The Kitty Hawk count will be on Saturday, December 15th. If you can help on either of these counts, please let me know. [Email: egardens@inteliport.com] Lodging in local birders' homes is likely.

## **First N.C. Broad-tailed Hummingbird!**

Susan Campbell reported on Carolinabirds that on Nov. 11 she visited a Guilford County yard where a nondescript hummingbird was hanging around. Susan trapped and banded the bird and identified it as an immature male Broad-tailed. This is the first N.C. record of a widely distributed western-U.S. breeder. (Yes, this is a different species from the Broad-billed Hummingbird reported from New Bern on Oct. 7. That bird was also a first state record; it left after just a couple of days.)

Monte Tickle is the name of the woman with the Broad-tailed hummer in her yard. She lives in Gibsonville, near Greensboro, and says visitors are welcome, but you must call ahead for an appointment and directions: 336-449-4289.

## **Selasphorus hummingbird in Orange Co.**

*by Kent Fiala*

[Nov. 11] I've had a Selasphorus hummingbird (immature female, I think) visiting my yard in Orange Co., N.C. since 6 Nov. Its visits are so widely spaced and so brief that I didn't have a chance to study it carefully enough to confirm the identification until this weekend. A Selasphorus also appeared in Ginger Travis's yard (about 1/2 mile away as the hummingbird flies) and in her neighbors' yard a few days before. We think that we may be sharing one bird that is traplining the neighborhood, especially since her bird is also seen infrequently.

## **N.C. hummer in Michigan!**

*by Susan Campbell*

[Nov. 8] I have extremely exciting news to report. Over the weekend I was contacted by a hummer bander in Michigan who, believe it or not, recaptured a Rufous hummer originally banded by me in the NC mountains last December! This is indeed a very rare occurrence!!

Allen Chartier, the bander who made the recapture, posted the following to Humnet on Sunday [Nov. 4]:

"I have made contact with the original bander of the Rufous Hummingbird I recaptured at the home of Gary & Candy Hirschleib near Ortonville,

Oakland County, Michigan on November 1, 2001. As of today (Nov. 4) the bird is still being reported there. According to Susan Campbell, the bander of this hummingbird (permission given to post this information), he was originally taken off of a feeder near Brevard, North Carolina (perhaps when in torpor) and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, thought to be in poor condition. This might seem reasonable given the latitude, elevation, and time of year. Susan banded this bird a few days later on December 2, 2000, and brought it back to the home where it was first found and released it there. She could not provide me with details of how long it remained because she was not at home when she called me back today. It was banded as a Hatch-Year (imm.) Male and weighed about 4 grams. He weighed 3.5 grams when I captured him on November 1. Brevard, North Carolina, is roughly 500-600 miles due south of Ortonville, Michigan."

This recapture in Michigan is certainly a strong indication of how hardy these hummingbirds can be!

## **Mason Farm bobcat**

*by Amalie Tuffin, to Carolinabirds*

Enjoyed a very birdy walk around Mason Farm today (10/27). The best bird sighting was a female Purple Finch. The coolest thing of all was a bobcat perched in a tree for several hours - quite a fascinating sight. He did not much like being watched, but he showed no inclination to move from his perch.

## **In the eye of a grackle-storm**

*by Toni Rexrode, to Carolinabirds*

Carolina birders, I just had to tell you about the most amazing experience I had today (10/20)! We were walking in the woods near a stream in Danville, Va., when I heard

the strangest noise. I couldn't tell what it was, but I could tell it was headed our way. The next thing I knew we were surrounded by the biggest flock of Common Grackles I've ever seen. There were easily 200-300. They alighted in the trees all around us, cackling, cawing and calling like crazy. They were being pursued - actually, herded - by two or three American Crows. Apparently the Crows did not want to share their space with traveling friends! The Crows constantly harassed and pursued them, as they flew all around where we sat. It was the strangest and most amazing birding experience I've ever had. The noise was unbelievable. If you can, imagine being surrounded by hundreds of Grackles on every side, all calling at once. When a group would take off, usually 50-100 at a time, you could actually hear the wind from their wingbeats. It was overwhelming. They stayed around us for a good thirty minutes before they moved on. I don't think

they were TOO intimidated by the Crows! I now have a new appreciation for our iridescent friends.

## **Wild confrontation**

*by Jeff Lewis (in Manteo), to Carolinabirds*

Sunday (10/7) I observed a Brown-headed Nuthatch hanging under a branch with a Carolina Chickadee in its bill. It was shaking the poor chickadee as it swung beneath it. The nuthatch was holding the chickadee somewhere in the rump area (the chickadee's head was hanging down). After a couple of seconds it let go and life went on. Very strange.

## **Saw-Whet on the farm**

*by James Coman, to Carolinabirds*

[Nov. 4] This afternoon late I found a Saw-Whet Owl imm. roosting in a large Great-Crested Flycatcher-sized birdhouse and calling quietly here on the farm in Piney Creek in Alleghany County, N.C. I have never had one on the farm. Nice yard bird to add to the list!

## **Year lists, intentional or not (400 in 2001)**

*by Steve Shultz*

(Oct. 8) This was to be a slow year birding-wise. I aggressively pursued a year list during 2000 and enjoyed every minute of it. I was, however, in need of a break. 2001 was to be the year of "come what may". I would count what I saw, not go to any real trouble to chase down each and every species I might expect to see, and generally take it easy.

Here we are toward the end of the year and things have not taken the course I charted. I have been extremely fortunate to travel a bit this year and found that without really trying I had a very good shot at 400 species on the year. Not an exceptional year list when compared to the "big guys", but respectable.

I started out with a birding trip to Amherst Island, Ontario for Boreal, Saw-whet and Long-eared Owl. April brought a trip to south Texas for the Texas Tropics Nature Festival and goodies such as Tamaulipas Crow and White-tailed Hawk. May found us using frequent flyer miles and visiting Alaska. Along the way we found Kittlitz's Murrelet, Red-faced Cormorant and other Alaskan specialties. August brought a trip to South Dakota and Colorado, while September featured a western Caribbean cruise and the chance to visit old friends like the Yucatan Vireo and Vitelline Warbler as well as make new friends like Yellow-winged Tanager and Red-throated Ant Tanager.

On updating my list after the cruise I found I was only 3 birds short of 400! Attainment of the milestone could be reached with a little bit of luck in fall migration or a few trips to the coast in winter to track down a countable Mute Swan or an American

Bittern. As luck would have it, fall migration presented me with a gift. on October 7 I birded Lake Crabtree County Park near Raleigh. A strong cold front passed through the day before and conditions were promising. I started off with a Bay-breasted Warbler, found a Cape May an hour or so later, and on the way back to the car a plainish warbler popped up near me. The bird had strong wing bars, yellowish legs, and diffuse streaking on the chest. A Blackpoll! Number 400 on the year and almost three months left to bird!

Now the question is, do I go for 425!?

## **Brazil travels, 2001**

### **Part 1—the Pantanal**

*by Magnus Persmark*

Given that our departure was scheduled less than a week after the terrible events in New York and Washington [Sept. 11], we didn't know literally up till the last hours whether we were going to be able to head for Brazil and a trip that we had planned and increasingly spoken excitedly about for over a year. There were also, of course, plenty of reasons as to why we wouldn't want to leave at that time, but leave we did. Remarkably, given that every single flight on the U.S. to Brazil legs were cancelled, all five couples, three from Nashville, TN, in addition to Rosie and me, plus Ida and Merrill Lynch from the Triangle area, made it to Cuiaba, the capital of Mato Grosso, more or less on schedule. Merrill had organized the trip and set up the itinerary with assistance from the Pantanal Bird Club, which had made all local arrangements. At Cuiaba airport we were met by our guides, Juan Barrett and Franklin Santos, plus a bus driver with a remarkably reliable "Marco Polo" Mercedes bus. We immediately headed south towards our first destination: Pantanal, the world's largest fresh-water wetland.

As we were now at the end of the dry season, the Pantanal, on the border of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia, was fairly dry. Exacerbating the natural hydrological cycle, a recently completed large dam north of the Pantanal had reduced natural flows. The surroundings became gradually more rural, and after a couple of hours we hit the Transpantaneira, a 30-year old dirt track that stretches about halfway through this area, which is the size of Georgia, before dead-ending where money ran out. Soon we also reached our first of the 100-odd infamous bridges that span intersecting rivers, creeks, lakes, bogs, savannas, dirt pans—all depending on season. We had all read about these bridges, and after crossing the second or third we understood the lore; these things were made from wooden pillars supporting a framework and nailed cross-laid boards; lengthwise two pairs of boards were simply laid down to permit adjustment to the appropriate axle width. None of

these bridges instilled a great sense of confidence in the bus passengers, and when the bridge profile had too much roller-coaster tilt, we simply walked across. Almost immediately, though, we began to realize why the Pantanal has attracted so much attention in conservation circles: there was wildlife everywhere and primarily birds. Despite having been on “the road” for more than 24 hours now, we couldn’t help but be caught in the excitement of our first sightings of Southern Lapwing, Rufous Hornero, Brazilian Teal, Wattled Jacana, Chalk-brown Mockingbird, Plumbeous Ibis, Picozura Pigeon, and Iguira Cuckoo with punkish plumage. While this was a general natural history trip, a few of us were quite focused on seeing as many bird species as at all possible. However, even the most intrepid twitcher could not but marvel at the other life forms we soon encountered: capybaras (you might have paid 50 cents at the state fair to see this, the largest of rodents), caymans as thick as sardines in the few remaining pools, and a large buck marsh deer, an endangered species hunted close to extinction. In addition we were this first evening also treated to such Pantanal specialties as Southern Screamer, a large duck giving the impression of a bad cross between a vulture and a goose with a bit of Ostrich way back in the genealogy, Chaco Chachalaca and Jabiru Stork. These enormous storks were clearly masters of this environment and not unduly bothered by oohing and aahing tourists. Local communities in this rural and rather poor area have also tried to capitalize on the magnetism and celebrity of such obviously visible species as the Jabiru and the Hyacinth Macaw, using in addition to conventional means a very innovative incorporation of wildlife imagery into the everyday scene: public phone booths shaped as out-sized Jabirus, Macaws and jaguars. All of this in one day -- no wonder we were ready to crash when we finally reached our destination at the Santa Tereza lodge on the Pixiam River. Tired or not, most of us were ready to go walkabout at dawn the next morning at this isolated little lodge, as just the excitement of finally “being there” was enough to keep us from sleeping in. We literally stumbled onto birds that first morning, with some tame (and unfortunately wing-clipped) Toco Toucans walking the grounds. A pair of Turquoise-fronted Parrots seemed to squabble in a nearby tree and a Chaco Chachalaca nested in a flower basket, allowing unusually close scrutiny. A bird feeder, one of the few on the trip (unfortunately none of the lodges even had hummingbird feeders) also brought in for detailed studies lovely Saffron Finches, Silver-beaked Tanagers, Yellow-billed Cardinals and other seed eaters. The action by the river was what caught the most attention, however, as a band of giant otters cruised by at a leisurely pace. Cute was perhaps the adjective that first came to mind, but the view—and

sound—of a rather large fish being crushed in the powerful jaws made a less diminutive word seem more apt. Imposing was more like it, and if caymans and piranhas had provided a disincentive to swimming, the presence of bone-crushing otters certainly didn’t alter that. A couple of us had brought fishing gear and were soon trolling for lunch. Lunch, breakfast, whatever for Oscar, that was. Oscar, as we named a resident cayman, had figured out that gleaning fish from tourists was easier than hunting, and he needed little coaxing to either snatch fish from the line or amble onto land for a treat. In fact, Oscar once charged with remarkable speed and agility when the piranha was too slow coming. We still got piranha for supper, however, and in soup-form, it was delicious. Actually, almost all food on the trip was very good and we were impressed by the diversity, particularly of carbohydrates: bread, rice, potatoes, sweet potatoes and manioc were served with almost every meal. Manioc in particular was a staple and came in many forms, the fried strips and dried powder used for sprinkling beans or stews being the most interesting. Another staple at every meal was coffee, served very strong and very sweet in demitasse cups. Delicious.

The Pixiam River was lined with a lovely gallery forest that provided excellent hiking terrain. The first morning walk brought us views of a bush covered in Guira Cuckoos basking in the morning’s first light—a given Natural History photographic scene, had I not just run out of film photographing a lone(ly) Bare-faced Currawong. *Amaryllis* grew in the open understory, and many tree crannies harbored bromeliads and orchids. Unfortunately, few were in bloom now at the end of the dry season, but the vanilla orchid from whose seed capsules (vanilla beans) the spice is obtained was still an interesting find. Howler monkeys intermittently announced their presence to all the jungle while bare-eared marmoset and brown capuchin monkeys were quieter primates of which we obtained outstanding views. In the gallery forest, we were also treated to our first views of members of the more enigmatic bird families of South America: antwrens, antshrikes, antbirds, and woodcreepers. The aptly named Red-billed Scythebill with its remarkable appendage and the endemic Mato Grosso Antbird are but two examples. We were also treated to stunning views of Helmeted Manakin, a minute, jet-black bird with a glossy red hood; Crimson-crested Woodpecker, a relative of the Ivory-billed; Rufous-tailed Jacamars in subtly iridescent plumage; and that masterpiece of contrasting colors, the Troupial, an oriole relative. Those of us who had harbored hopes to tour the river in dugouts were perhaps disappointed by the aluminum crafts that took us upriver for an afternoon cruise, but the views of a jaguarundi drinking its fill in complete ignorance of our fairly close presence,

capibara family groups rooting for goodies, a Black-collared Hawk swooping for fish, the endemic Chestnut-bellied Guan posing for splendid views at the edge of the riparian corridor and the dramatically patterned Nicotia Nighthawks wafting by at dusk were anything but disappointing. Here at the edge of forest and open terrain we also encountered a small group of Greater Rheas, the Neotropical equivalent of the Ostrich. Not quite as large or colorful as its African cousin, perhaps, but what a later-observed single male may have lacked in splendor he certainly compensated for by an almost heartbreakingly anxious effort to keep together the twenty-odd chicks in his care.

During these early forays into different habitats after various "prey," it soon became clear that we had been extremely fortunate in obtaining two outstanding guides. Franklin had led tours primarily in Mato Grosso for several years and was quite familiar with the local flora and fauna. He knew those little details that help tip the scale in favor of outstanding from just good: for example, the ocelot's eye-shine apart from those of caymans when hit with a light beam from a moving bus. In addition, Franklin knew personnel at all the lodges, which clearly was a benefit. Juan had joined our tour quite impromptu while in the process of moving back to Argentina from school in the UK, with some census work and pleasure birding in Brazil in between. Well, pleasure birding doesn't quite fit Juan's modus operandi, which was one of absolute concentration and focus. Equipped with a directional microphone, a high-quality tape recorder and what must be one of the better pair of ears in the Southern Hemisphere, Juan was one of the most impressive birders I have ever gone afield with. He reminded me a little of a school traffic guard, urging us to gather and move with claps or to silence during tape recording with a "halt" sign. Thanks to Juan and Franklin's combined efforts, the trip was quickly turning into a full-bore success.

*To be continued next month.*

## **Wings over Water 2001, version 1 (What, who, how many)**

*by Jack Thigpen, extension director,  
North Carolina Sea Grant Program*

*Ed. Note: I asked Jack for a description of who organizes WOW and how many people took part in 2001. He kindly provided this description. G.T.*

Wings Over Water (WOW!) is not just a great birding festival where visitors can see more than 200 species of birds. It is a celebration of wildlands and wildlife in eastern North Carolina. The three-day annual event in November showcases natural and cultural environments of coastal North Carolina in an experiential, hands-on combination of workshops,

field trips, and seminars. Plus, there is a daylong festival that includes arts and crafts, games, and contests for kids. Since its beginning in 1997, the festival has embodied diversity: from the number of partners who participate in and contribute to the program, to the variety of events offered, and the great diversity of wildlife resources which eastern North Carolina has to offer.

The 2001 event hosted nearly 250 registrants. The US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, Hatteras Bird Club, NC Sea Grant and the NC Aquariums and other agencies plus many local businesses and individuals worked hard all year to make this event possible.

Keys to the success of the program are: the quality of leadership in the people who lead events, the diversity of events for people of all ages, the fact that so many local people have an interest in conservation, and the general support of the community and local businesses who benefit from the extended weekend. The festival takes place during the Outer Banks' off-season so it boosts sales for shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Ecotourism is in increasing demand and is an economic boost for the area. This event has evolved into a multi-faceted affair that brings together bird watchers, kayakers, and other naturalists to gain experience and a greater appreciation for the environment. Many people come to see the countless species of birds, but they also enjoy seeing or hearing black bears, red wolves, owls, and other critters.

The goals of WOW! are to increase the number of visitors by a small percentage, but mainly increase the quality of visitor experience, the number of volunteers who run the festival, and the variety of events. Word of mouth has been a big promoter of the festival because people really enjoy themselves for the weekend, but for everything to run smoothly, the support of more volunteers is needed.

At Wings Over Water there will be something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors. To get on the mailing list for 2002, go online to <http://www.northeast-nc.com/wings/> or have information mailed to you by calling the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce (252) 441-8144.

## **Wings over Water, version 2 (Boats, birds, moonlight, fun)**

*by Ginger Travis*

Here's a participant's view of Wings. This year's festival (Nov. 2-4) had absolutely perfect weather. Although waterfowl numbers looked low to me at Pea Island, a lot of festival participants got a big thrill from at least 3 rarities: a Tropical Kingbird that you couldn't chase away if you tried – it's still a fixture at Pea Island; a Fork-tailed Flycatcher that

was seen by a lucky few as it traveled north up the banks; and a Sprague's Pipit that was hanging out near Salt Pond at Hatteras. I missed all of these, as well as the keynote speakers, Don and Lillian Stokes, but still got my money's worth from this year's festival. I went because I wanted to discover new places to look at birds from my kayak, particularly in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Two of the three trips I took I couldn't have done (at least for the first time) without a guide.

With my friends Kathy Roggenkamp and Anne Beckwith, I signed up for the new bring-your-own-boat guided paddling trips to Kitty Hawk Woods, to Laurel Bay in the Alligator River NWR, and to "the Maze" by moonlight off Roanoke Island. All were very rewarding – not so much for birding as for seeing new places. Group paddling trips are way too noisy for finding birds, although the first and last boats have a chance of spotting something. For example, Anne's was the first boat into a tiny, threadlike creek off the Alligator River that led to a secluded lake called Laurel Bay. She spotted 3 Baltimore Orioles flitting around the trees along the creek. And I had the last position on a trip to Kitty Hawk Woods – I happened to turn and see an accipiter fly across the creek behind me, so I left the group to paddle after it and was rewarded with very good looks when the immature Sharp-shinned Hawk perched in a pine by the water. (Our guides on this trip did point out two young water moccasins swimming and sunning along the banks – a big thrill in small packages!)

Our last paddling trip, on Saturday night, was in "the Maze," a network of marsh creeks on the east side of Roanoke Island. It was very dark – the moon rose late and promptly went behind a cloud bank, but it was also very warm and balmy with a delicious salt smell in the air. Each paddler wore a light stick on his/her life vest so that our guides could keep track of us. Lightsticks are the color of fireflies' lights, and seeing them in the dark was very cool. Our guides from the Outer Banks Paddlers' Club never did find their way through the maze on the route they had planned, but it didn't matter. We had a wonderful time out on the water at night, and we got back safely.

Coming home on Sunday, Kathy, Anne and I stopped at Lake Phelps (Pettigrew State Park), where we heard a loon calling and then scoped 15 to 20 Common Loons far out on the lake. Anne paddled to them in a kayak to get a better look at her life loon. Lake Phelps is well worth a stop for birders driving out to the Banks on Hwy. 64 – it's just a 15 minute side trip and it harbors interesting winter waterfowl. (Harry LeGrand reported a bunch of Common Mergansers there last year.)

WOW was WWW (well worthwhile). Try it!

## **Wings over Water, version 3 (Birds and birding need political clout)**

*by John Fussell, to Carolinabirds*

*Ed. note: John Fussell led a trip through the Bodie Island marshes at WOW this year, and he's the author of the indispensable bird-finding guide to coastal N.C. G.T.*

As most of you know, this year's Wings over Water event on the Outer Banks was very successful. Nice weather and lots of really good birds.

However, I would like to go back to a topic that was discussed on Carolinabirds before the event – i.e., people showing up on the Outer Banks and not registering, knowing that they will still be able to look for rare birds found by WOW leaders and participants.

Next year I hope everyone birding on the Outer Banks during the WOW weekend registers for the event, whether they plan to go on any organized field trips or not. The reason I urge this is that birds and birding desperately need more political clout. Consider, for instance, a public hearing on restricting ORV use in areas used by breeding Piping Plovers, or some other similar topic. In these hearings, the topic typically gets framed as "economy versus environmental fluff." We need for local businesses and politicians to see that birds and birding can also be "the economy." Thus, a larger number of registrants for Wings over Water could be a good thing politically. So next year, if you're going to the Outer Banks on Wings over Water weekend, please register. Let's change that -- next year, make it a point to go to the Outer Banks for the Wings over Water weekend (even if you don't plan to attend any field trips), and register for the event. It only costs about \$25. Think of it as a very important contribution. And if you really can't afford it, then get everyone in your group to chip in for one registration fee. Come to think of it, even if you don't plan to go, you could still register.

## **Triangle sightings**

*compiled by Will Cook*

1/3/00 - 1 Fish Crow, Duke campus, Jeff Pippen.

11/24/00 - 1 Dunlin, 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Jordan Lake, Harry LeGrand.

11/26/00 - 2 N. Shovelers, 15 Least Sandpipers, Falls Lake, Harry LeGrand.

12/11/00 - 5 BROWN PELICANS, lake near RDU Airport, Wake Co., Carol Ann McCormick.

1/7/01 - 22 Common Goldeneye, 4 Long-tailed Ducks

(Oldsquaw), 1 Common Merganser, 12 Red-breasted Mergansers, hundreds of Hooded Mergansers, 9 Common Loons, 80 Horned Grebes, Jordan Lake, Ricky Davis.

1/11/01 - 1 Rufous Hummingbird (ad. female), Chapel Hill, banded by Susan Campbell.

1/14/01 - 1 Baltimore Oriole, Chatham Co., Shelley Theye. Also seen 2/2.

1/16/01 - 1 Common Merganser, Lake Crabtree, Wake Co., Karen and Joe Bearden.

1/17/01 - 1 Fish Crow, Durham, Jeff Pippen.

1/24/01 - 1 Rufous Hummingbird (juv. female), Durham, Josh Rose. Banded

1/31 by Susan Campbell. Continued through 4/4/01.

1/25/01 - 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, Hillsborough, Randy Dunson.

1/31/01 - 1 Red Crossbill, Chapel Hill, Doug Shadwick. (Nice yard bird!)

2/21/01 - 1 Fish Crow, Durham, Pat Coin.

2/25/01 - 1 Fish Crow, Chapel Hill, Ginger Travis.

2/28/01 - 2 Tundra Swans, Great Blue Heron nesting activity, Greenview Pond, Raleigh, Steve Schultz. Still present 3/16.

3/13/01 - 1 Laughing Gull, Lake Crabtree, Raleigh, Doug Shadwick.

3/13/01 - 2 EARED GREBES, Lake Crabtree, Raleigh, Jeff Pippen.

3/17/01 - 3 Vesper Sparrows, Chatham Co., Shelley Theye, Cynthia Fox.

3/18/01 - 8 Common Mergansers (female), 18 Greater Scaup, 1 Great Egret, Wake Co., Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand et al.

3/18/01 - 5 active Great Blue Heron nests, Big Woods Rd., Chatham Co., Cynthia Fox et al.

3/24/01 - 1 Baltimore Oriole, Durham, fide Steve Perry.

3/26/01 - 1 Chimney Swift, Raleigh, Steve Schultz.

4/1/01 - 4 Common Merganser, Lake Crabtree, Wake Co., Kent Fiala.

4/6/01 - 2 Yellow-throated Vireos, 2 Palm Warblers, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 1 Ovenbird, Durham Co., Randy Emmitt.

4/7/01 - 1 Wood Thrush, Chatham Co., Kate Finlayson.

4/7/01 - 3 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Chatham Co., Shelley Theye and Jill Froning.

4/7/01 - 1 Magnolia Warbler, Orange Co., Norm Budnitz.

4/7/01 - 1 Black-throated Green Warbler, Wake Co., Kent Fiala.

4/7/01 - 1 Indigo Bunting (male), Durham, Sandy Cash.

4/8/01 - 5 Lesser Scaup, 1 Common Tern, Jordan Lake, Marsha Stephens et al.

4/10/01 - 1 Scarlet Tanager, Chatham Co., Kate Finlayson.

4/12/01 - 1 Fox Sparrow, Orange Co., Ginger Travis.

4/13/01 - 1 Virginia Rail, found stunned on UNC campus, Ginger Travis. Released at Jordan Lake.

4/13/01 - 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, Raleigh, Dan Kaplan.

4/14/01 - 12 Great Blue Heron nests, Big Woods Road swamp, Chatham Co., Rob Gluck.

4/15/01 - 1 Great Egret, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, Jordan Lake, Shelley Theye.

4/16/01 - 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hillsborough, Janine Perlman.

4/20/01 - 1 Blackburnian Warbler, Mason Farm, Kate Finlayson.

4/26/01 - 2 WARBLING VIREOS, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Doug Shadwick. Back for another year!

5/2/01 - 1 Snowy Egret, Little Creek impdt., Rob Gluck.

5/2/01 - 1 Nashville Warbler, Ritter Park, Wake Co., Steve Schultz.

5/3/01 - 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet (late!), Durham Co., Tom Krakauer.

5/6/01 - 44 active Great Blue Heron nests, Cub Creek, Jordan Lake, Alan Johnston et al.

5/10/01 - 1 Little Blue Heron, Little Creek Impoundment on NC 54, Durham Co., Shantanu Phukan.

5/11/01 - 12 Glossy Ibis, Brickhouse Rd., Durham Co., Steve Perry.

5/12/01 - 1 Savannah Sparrow, 2 American Woodcocks, Mason Farm, Steve Perry.

5/13/01 - 1 Warbling Vireo on nest, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Alan and Sally Johnston. First nesting record in county.

5/14/01 - 1 Canada Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, Durham, Jim Bloor.

5/20/01 - 1 Broad-winged Hawk, Orange Co., Ginger Travis.

5/30/01 - 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (ad), Little Creek impdt., Rob Gluck.

5/27/01 - 1 DICKCISSEL, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Shelley Theye and Jill Froning.

6/1/01 - 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (imm, ad), Little Creek impdt., Will Cook, Shantanu Phukan.

6/10/01 - 6 Cedar Waxwings, Orange Co., Will Cook.

6/12/01 - 2 Dickcissels, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Paul Powers.

6/29/01 - date of hatching of Dickcissel eggs, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Kent Fiala. First nesting record in county.

7/7/01 - Dickcissels fledged - 3 young, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Kent Fiala.

7/15/01 - Dickcissels gone (last reported 7/8), Grasshopper Sparrows still singing, Anilorac Farm, Orange Co., Kent Fiala.

7/22/01 - 3 White Ibis (imm), 7 Great Egrets, Little Creek impdt., Dianne Smith.

7/23/01 - 1 Sanderling, Jordan Lake, Jeff Pippen.

8/15/01 - 1 Canada Warbler, 1 Worm-eating Warbler, Durham Co., Jim Bloor.

8/17/01 - 1 Worm-eating Warbler, Chatham Co., Shelley Theye.

8/20/01 - 1 Blue-winged Warbler, Durham, Jim Bloor.

8/25/01 - 1 Virginia Rail (roadkill), Orange Co., Shantanu Phukan.

8/27/01 - 40 Common Nighthawks, Durham, Amalie Tuffin.

9/4/01 - 1 Whip-poor-will singing, Orange Co., Ginger Travis.

9/16/01 - 1 Golden-winged Warbler, Durham Co., Will Cook.

9/29/01 - 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, Durham Co., CHBC.

9/29/01 - 1 Evening Grosbeak, Chapel Hill, Sheila Denn. Exceptionally early!

9/29/01 - 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Orange Co., Ginger Travis. Departure date. Previous departure dates: 10/11/97, 10/6/98, 10/10/99, 10/4/00.

10/1/01 - 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Wood Thrush, 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 2 Hooded Warblers (late date!), 6

Magnolia Warblers, 1 White-throated Sparrow, Durham Co., Will Cook.  
 10/2/01 - 1 Great Crested Flycatcher, Mason Farm, Ginger Travis.  
 10/3/01 - 1 Worm-eating Warbler, Durham Co., Steve Perry.  
 10/7/01 - 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Orange Co., Pat Coin.  
 10/7/01 - 1 Sora, Orange Co., Norm Budnitz. Nice yard bird!  
 10/7/01 - 1 Worm-eating Warbler (late!), 1 Tennessee Warbler, 2 BTG, 1 BTB, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet, Durham Co., Shantanu Phukan.  
 10/9/01 - 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 1 Blackburnian Warbler, Orange Co., Ginger Travis.  
 10/21/01 - 1 Black-bellied Plover, 1 Semipalmated Plover, 6 Greater and 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Spotted, 3 Least, 1 Western, 10 Pectoral Sandpipers, several Snipe, 1 dowitcher, 1 Purple Finch, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, Falls Lake, Durham Co., Ricky Davis.  
 10/23/01 - 1 Tennessee Warbler, Mason Farm, Carol Williamson.  
 10/26/01 - 1 Pine Siskin, 2 Purple Finches, Chatham Co., Jill Froning.  
 10/27/01 - 1 Pine Siskin, Durham Co., Tom Krakauer.  
 10/27/01 - 1 Caspian Tern, 3 Greater Yellowlegs, Falls Lake, Harry LeGrand. Record late date by a month for the tern!  
 10/29/01 - 1 Rusty Blackbird (male), Raleigh, Joseph Covington. Nice yard bird!  
 10/31/01 - 1 RED-NECKED GREBE, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, 5 STILT SANDPIPERS, 10 Common Snipe, 11 American Pipits, Falls Lake, Durham Co., Brian Bockhahn.  
 11/5/01 - 1 Selasphorus hummingbird, Orange Co., Ginger Travis  
 11/6/01 - 1 Selasphorus hummingbird, Orange Co., Kent Fiala. Possibly the same bird, an imm. female (?), as in the Travis yard, located one half-mile away. Appears it will stay awhile.  
 11/10/01 - 1 Red-throated Loon, Jordan Lake, and several Fox Sparrows, Big Woods Rd., seen by CHBC field trip participants, led by Doug Shadwick, reported by Shelley Theye.  
 11/11/01 -- 1 WHITE PELICAN, 1 WESTERN GREBE (grebe is first Triangle-area record since 1960s), Falls Lake, Durham Co., Ricky Davis.  
 11/11/01 - 1 Lincoln's Sparrow, Brickhouse Rd., Durham Co., Will Cook.

### **Congratulations to the groom!**

Congratulations to CHBC member **Brian Bockhahn**, who got married on Oct. 13. Brian and Colleen went

off on an 11-day birding honeymoon to Hawaii where they saw Nene, Apanane, Liwi, and Common Amikihi (the last three are endemic honeycreepers). Brian, a park ranger at Falls Lake State Recreation Area, will be the speaker at our January meeting. His topic: birding Falls Lake.

### **And thanks to the refreshers . . .**

The following folks have signed up to bring refreshments to future meetings: Mary Altpeter, Julia Guo, Sue Covalla, Roy Lindblom, and Ruth Roberson. Thank you very much!

### **Club officers**

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### **Join, renew -- or give a membership!**

Membership renewal time is near – so are the holidays, and a CHBC membership makes a very nice gift. Membership costs only \$15 per year for individuals or families, \$10 for students. (To renew for more than one year, just multiply by the number of years.) The CHBC has friendly people and lots of benefits -- interesting speakers, weekly field trips, notice of upcoming bird counts, the newsletter, public service projects, and the club website. Please make your check payable to the **Chapel Hill Bird Club** and send it to the club treasurer, Ruth Roberson, 3406 Ogburn Court, Durham, N.C. 27705.