

# THE BULLETIN

## Chapel Hill Bird Club

November-December, 2003

(Vol. XXXII, Nos. 11-12)

c/o Ginger Travis

5244 Old Woods Rd.

Hillsborough, NC 27278

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### Next meeting, Monday, Nov. 24

**Where:** The lounge, Binkley Baptist Church, corner of 15-510 Bypass and Willow Drive, next to University Mall in Chapel Hill.

**When:** 7:15 p.m., refreshments; 7:30 p.m., meeting.

**Program:** John Dole will speak on "Oklahoma Birds and Prairies." John is a lifelong birder who spent 11 years living and birding in Oklahoma. During that time he visited every county to gather material for an upcoming bird-finding guide to the state. John will share highlights of Oklahoma birding from cypress swamps to Rocky Mountain mesas. He will highlight prairies and the signature birds that inhabit them. John is leading a trip to Oklahoma for Carolina Bird Club members in May 2004. (See [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org) for details.) He currently works in the Department of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University.

### We break in Dec.: no meeting, no Bulletin

After November 24, the next CHBC meeting will take place on Monday, January 26, 2004. You'll receive your next Bulletin in early January.

### Saturday morning field trips

On the Nov. 8 field trip, the first big influx of winter waterfowl was seen at Ebenezer Point (Jordan Lake): several hundred Common Loons, 20 Horned Grebes, 35 Lesser Scaup, and a couple of rafts of coots. There were also Bonaparte's Gulls and a late Osprey, plus a Vesper Sparrow on land.

Saturday trips continue through November except for Nov. 29 during the Thanksgiving holiday. The last regular field trip is scheduled for Dec. 6. After that, the local Christmas bird counts begin, and members are encouraged to participate. (See schedule below.) Saturday field trips resume the second weekend in January. Note that on Jan. 17, the coastal field trip substitutes for the local field trip.

Saturday a.m. trips leave from Glen Lennox shopping center at 7:30 a.m. Glen Lennox is on the north side of Hwy. 54 about one block east of the Hwy. 15-501 Bypass in Chapel Hill. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Be prepared to do some walking. Call Doug Shadwick for details: 942-0479.

### Christmas bird counts

The local counts invite all to participate. If you are a beginning birder or a newcomer to the area, you'll be assigned to teams with experienced local birders. So call the contact people and get involved.

#### Durham: Sunday, 12/14/03

Contact: Mike Schultz, [ross.gull@verizon.net](mailto:ross.gull@verizon.net), (919)490-6761

#### Raleigh: Saturday, 12/20/03

Contact: John Connors, [John.Connors@ncmail.net](mailto:John.Connors@ncmail.net), 919-755-0253 (h)

#### Chapel Hill: Sunday, 12/21/03

Contact: Will Cook, [cwcook@duke.edu](mailto:cwcook@duke.edu), (919)382-9134

#### Jordan Lake: Sunday, 12/28/03

Contact: Carol Williamson, [cncbrdr@yahoo.com](mailto:cncbrdr@yahoo.com), (919)383-2364

**Kerr Lake: Sat., 1/3/04**, Contact: Brian Bockhahn  
[Brian.Bockhahn@ncmail.net](mailto:Brian.Bockhahn@ncmail.net) (919)676-1027

#### Falls Lake: Sunday, 1/4/04

Contact: Brian Bockhahn (as above)

### Ballot inside

Important! Your vote is needed on the club's proposed grants to the N.C. Museum of Art for restoration of a page in the original edition of Audubon's Birds of America and to Susan Campbell, hummingbird researcher, to support her work banding and documenting rare hummers in our state. You can vote in person at the Nov. 24 meeting, or by mail with the enclosed ballot, or by email or a phone call to Joe and Karen Bearden. See details inside.

### Outer Banks and Mattamuskeet weekend field trip, Jan. 17-19

The annual CHBC field trip to the Outer Banks and Lake Mattamuskeet – a waterfowl-viewing extravaganza – will take place as usual over the long Martin Luther King holiday weekend. The group usually meets at Lake Mattamuskeet on Saturday morning, spends a couple of nights on the Outer Banks, and takes in hotspots including Pea Island and the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. There is no trip fee, just the expense of a motel room, meals and gasoline. The weather is unpredictable but often quite cold – pack accordingly. This is a great trip, not

strenuous, and usually offers a few uncommon to rare birds (e.g., Eurasian Wigeon, “Audubon’s” Warbler) in addition to the sheer majesty of thousands of Tundra Swans, Snow Geese and dabbling and diving ducks. All are welcome. Doug Shadwick is the organizer. Call him at 942-0479.

### **New CHBC members – welcome!**

The following people have joined the Chapel Hill Bird Club since last March. We’re glad to have you.

**David Curtin**, Hillsborough

**Tom & Janet Krakauer**, Bahama

**Lisa Merschel & Steven Quinley**, Hillsborough

**Kara Reichart**, Durham

**Nancy Wilbourn**, Chapel Hill

**Natalie & Don O’Reilly**, Pittsboro

**Sue Fletcher**, Chapel Hill

**Judy Smallwood**, Chapel Hill

### **Voting on CHBC grants to bird-related causes**

In the September Bulletin Joe Bearden reported that your officers looked at the club’s large permanent surplus and recommended making grants to two bird-related causes. Because these grants would be out-of-the-ordinary expenditures, the officers thought members should vote on them.

To recap, the recommended grants are:

1. \$750 to the N.C. Museum of Art toward its \$250,000 campaign to do cleaning and paper conservation for its full set of 435 plates in Audubon’s “Birds of America.” This original work of art is more than 150 years old, and complete sets are very rare. The state of North Carolina bought its set in 1846, and the works were available for public examination. Thus, through handling, the paper became soiled, wrinkled and torn over the years, with some popular pages receiving more damage than others – for example, plate number one in the first volume, which is the Wild Turkey. Audubon’s artistry was, for its day and even now, original and highly dramatic. His hand-colored prints were bound in four volumes of “double-elephant folios,” a term referring to their huge size. He portrayed all birds at life size, from hummingbirds to great blue herons. (To view some of the Audubon prints in the N.C. Museum of Art’s collection, go to this Web address: [www.ncartmuseum.org/support/giving/adopt\\_a\\_bird.shtml](http://www.ncartmuseum.org/support/giving/adopt_a_bird.shtml).) Your CHBC officers recommend a grant of \$750 to the museum because this amount entitles the donor to adopt a bird – that is, claim one page, and receive public credit for its conservation. If we make the grant, our club could choose to adopt either the Brown-headed Nuthatch or the Red-headed Woodpecker.

2. \$250 to Susan Campbell, a research associate of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and licensed

hummingbird bander, who has done outstanding work documenting the vagrant hummers that show up in North Carolina, particularly in winter. Her expenses are not fully covered by the museum, and she uses contributions from individuals and from groups such as ours to buy film and pay for gas and other expenses. Susan has given at least two programs to the Chapel Hill Bird Club in recent years, and she’s a regular workshop leader at Wings over Water and other events. She has contributed a lot to the birding community in our state.

You can vote using the ballot below, or by email or telephone, or in person at the club meeting on November 24. If you vote prior to the meeting, your ballot, phone call or email must be received by the Beardens by Nov. 23.

### **Directions for voting by ballot, phone or email:**

1. Cut out (or photocopy) the ballot, mark your vote, and mail to Joe and Karen Bearden, 1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh 27612.
2. If you prefer, you can phone in your vote to the Beardens at **919-844-9050**.
3. Or you can email your vote to the Beardens at **[chickadeebirders@earthlink.net](mailto:chickadeebirders@earthlink.net)**.

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### **BALLOT**

My name is:

*(Circle “yes” or “no” for each proposed grant.)*

\$750 grant to N.C. Museum of Art for conservation of Audubon prints.

**Yes**, I approve this grant.

**No**, I don’t approve this grant.

\$250 grant to Susan Campbell for hummingbird banding and research.

**Yes**, I approve this grant.

**No**, I don’t approve this grant.

*Thank you very much for voting on this important matter!*

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### **Old Hope Valley Farm Rd. cleanup**

You could have furnished an entire kitchen with the old appliances gathered up along Old Hope Valley Farm Rd. by Doug Shadwick, Hal Snyder, Judy Murray and Rob Rybczynski on Nov. 1 – not to mention a filing cabinet, a children’s playset and 25 bags of garbage. The good news is that Doug, Hal, Judy and Rob didn’t have to haul this stuff to a landfill, because CHBC has officially adopted this “highway.” The Adopt-a-Highway program will pick

up the debris. The program also provided trash bags, gloves and vests to the CHBC. Kudos to our club members who did the cleanup!

## **Oaxaca, Mexico birding trip**

*by Audrey Booth*

Cynthia Fox initiated a birding trip to Oaxaca (wa-HAH-ka) for six birders led by Simon Thompson of Ventures Inc. of Skyland, N.C. Simon spoke at the Sept. 22 Chapel Hill Bird Club meeting on the day before we left, Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cynthia, Richard Billings, Judy Murray and I of Chapel Hill were joined by Sue Greenberg of Durham and Marty Girolami of Apex. Oaxaca is in the southern part of colonial Mexico and is in a valley surrounded by the Sierra Madre and Sierra Mixteca Mountains. Our daily van travels out from our walled hotel garden at 5,000 feet elevation took us to 7,500 feet elevation. The wide range of habitats enabled the party to identify 145 species, of which 10 were endemic, and many were the migratory birds we know from the southwestern U.S. desert. Some who had not birded the Southwest before were pleased with 33 lifers. I saw 10 lifers, as I had had previous desert opportunities. The Berylline Hummingbird was everywhere, but most spectacular was the Beautiful Hummingbird that has a deeply forked tail and a long purple gorget. It loitered in bright mid-morning sun in a tight area in an open field very close to our trail. The Red Warbler (no, not Red-faced) was my favorite sighting, and we had good views of my other lifers including Mountain Trogon, Gray-breasted Woodpecker, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Blue Mockingbird, Dwarf Jay, Gray-barred Wren and the little plain Oaxaca Sparrow. The Vermilion Flycatcher was everywhere! Cynthia and Simon were experimenting with the coupling of scopes and digital cameras, and we look forward to those results.

## **Chatham County fall count, summary of results**

*by Will Cook*

The 2003 Chatham County (NC) Fall Count on Sept. 20, part of the North American Migration Count, was an average count in terms of number of species, individual birds, and participation. This year we ended up with 98 species (average 101) and 3381 birds (average 3625). We had 17 observers in 13 parties (averages 21 and 12) and 67.3 party-hours (average 74). This count was even average on a birds per party-hour basis, with 50.3 (average 51.7).

Not-so-average, five species are new to the count this year -- an Acadian Flycatcher heard and a Kentucky Warbler seen by Norm Budnitz and Patsy Bailey near Patsy's home, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen by Will Cook at the Indian Creek Wildlife Observation Site trail, 3 Tree Swallows seen flying over the Northeast Creek Impoundment by

Will Cook, and a Song Sparrow seen by Amalie Tuffin at Big Woods Road. Other goodies included our second count records for both Common and Forster's Terns at Ebenezer (Josh Rose and Jim Coulton) and third Red-breasted Nuthatches (Andy Upshaw). One bird that may have been a first count record, but was a bit too far to clinch the ID, was a possible hurricane-blown Sandwich Tern seen by Norm at Vista Point.

We set a number of record highs: Red-shouldered Hawk (27), Ring-billed Gull (76), Caspian Tern (19), Common Tern (12), Forster's Tern (41), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (17), Belted Kingfisher (18), Great Crested Flycatcher (5), Red-breasted Nuthatch (2), American Robin (68), Ovenbird (7), and Scarlet Tanager (36). In addition, a flock of 100 small tern sp. was seen in the afternoon from the Farrington Road bridge by Ginger Travis and Norm Budnitz. The large numbers of terns and gulls may have been blown in by Hurricane Isabel, which passed well to the east two days before the count. Our previous record high for all terns and gulls combined was just 5; this year we had about 250.

We set two record lows, Red-tailed Hawk (2) and Wood Thrush (1). Big misses this year include Green Heron and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

We had an average warbler count with 19 species (average 19) and 130 non-Pine individuals (average 145). Most common warblers were Pine (78), American Redstart (33), Common Yellowthroat (30), Northern Parula (12), and Magnolia Warbler (11).

Because of the high water levels, we had no mudflats and almost no shorebirds -- a pathetic 2 species and 1 non-Killdeer individual (a Spotted). That's still better than last year, though!

Best individual party count this year was Will's 64 species and 766 birds in the 751 bridge area.

Thanks to all participants! Pray for mudflats (and shorebirds) next year!

See the next three pages for full results.

## **Send me your lists**

*by Ginger Travis*

ABA list, 48-contiguous-states list, Orange Co. list, Dare Co. list, Europe list, Alaska list, year list, yard list, first-12-months-in-a-new-yard list -- you name it and we'll print your list total in the Bulletin later this winter, probably in February or March. So get your totals updated at year's end and send them to me as soon as possible. Email [gtravis@email.unc.edu](mailto:gtravis@email.unc.edu) or snail mail me at 5244 Old Woods Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278. (Note: I think I've got the yard list to beat unless Norm Budnitz or the Krakauers jump in. Let's see what you've got!)

CHATHAM COUNTY FALL BIRD COUNT - SEPTEMBER 20, 2003

Species	TOT	OWL	NB	SC	BC	WC	KF	TL	BP	JR	DS	ST	GT	AT	AU
Double-crested Cormorant	120				12	85				3	17		1	2	
Great Blue Heron	53			2	9	18	4	1	1		8	1	5	4	
Great Egret	24				1	17				1	3		1	1	
Black Vulture	26			4		4	3	1		6		5			3
Turkey Vulture	97			20		11	2	4		36		4	6	2	12
Canada Goose	44					36		5							3
Wood Duck	17					3					2		6	6	
Mallard	8									6		1	1		
Osprey	7				1					3		1	2		
Bald Eagle 3 ad., 1 imm.	4					3								1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	27	H	1	3	4	4	1	5	2	2	1		2	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	L		1				1							
American Kestrel	1					1									
Northern Bobwhite	8										6	1			1
Killdeer	18				9					6			3		
Spotted Sandpiper	1										1				
Ring-billed Gull	76	H			76										
Caspian Tern	19	H			1					15			1	2	
<b>Common Tern</b>	12	H								12					
<b>Forster's Tern</b>	44	H	3							41					
<i>Tern, sp.</i>	100	H	100										100		
Rock Pigeon	47					40							7		
Mourning Dove	90		10	5	6	3	6	11			5	22	9	2	11
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	H	2	3		8		1		2			1		
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	1			1	2		3							
Great Horned Owl	4	4			3										1
Barred Owl	5	3						2							3
Chimney Swift	132		5	18	20	45	17	16		1		3	2	4	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	16		1			1	4	4		1		1	1		3
Belted Kingfisher	18	H		2	2	2		1		1	1		2	6	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	26			1	4	10				4	4			3	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	102		4	6	17	24	7	7	1	3	3	3	10	13	4
Downy Woodpecker	50		2	4	6	10	2	5		7	2	3	4	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker	12		1		2	4		2			1			2	
Northern Flicker	23			3	5	3		1		3	3	1	3		1
Pileated Woodpecker	18		2	1	1	1		1		2	2	1	2	5	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	17			6	2	3	2			2	2				
<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>	1	NC	1												
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>	1	NC				1									
Eastern Phoebe	19			2	3	2	2		2		3		2		3
Great Crested Flycatcher	5	H			1								1	1	2
White-eyed Vireo	13			1	1	1		3	3					3	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	4		1	2		1									
Red-eyed Vireo	26		3	7	1	2		5			4	1	2		1
Blue Jay	194		10	16	19	54	8	17	5	6	7	2	12	15	23
American Crow	174		2	11	22	14	3	28	7	8	5		6	40	28
Fish Crow	6				1					1	3			1	
<b>Tree Swallow</b>	3	NC				3									
Carolina Chickadee	196		10	30	21	42	8	14	4	12	8	2	12	28	5
Tufted Titmouse	178		10	13	25	51	7	12	4	8	7	2	14	23	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	H													2
White-breasted Nuthatch	30		3	1	5	2	2	4			2	1	2	6	2
Brown-headed Nuthatch	52			9	2	12	1	5		7	5	2	3	6	
Carolina Wren	179	1		8	7	33	58	11	15	3	8	4	4	7	17

**CHATHAM COUNTY FALL BIRD COUNT - SEPTEMBER 20, 2003**

Species	TOT	OWL	NB	SC	BC	WC	KF	TL	BP	JR	DS	ST	GT	AT	AU
House Wren	2					2									
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	43		1	5	7	6	1	5	1	6	3	1		4	3
Eastern Bluebird	67			11	18	5	2	7	2	3			3	6	10
Swainson's Thrush	4					2	1	1							
Wood Thrush	1		L			1									
American Robin	68		H	58	1	1		6	2						
Gray Catbird	23			3		3	1	5	1	1		5		4	
Northern Mockingbird	25			16	3		3	1						1	1
Brown Thrasher	15	2		3	4	3		1		1		3			
European Starling	26			5	6			7		8					
Blue-winged Warbler	1				1										
Northern Parula	12			4		4	1	3							
Chestnut-sided Warbler	7		1			5					1				
Magnolia Warbler	11		2			1			1		2			5	
Cape May Warbler	3									3					
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2		1			1									
Blackburnian Warbler	1		1												
Yellow-throated Warbler	1						1								
Pine Warbler	78		2	11	6	15	1	3	2	8	14	4	7	5	
Prairie Warbler	1			1											
Palm Warbler	3			1		1				1					
Black-and-white Warbler	9		1	1		5		1					1		
American Redstart	33		4	4	2	17		1		1	2		2		
Worm-eating Warbler	1					1									
Ovenbird	7		H			3		4							
Northern Waterthrush	1			1											
<b>Kentucky Warbler</b>	1		NC	1											
Common Yellowthroat	30			2	4	8		3	2		7	2		2	
Hooded Warbler	6		2			2	1	1							
Summer Tanager	22		2	2	1	4		3	1		2	1	3	1	2
Scarlet Tanager	36		H	2	6		10	6		3	3	2	1	1	2
Eastern Towhee	27	1				5	11	1			4	2	2	2	
Chipping Sparrow	9			1	5	1						1			1
Field Sparrow	12				11										1
Song Sparrow	1		NC												1
Northern Cardinal	182	3	5	14	27	41	6	18	3	5	6	10	4	23	20
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2			1						1					
Blue Grosbeak	19					1		11					5		2
Indigo Bunting	68					32		1			12	6		17	
Red-winged Blackbird	1									1					
Common Grackle	9				1			7				1			
Brown-headed Cowbird	3														3
Baltimore Oriole	2											1		1	
House Finch	17				5			5				2			5
American Goldfinch	115		10	1	7	35	17	19	2	2		11	2	3	6
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>98</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>3381</b>		<b>214</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>168</b>

NOTES: TOT = Totals, OWL = Nocturnal birding (owling) totals, H = Record High, L = Record Low, NC = New to Count

Weather in brief: temp 58-85F, wind SE 0-5, no precip, some fog, lake level 217.1'

Start	500	700	730	545	655	900	645	636	720	900	945	640	700	500
End	1650	1130	1345	1300	1650	1400	730	1236	1500	1130	1215	1340	1200	1300

**CHATHAM COUNTY FALL BIRD COUNT - SEPTEMBER 20, 2003**

<b>Species</b>	<b>TOT</b>	<b>OWL</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>KF</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>JR</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>GT</b>	<b>AT</b>	<b>AU</b>
Regular Party Hours: Total	67.25		4.5	5.75	6	9.5	4	9	4	7	2.5	3.5	7	4.5	7
Party Hours: On Foot	59.5		4.5	5.75	4	9	4	8	3	6	2.25	3.5		3.5	6
Party Hours: By Car	7.75				2	0.5		1	1	1	0.25			1	1
Party Hours: By Kayak	7												7		
Party Miles: Total	104		2	5	10	14	3.5	18	9	9	3	1.5	6	12	17
Party Miles: On Foot	38		2	5	3	8	3.5	2.5	3	4	2.5	1.5		1	2
Party Miles: By Car	66				7	6		15.5	6	5	0.5			11	15
Party Miles: By Kayak	6												6		
Owling Hours	2					1									1
Owling Miles	0.5					0.5									0

<b>Area</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Party Members</b>
Patsy Bailey's neighborhood, Vista Point	NB	Norm Budnitz, Patsy Bailey
Dee Farrell, Hank's Chapel Rd.	SC	Sandy Cash
Farrington Point, Crosswinds Marina	BC	Bob Chase
751 bridge area, Wildlife Observation Site, Northeast Creek Impt.	WC	Will Cook
Miles Branch, Bynum Bridge, Haw River	KF	Kate Finlayson, Chris Canfield
Bynum, Red Bud	TL	Terry Logue
Harris Lake, Cape Fear River	BP	Bob Perkins
Ebenezer Point, Poplar Point, Horton Pond	JR	Josh Rose, Jim Coulton
Old Hope Valley Farm Rd.	DS	Doug Shadwick
Grace Tract, Boothe Hill Rd., Lystra Bridge, Farrington (part)	ST	Shelley Theye, Jill Froning
Jordan Lake by kayak	GT	Ginger Travis
Big Woods Road	AT	Amalie Tuffin
Carolina Hill Rd.	AU	Andy Upshaw

**Past Counts**

	<b>1996</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Year									
Date	9/14	9/21	9/20	9/19	9/18	9/16	9/15	9/21	9/20
Species	86	84	99	107	115	107	103	95	98
Birds	1313	1584	3125	3805	4609	3887	4895	3471	3381
Parties	5	7	10	12	13	13	17	9	13
Counters	5	13	14	19	27	23	37	14	17
Party Hours	26.5	31.3	54	70	86.7	88.3	132	53.8	67.3
Birds per Hour	49.5	50.7	57.9	54.4	53.2	44	37.1	64.6	50.3

**Warblers**

species	18	14	18	16	23	21	22	18	19
individuals	211	142	295	433	570	505	411	340	208
non-Pine individuals	94	105	108	111	293	125	187	136	130

**Shorebirds**

species	3	2	5	12	5	3	3	1	2
individuals	28	14	47	187	26	16	9	30	19
non-Killdeer individuals	4	1	23	58	4	3	4	0	1