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THE BULLETIN...

Chapel Hill Bird Club

October 2005

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>



To :

Vol. 34

>> **NEXT MEETING: Monday, Oct. 24**

Program: “Birds of Thailand”

When/Where: 7:15pm./refreshments; 7:30pm./meeting
The lounge, Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church, corner of Hwy. 15-501 bypass and Willow Dr., behind University Mall, Chapel Hill.

Who/What: Thailand is a beautiful, friendly country with breathtaking scenery, sparkling temples -- and lots of birds.! Judy and David Smith went to Thailand earlier this year (part of a group tour) and came back with over 400 species, including some whole groups you may never have heard of. (Leafbirds?! Minivets?! Spiderhunters?!). They will present some of their pictures and recordings of the birds (and a few mammals) of Thailand. David and Judy enjoy birdwatching in exotic places on their vacations, and the Thailand trip was their first to Asia.



-- Wings Over Water Festival --

The 9th annual “Wings Over Water” festival on North Carolina’s coast is coming up Nov. 1-6. For info and registration, on the web, go to:

<http://www.northeast-nc.com/wings/>

Roadway Cleanup Reminder...

The Club has tentatively scheduled a roadway cleanup of one of its favorite bird haunts, Old Hope Valley Farm Rd. (N. Chatham County), for its Sat. Oct. 22 outing. Call Doug Shadwick (ph. 942-0479) for more details.

No. 8

>} **Thought for the Day** >} >} >

“Since the first sighting of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, this has consumed us. We have dedicated our time and our dreams to protecting and conserving this area. These woods are my church.”

~ John Fitzpatrick, Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
(speaking of the Big Woods area of Arkansas)

~ Saturday Morning Field Trips et. al. ~

Local field trips, generally led by Doug Shadwick, de-part from Glen Lennox Shopping Center parking lot off Hwy 54 promptly at 7:30 am. most Saturday mornings. All skill levels welcome. Trips are usually over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. For further details call Doug at 942-0479.

Additionally: On Oct. 15, Tom Driscoll of New Hope Audubon will lead a carpool from Univ. Mall (in front of Dillards) at 6:30 am to the Sandhills area for a look at Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (call Dianne Byrne 929-8266 to confirm date). Cindy Fox has bird walks scheduled for Oct. 8, 22, and Nov. 19, leaving from her Eastgate Wild Bird Center store at 8 am. And there is a birdwalk at Lake Crabtree Park the first Sat. of each month as well, starting at 8:30 am. LOTS of choices!

Finally, a number of CHBC members reside in Wake County and east Durham county. If some intrepid member would like to offer a SUN. morning field trip once or twice a month from a convenient meeting place over that way, and can plan it far enough in advance to get into newsletter, please let me know. This could be a great service to those who can't always conveniently make it over for Doug's 7:30 Sat. field trips, or who might simply enjoy a second weekend outing.

Who's Who -- Getting To Know Your Fellow Club Members

Patsy Bailey always seems to have a smile on her face, and who can blame her -- for her research work with a non-profit public health organization she gets to travel to exotic places, watch birds, AND get paid for it! As a result, her world life list is over 1400. One of her favorite locales is Tikal, in Guatemala, with its neotropical species, and in the wintertime many of our wonderful migrant warblers. She visited there frequently in the late '90s.

Patsy has a special fondness for kingfishers and says she would like to see all 86 members of the world's kingfisher family! Fittingly, as a world traveler she cites Scott Weidensaul's "Living On the Wind" as a favorite read.

Patsy is yet another home-grown CHBC-er, raised right here in Durham, NC. She was exposed to birds at an early age as her dad occasionally taught ornithology at Duke Univ. -- there's a family situation we can all envy! Still, she notes she didn't really begin birding until around 1997 when two work colleagues (Judith Fortney and Carol Williamson) got her involved. Her only regret is the "lost opportunity" of not having more actively shared this interest with her father earlier on. Butner Gamelands and Mason Farm are among her favorite local birding areas, and besides birding and travel, gardening is an additional favorite pastime.

One of her most memorable experiences was a visit to the Salar de Uyuni salt flats high in the Southern Andes of Bolivia where 3 of the world's 6 flamingoes reside. Seeing these dramatically pink birds feeding in beautiful blue-green water at 14,000 ft. against an otherwise stark and barren landscape, was a sight to behold. Just one of many for this world-traveling CHBC member.

-- Some Sept. Sightings --

Sept. 7 -- Rick Payne found a rather early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Indian Trail Park Greenway in Durham.

Various folks reported a nice array of shorebirds at Falls Lake right through Sept.. Some highlights included, **Buff-breasted**, **Baird's**, and **Stilt Sandpipers**, **Ruddy Turnstones**, and **Black-bellied and Am. Golden Plovers**.

By mid-Sept. fall warblers were being reported in some numbers:

Sept. 11 -- Patrick Murphy had **Tennessee**, **Swainson's**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Yellow-throated**, **Worm-eating**, and **Black-and-White**, among others at Lake Crabtree Park. And during a couple of separate afternoons in Duke



Forest Jacob Socolar reported **Blackburnian**, **Hooded**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Worm-eating**, **Magnolia**, **Ovenbird**, **N. Waterthrush**, **Redstart**, **Parula**. Also along for the ride was a **Least Flycatcher** and a **Woodcock**!

Sept. 15 -- A **Eurasian Collared Dove** appears in Jim Mulholland's southwest Raleigh backyard.

Sept. 16 -- Clyde Sorenson reports a **Merlin** in Raleigh, and on the 18th Mike Skakuj spotted one at Falls Lake, where he also had a **Wilson's Phalarope** and **Willow Flycatcher**. Mike also had a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in his Durham yard, as did Shantanu Phukan in his Carrboro yard on the 19th.

Sept. 22 -- Ginger Travis reports a couple of **C. Nighthawks** flying above her Orange County yard.

Sept. 23 -- S. Shultz reports a number of the usual shorebirds now present at areas around Jordan Lake, and also 30 **Blue-winged Teal** and a pair of **N. Shovelers**.

Sept. 24 -- Alan Kneidel finds **12 warbler species** and a **Swainson's Thrush** among the highlights of a walk through under-utilized Battle Park in Chapel Hill.

Sept. 26 -- David Lenat reports a possible juvenile **Ruff** on a Falls Lake mudflat..

Sept. 27 -- Jeff Pippen turns up **16 warbler species**, plus **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked**, **Swainson's**, and **Wood Thrush**, among highlights of a day in Duke Forest.

Sept. 29 -- Jim Seaman spots a **White-winged Dove** in his Raleigh yard.

Sept. 30 -- the month ended with Mike Schultz/Norm Budnitz reporting an early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and nice array of warblers at Shepard's Trail, Duke Forest, and John Sneeden also reporting the RC Kinglet, plus a **YB Sapsucker** over at Lake Crabtree Park.

Winter is on the way, with a tough choice ahead: buy bird seed or, pay your heating bill!

(In the next month be on the watch for the following passernines returning to your yards and neighborhoods: **White-throated and Swamp Sparrows**, **Winter Wrens**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **both Kinglets**, **YB Sapsuckers**, **Hermit Thrushes**, **Brown Creepers**, and **Purple Finches**.)

---> Bird Seed Sale <---

New Hope Audubon is in the midst of their main annual fundraiser -- the yearly bird seed sale. There's still time (but not much) to place an order with them for bird seed and suet to get your birds through the winter, and 'bird-friendly' coffee to get yourself through the same! (pickup date Oct. 29th, at Eastgate's Wild Bird Center). If you don't already have an order form call Judy Murray for details 942-2985 or go to: <http://www.newhopeaudubon.org> on the web.

Yard Bird List Luminaries

Josh Rose has been tallying yard bird lists among subscribers to Carolinabirds of late. Among local Triangle folks showing up on the rankings are the following (with their list totals as of early Sept.):

Tom Krakauer	150
Norm Budnitz	131
Alan Kneidel	111
Randy Emmitt	110
Julia Shields	105
Steve Shultz	99
Jeff Pippin	96
Edith Tatum	95
Amalie Tuffin	88

-- Beauty --

When the owl
on her plush and soundless wings
rises
from the black waves
of the oak leaves,
or floats out of the needles
of the pines
that are moaning,
that are tossing,
I think:
o she is beautiful
with her eyes
like burning moons,
with her feet
like twisted braids
of old gold
flexing and curling --
and I am glad to see her --
some wild loyalty has me
to the root of the heart --
even when she ruffles down
into the field
and jabs like a mad thing
and it's hopeless,
it's also wonderful,
so I thank
whatever made her --
this beast of a bird
with her thick breast
and her shimmering wings --
whose nest, in the dark trees,
is trimmed with screams and bones --
whose beak
is the most terrible cup
I will ever enter.

-- Mary Oliver



If You Like Raptors...

A soon-to-be-released book on raptor identification looks promising -- **Hawks From Every Angle: How To Identify Raptors In Flight**, by Jerry Liguori.

Another new book is **In The Company of Crows and Ravens** by John Marzluff and Tony Angell, one more in a long line of volumes on these fascinating species.

Getting Started In Digiscoping?

Digiscoping has been one of the hottest trends in birding the last few years. Nikon Sport Optics has introduced a digiscope kit, including ED fieldscope, digital camera, camera adapter, and cable release all in one package. Available currently at Eastgate Plaza's Wild Bird Center (Chapel Hill).

~ Quiz Corner ~

(answers at end of page 4)

Hidden Words, Hidden Birds

Each of the following phrases contain a simple bird name (i.e., "ravenous eater"-- "raven"). How fast can you find them. all?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. balloons and tunes | 7. beagle hound |
| 2. crown of thorns | 8. street lantern |
| 3. no regrets | 9. Appalachian trail |
| 4. wrenching pain | 10. stealing time |
| 5. child's scooter | |
| 6. bowling alley | |

The one-time classic text of bird pathology, Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds, was authored by Robert Stroud whose main fame came from being:

- a. a 2-term Governor of Minnesota
- b. the first modern explorer to map interior parts of the Amazon River basin
- c. a decorated World War II aerial gunner
- d. a prisoner for life at Alcatraz
- e. the first US surgeon to attempt kidney transplantation



~ Membership Form ~

(become a member or give a gift membership to a friend!)

Name _____Address _____
_____ph _____email _____

new member: _____ or, renewal: _____

**dues: \$15/yr. individuals/family, \$10/yr. students
send checks payable to Chapel Hill Bird Club to:****Ruth Roberson, 38 Stoneridge Pl., Durham, NC.
27705**

CHBC Contacts (ph., email) :

>President: *Joe Bearden*, 884-9050, chickadeebirders@earthlink.net
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>CHBC webmaster, checklist, and CH Xmas count compiler:
Will Cook, 382-9134, cwook@duke.edu
>Newsletter Editor: *Rob Gluck*, 967-3134, thrush@hotmail.com

Visit the CHBC on the Web at:

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

Also, Will Cook's homepage is an excellent general

source of birding and nature-related links/resources:

<http://www.duke.edu/~cwook>**Parting Words...**

“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.”

~ Thoreau

Quiz Answers:

“Hidden Birds” :

1. loon
 2. crow
 3. egret
 4. wren
 5. coot
 6. owl
 7. eagle
 8. tern
 9. rail
 10. teal
- “Robert Stroud” -- d.

Field Guide Corollary (to the Laws of Birding):

“The bird is most visible when you look in your field guide and least visible when you go back to look for the next field mark.” (~ Steve Sosensky)

Planning Ahead....

Several of our current officers have already made the decision to step down from their posts following this CHBC season. If you think you'd be interested in serving the Bird Club as Pres., V.Pres., or Secretary, or serve on a ‘nominating committee’ to select an election slate for next year feel free to check with any of the current officers for more details. Voting won't be ‘til next spring, but please start thinking about it now.

Holy Grail Update...

check for any late-breaking Ivory-bill news at:
<http://ivorybills.blogspot.com>.

Members and sighters from the original search team have been fanning out around the country giving presentations to standing-room-only groups, meetings, and other gatherings. After the summer lull, the Ivory-bill search begins anew in earnest on Nov. 1 with a crew of additional volunteers and an extended region of interest. With skepticism still alive over the sightings in some quarters a ‘slam dunk’ photograph or video is still sought after.

Nicaragua Anyone...?

John Connors (NC Museum of Natural Sciences) posted the following message on Carolinabirds a few weeks back: “There are still a few slots on the Expedition Nicaragua Trip that is being led by Kate Finlayson and myself...scheduled for January 6-15, 2006. We will stay on a shade-grown coffee plantation, the Finca Esperanza Verde, which has just been recognized by the United Nations for its model of sustainable ecotourism. We expect to see many neo-tropical migrant birds wintering on the farm, along with the resident birds of the tropics. We will also visit primary forest at Selva Negra, the Volcan Masaya and dry Tropical Forest. Expect Three-wattled Bell Birds, various Toucans, Tourquoise-browed MotMots and more. For info: www.ecoquesttravel.net or www.sanramonecolodge.org.”