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THE BULLETIN...
Chapel Hill Bird Club
October 2006
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

To :

Vol. 35

No. 7

>> Upcoming Meeting : Monday, Oct. 23
-- "Looking For Longleaf" --

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: Larry Earley is a former editor with "Wildlife in North Carolina" magazine, who now spends much of his time on landscape photography and other projects, including a study of the longleaf pine's place in the American South -- the pine's ecology, economic exploitation, restoration, and its connection to the Red-cockaded Woodpecker are all detailed in his wonderful book, **Looking for Longleaf...** and, for us, on this Monday evening!

Saturday Morning Field Trips

Local field trips, generally led by Doug Shadwick, depart 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.

Kudos

Several months ago Dr. Erich Jarvis of Duke received a lot of publicity for his groundbreaking work and findings on the neurobiology of birdsong as it relates to linguistics more generally. Well, it just gets better for this one-time dancer-turned-scientist: the October issue of **Popular Science** has named him one of the "Brilliant 10" young scientists in America today whose work should be watched. Quite a select group... Congratulations.

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

"Our sense of wonder grows exponentially: the greater the knowledge, the deeper the mystery."
~ E.O. Wilson

Spring Bird Count Results

Tabular results for the spring bird counts that were summarized in the Sept. newsletter are attached at the end of this edition.

-- It's Official --

The new CHBC Officers for the current season (voted on last spring) are now firmly in place in their positions: (contact info on page 3)

- Pres. -- Ruth Roberson
- VP. -- Karen Bearden
- VP. -- Ginger Travis
- Secretary -- Amalie Tuffin
- Treasurer -- Patsy Bailey

-- Wings Over Water Festival --

Now in its tenth year, the Wings Over Water festival has become the premier birding festival of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This event offers birding trips throughout a variety of diverse eastern North Carolina habitats, including barrier islands, maritime forests, and salt marshes. Recently, registration materials and information for the 2006 festival have been posted on the main web site:

<http://www.wingsoverwater.org>

Bird lists from past festivals can be accessed through <http://www.northeast-nc.com/wings/birdlist2.pdf>. This year's festival will be held November 7-12, which

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is an excellent time of year to see the Outer Banks-- cooler temperatures, less tourists and less bugs! If you have any questions about the festival field trips, please contact Wildlife Interpretive Specialist Ann Marie Chapman at (252) 987-1118 or by email at: AnnMarie_Chapman@fws.gov.

If you have any questions about registration or trip availability, please call (252) 441-8144.

Highlights from this year's festival include a keynote address by Ken Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, one of the principal researchers on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker Recovery Project. The presentation is also co-sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club and will specifically address the efforts currently underway to bring this bird back from the brink of extinction. Also an expert in optics, Ken will lead two field trips during his stay on the Outer Banks, and more information about his trips can also be accessed through the web site.

This year, the festival has teamed up with the Outer Banks Sentinel, a local newspaper that has donated all the printed materials and advertising for this year's festival. Due to this increased amount of exposure, festival planners anticipate higher participation than past festivals, and a corresponding increased competition for popular birding trips. If you are interested in attending this year's festival, we strongly encourage all our Carolina Birders to register early to beat the rush. This is your festival, come out and be a part of it!!

Birders Love Hurricanes!

Though not nearly as outstanding as some previous storms, Hurricane Ernesto did start off the month of September by sending a few good birds our way as it swept through NC.: Black, Royal, Forster's and either Bridled or Sooty Terns were all seen at Falls Lake by Jeff Phippen and Will Cook on Sept. 1. And on Sept. 2 & 3 several birders reported Wilson Storm Petrels and possibly a Leach's off Ebenezer Point (Jordan Lake).

Duck!!... er... I mean, Owl!

A thread on Carolinabirds in early Sept. initiated by Kent Fiala (our Sept. speaker) detailed some experiences people had with owls swooping down at them, seemingly unprovoked (somewhat interestingly, white headgear was often involved); and then later in month the Raleigh News & Observer ran a brief account, as discussed on a track club listserv, of some Chapel Hill joggers having the same unusual/alarming experience.

-->>> Attn.: Digiscopers

Cynthia Fox recently posted this tempting offer on Carolinabirds for the digiscopers amongst us:

"I thought some of you would be interested in a contest Swarovski Optik, Austria, is sponsoring, closing date of October 31, 06. The conditions and submission information can be found at www.swarovskioptik.com. 20 of the best submissions will be published in 2007; 300 Euros will be paid for these pictures. In order to qualify for the 3 Grand Prizes, the digiscope image must be accompanied by a second photo, taken at the same time, with a "normal" lens. Now the kicker, the 3 Grand Prize winners will win a trip to a Digiscoping Seminar in South Africa. I would love to see a Carolinabirder win one of these slots! I hope someone from the group takes the time to enter."

N.C. Peregrines

Here are the results from this year's peregrine falcon nesting season in North Carolina. All known pairs nested in natural cliff sites.

Summary:

- 11 nesting pairs (all in western NC)
- 7 of 11 pairs raised chicks; the other 4 had nest failure
- 15 fledglings
- Number of fledglings by site:
- Whiteside Mountain (Jackson County): 2
- Panthertail Mountain (Transylvania County): 3
- Looking Glass (Transylvania County): 3
- Devil's Courthouse (Transylvania County): 1
- Chimney Rock (Rutherford County): 0 (nest failure, despite two nesting attempts)
- Shortoff Mountain (Burke County): 2
- Table Rock (Burke County): 3
- Big Lost Cove (Avery County): 0
- Grandfather Mountain (Avery County): 0 (nest failure despite a promising start)
- White Rock Cliff (Madison County): 1
- Buzzard's Roost (Haywood County): 0 (nest failure despite a promising start)

North Carolina's peregrine falcons produced 15 fledglings this year.

Highlights from this season include the addition of a new pair and close up examinations of two nest ledges:

A new pair nested at Table Rock in the Linville Gorge this year. With this addition, the two closest nesting pairs are 4.5 miles apart, as the falcon flies (Table Rock and Shortoff).

With the assistance of NC Outward Bound School and Fox Mountain Guides we checked Chimney Rock and Table Rock eyries late this summer for unhatched (infertile/nonviable) eggs and prey remains. We waited until August when nesting was complete, the falcons were no longer relying on the nest ledge, and the Forest Service's seasonal cliff closures were lifted before descending into the nests. With the help of NCOBS I was able to see the Table Rock nest ledge up close. An egg retrieved from Chimney Rock will undergo various tests, and the prey remains will be identified to determine what species of birds the falcons are eating. These are data that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has charged state peregrine biologists with gathering so we can better conserve peregrine populations in the Eastern US.

Here's the link to an article about the rappel into Chimney Rock (Rutherford County's paper -- select the August 20, 2006 edition from the "back issues" drop down box on the right):
<http://www.thedigitalcourier.com>

Next season, I could use dedicated volunteers to watch a few sites: Buzzard's Roost, Looking Glass, Devil's Courthouse, and others. You'll need a spotting scope, tripod, binoculars, time (4 hours of observation plus travel time), a sharp eye, and PATIENCE. The season runs February to June. You would not be responsible for all data collection. Other staff and volunteers will be checking these sites as well. Send me an email if you are interested in participating.

Chris Kelly
Mountain Wildlife Diversity Biologist
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Asheville, NC
work email: kellych@earthlink.net

Book Look

Coming to bookstores in November: **All Things Reconsidered -- My Birding Adventures**; 10 years after his death, collected narratives by Roger Tory Peterson -- Enough said!! (...and just in time for Christmas).

The Bird That Just Won't Die... Out

While skeptics have used Cornell's failed effort to confirm Ivory-bills in the Big Woods of Arkansas to prop up at their case for Ivory-bill extinction ornithologists at Auburn have now announced the existence of multiple Ivory-bills in the panhandle of Florida that have been under study for over 16 months. Despite several sightings and other evidence, at this point they still have no videotape; thus still no universal

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consensus. Several southern states will have some degree of official Ivory-bill searching this winter with the major efforts probably being in Florida, Arkansas, S. Carolina, and Texas. On and on it goes...

~~ Membership Form ~~

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:

Patsy Bailey, 277 Mint Springs Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312

CHBC Contacts (ph., email) :

- >President: *Ruth Roberson*, 489-4888, ruth-roberson@nc.rr.com
(Immediate Past Pres. : *Joe Bearden*, 884-9050)
- >Vice-Pres.(RDU): *Karen Bearden*, 884-9050,
chickadeebirders@earthlink.net
- >Vice-Pres. (Chapel Hill): *Ginger Travis*, 942-7746,
ginger_travis@bellsouth.net
- >Secretary: *Amalie Tuffin*, 641-8072, amaliet@post.harvard.edu
- >Treasurer: *Patsy Bailey*, 933-5850, pbailey@fhi.org
- >Field Trip Chairman: *Doug Shadwick*, 942-0479,
dougshadwick@aol.com
- >Refreshments Chair: *Karen Piplani*, 929-6553,
k_piplani@alumni.unc.edu
- >CHBC webmaster, checklist, and CH count compiler:
Will Cook, 382-9134, cwcook@duke.edu
- >Newsletter Editor: *Rob Gluck*, 967-3134, thrush@hotmail.com

Will Cook's homepage is an excellent general source of birding and nature-related links/resources (and also the place to learn about 'Carolinabirds' internet listserv group):

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

Parting Words...

"Once we found them, what was I supposed to do?
...The mistake was ever looking for them."

~ *Dr. Geoffrey Hill of Auburn after reporting finding Ivory-bills in NW Florida*