

c/o R. Gluck, 451 Melanie Ct.  
Chapel Hill, NC. 27514  
thrush@hotmail.com



**THE BULLETIN...**  
**Chapel Hill Bird Club**  
January 2007  
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

**To :**

---

---

**Vol. 36**

---

---

**No. 1**

--- **HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL! AND  
HAPPY 2007 BIRDING!!** ---

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

>> **Upcoming Meeting: Monday, Jan. 22**  
**-- "Painted Buntings" --**

"We are obliged... to spread the news, painful and bitter though it may be for some to hear, that all living things on earth are kindred."

~ Edward Abbey

**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.

(cont'd.)

It will still likely be best to park in the University Mall area behind the church if you are physically able, due to construction continuing in the church parking lot area.

to survey "their" points 3 times during the season, and, as close together in time as possible, on a different day. If they can't do that, others of us will "fill in" as needed, but I'd like to get some folks thinking about committing 3 mornings, or 3 whole days, if possible. They do not have to be "sequential", but can be.

**Who/What:** UNC Wilmington ornithologist Dr. Jamie Rotenberg will tell us about the habitat and conservation of a highly sought-after bird that some regard as the most beautiful of all N. American species, the Painted Bunting. Should be a great presentation and additionally he is actively recruiting volunteers for a current study of the species (see below).

3 - If anyone is available in early April to help lay out the points, that would be very useful. USGS will provide maps and some aeriels and suggested starting points, but none of us knows the real lay of the land until someone visits. Training will likely also occur in April of 2007.

For information contact John Gerwin:  
[john.gerwin@ncmail.net](mailto:john.gerwin@ncmail.net)

**Speaking of Which...**

John Gerwin and Jamie Rotenberg will be heading up a Painted Bunting (PABU) study and need volunteers to assist with inventory work related to the Painted Bunting population of North Carolina during spring of 2007. Preliminary details include:

**Saturday Morning Field Trips**

1 - There will be "clusters" of points to survey, with 6 points/cluster. We will ask that folks focus on PABU only (not count other birds). 6 points can be done in about 2 hours.

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.

2 - Surveys can be done from 0600-1000 roughly, and again in the afternoon, after about 3pm. We'd like folks

===> **HURRY**, and call Doug if you're interested in the customary weekend trip to the Outer Banks over Martin Luther King weekend in Jan. (13-15th). Always a worthwhile birding outing, though sometimes frigid and windy. Call Doug for more info/details... NOW!

**Field trips, counts, meetings/talks, webpage, newsletter, checklists, fun, knowledge... your Chapel Hill Bird Club!**

## More Coastal Opportunities

If Doug doesn't wear you out MLK weekend, two weeks later, the Carolina Bird Club also conducts its annual Outer Banks field trip. For more info check out their website:

<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org>

Additionally, Brian Patteson has winter pelagic trips going out from the coast on the CBC weekend as well as the following 3 weekends in February if you're interested:

<http://www.patteson.com/>

---

### -- Renewals, Renewals --

If your mailing label says "Jan 07" then it's time to renew your membership to the Bird Club. Please send your \$15 renewal (NOW!) to:

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



### Hummers... Wooo Hoooo

Several Rufous Hummingbirds have already been spied in the Piedmont this season and banded by Susan Campbell (as well as 1 Chapel Hill Calliope and possibly 1 Ruby-throated in Raleigh). One of the Rufouses, at a home off Homestead Rd. in Chapel Hill (where it is still showing up), garnered front page coverage in the Chapel Hill newspaper. Remarkably, this same bird was also discovered frequenting a feeder at a home off Weaver Dairy Rd. Another first-year Rufous selected the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh as its home base and was banded by Susan on December 12, before being released by first-lady Mrs. Easley herself in front of a host of onlookers and photographers. These little jewels with, as researchers tell us, a brain the size of a grain of rice, never cease to amaze!

---

### Lucky Lena...

Lena Gallitano of Raleigh (who, by the way, had a hand in making the above Gov.'s Mansion hummer story happen) reports having Baltimore Orioles in her yard since September, currently totalling 9 (that's NOT a typo!). Her not-so-secret weapon... er, uhhh... bribe, is grape jelly.

## Here-and-There, A Few December Highlights

12/4 - Brian Bockhahn reports 50+ Common Loons at Rollingview on Falls Lake.

12/10 - Derb Carter spots a Goshawk off Dairyland Rd. (Orange County)

By mid-Dec. decent numbers and variety of winter waterfowl were being reported, as usual, on the various Raleigh ponds, with highest counts (42) going to Canvasbacks in Steve Shultz's last report (West Lake Pond). At end of month Clyde Smith had a high of 38 Shovelers at Lake Benson while surveying waterfowl in southern Wake County.

12/17 - Steve Shultz reports 2 Black Scoters at Jordan Lake.

12/26 - Dan Kaplan reports a Merlin at Hillandale Golf Course in Durham.

12/27 - 1 Laughing Gull and 4-5 Lesser Black-blacks highlighted a report by H. Legrand and D. Carter from the Wake County Landfill.

---

### Happy Anniversary!!

"Carolinabirds," the birding listserv group for North and South Carolina birders, celebrated its 10th anniversary in December. Begun by our Club's own Will Cook auspiciously on Friday the 13th, December 1996, the listserv has been a resounding success, now with close to 800 subscribers and countless other readers around the country. With over 20% of the subscribers living in the Triangle it is the best way to keep current on bird sightings/happenings in our local area. If by any chance you're not already a subscriber check it out here:

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

---

### -- Raleigh Christmas Bird Count --

Compiler John Connors sent in the following summary of the Raleigh Christmas Bird Count:

Raleigh's Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 16. It was mild, calm...a beautiful day to be out. Preliminary results were a bit disappointing with 89 species being reported (our target is 100 species), but some counts are still outstanding.

One classic CBC moment occurred during the noonday countdown when, shortly after Clyde Smith had been teased for not delivering on Bald Eagles at Lake Benson, John Gerwin spotted a pair of large

---

*Field trips, counts, meetings/talks, webpage, newsletter, checklists, fun, knowledge... your Chapel Hill Bird Club!*

dark birds flying overhead. "I think Clyde's off the hook", and sure enough we recorded 2 adult eagles right there above the gas station. Reporters from the News & Observer were there to document the entire moment.

Noteworthy sightings include: Great Egret (1) along Walnut Creek, Virginia Rail (1) heard at Greenview, Fish Crow at a few sites, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1) along the Buckeye Trail, Palm Warbler(1) along Mid-Pines Road, White-crowned Sparrow at Greenview and in Cary, Rusty Blackbirds (24) along Walnut Creek, and Baltimore Orioles (6) at Lena Gallitano's feeder.

Best birds included two unusual raptors:

\*Northern Goshawk was seen by Ted Simon's group near Umstead State Park; an adult bird perched along Trenton Road just before you exit NCSU farms, and then flew. Excellent observations with clear description - Shiloh Schulte, a member of the group, has had extensive experience with the species in New Hampshire.

\*Merlin was seen near the Buckeye Trail in east Raleigh. Once again it was observed perched, and then the observers saw it in flight. Description to be submitted.

Notable misses included: the Governor's Rufous Hummingbird, American Wigeon -- our dabbling duck waterfowl counts remain very low. Northern Bobwhite, House Wren, Blue-headed Vireo, all missing. There were also no reported sightings of Red-breasted Nuthatches or any of the winter finches.

(Other local Christmas Bird Count results likely available by next newsletter.)

## Birds In the News

Hardly a week (day?) goes by anymore without some interesting story about birds hitting the news. One internet site I've found useful in keeping track of it all is:

<http://little.birdie.home.att.net/>

They break news headlines down by states, and also have a useful set of weblinks and bird webcams.

Speaking of webcams, another relatively new site on the web is devoted exclusively to birdcams of all sorts throughout the world (both wild and cage birds) if you like to watch close-up, yet inobtrusively, what birds do when they don't know they're being watched! :

<http://birdwatchingblog.com/>

## And More Web Resources

Tired of hunting for that birdsong tape or CD buried somewhere in your collection? Once again the internet comes to the rescue. The Macaulay Library of Cornell Lab of Ornithology has made available (for free) on its website over 65,000 nature sound clips and 18,000 video clips (not just birds). That oughta keep you busy for awhile:

<http://www.animalbehaviorarchive.org/loginpublic.do>

Finally, and also from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the "ebird" website is a place you can find lots of useful information, and increasingly, people are using the "my ebird" section to keep track of their own birding lifelist and use it as a database:

<http://ebird.org/content/>

## More Scrambled Birdies:

(ex.: norib = robin)

(answers at end of pg. 4)

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. croond   | 5. etimusto  |
| 2. plodler  | 6. pigame    |
| 3. welruc   | 7. bonipolls |
| 4. goanfilm | 8. gownie    |

## -- "Ivory Hunters" --

Dr. Greg Lewbart (NCSU veterinarian) and wife Diane Deresienski (Board President of Piedmont Wildlife Center) are now in the Florida panhandle as part of the Auburn University team looking for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. ("Ivory Hunters," by the way, is the title of a novel Dr. Lewbart wrote back in 1996, long before the current Ivory-bill excitement was generated, about Ivory-bills being discovered in southern Florida.)



## Bald Eagle Being De-listed

Our national emblem, the Bald Eagle is due for de-listing from the Endangered Species list within the next 2 months, a move apparently supported by most environmental groups. With over 7000 nesting pairs around the nation, including several right here on our own Piedmont lakes, this species represents one of the many successes environmentalists can point to with

pride over the last few decades.

Nowhere near de-listing, but nonetheless another wonderful success story, is the report of close to two dozen California Condors (out of a total current population close to 300) that can be viewed on any given day soaring above Arizona's Grand Canyon.

And in another related success story, Whooping Cranes now number over 500 in the country, including a record 45 youngsters that showed up recently in Texas on migration.



**Book Corner**

If some thoughtful family member didn't already get it for you for Christmas you may want to run out and buy **Bird Songs: 250 North American Birds in Song** by Les Beletsky, a coffee-table-sized volume with wonderful text, illustrations, and birdsong recordings from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (even includes the Ivory-billed Woodpecker).

On a more homegrown level, **Birding North Carolina**, A Falcon Guide to the best birding sites in the Tarheel state, produced by the Carolina Bird Club, is readily available in most local book and bird stores. If it isn't on your bookshelf yet, what ya waitin' for?

\*\*\*\*\*

*~~ 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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*Reminder\*\*** -- if you've always wanted to have your own pet newsletter, I'm still looking for someone who would enjoy taking over the *Bulletin* next fall when I hope to forego editorship for other pressing interests. Email me at: [thrush@hotmail.com](mailto:thrush@hotmail.com)

**More "You Know You're A Birder If" Humor**  
(adapted from internet sources)

You Know You're a Birder If...

1. You spend your time on a Caribbean cruise looking for pelagic birds.
2. When shopping for new clothes you check that the pockets are big enough to hold a field guide.
3. You only win Final Jeopardy when the category is birds.
4. Your vacation of a lifetime is spent at a place called Attu.
5. Only a fellow birder can decipher the license plate on your car.
6. You have ten big bird photos on your wall at work and one small photo of your spouse.

.....  
**CHBC Contacts** (ph., email) :

- >President:: *Ruth Roberson*, 489-4888, [ruth-roberson@nc.rr.com](mailto:ruth-roberson@nc.rr.com)  
(Immediate Past Pres. : *Joe Bearden*, 844-9050)
- >Vice-Pres.(RDU): *Karen Bearden*, 844-9050,  
[chickadeebirders@earthlink.net](mailto:chickadeebirders@earthlink.net)
- >Vice-Pres. (Chapel Hill): *Ginger Travis*, 942-7746,  
[ginger\\_travis@bellsouth.net](mailto:ginger_travis@bellsouth.net)
- >Secretary: *Amalie Tuffin*, 641-8072, [amaliel@post.harvard.edu](mailto:amaliel@post.harvard.edu)
- >Treasurer: *Patsy Bailey*, 933-5850, [pbailey@fhi.org](mailto:pbailey@fhi.org)
- >Field Trip Chairman: *Doug Shadwick*, 942-0479,  
[dougshadwick@aol.com](mailto:dougshadwick@aol.com)
- >Refreshments Chair: *Karen Piplani*, 929-6553,  
[k\\_piplani@alumni.unc.edu](mailto:k_piplani@alumni.unc.edu)
- >CHBC webmaster, checklist, and CH count compiler:  
*Will Cook*, 382-9134, [cwcook@duke.edu](mailto:cwcook@duke.edu)
- >Newsletter Editor: *Rob Gluck*, 967-3134, [thrush@hotmail.com](mailto:thrush@hotmail.com)

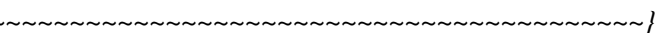
Will Cook's homepage is an excellent general source of birding and nature-related links/resources (and also the place to learn about 'Carolinabirds' internet listserv group):

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

.....  
**Parting Words...**

"I can levitate birds... but no one cares."

~ *Steven Wright*



answers to 'Scrambled Birds' :

- 1. condor 2. redpoll 3. curlew 4. flamingo 5. titmouse 6. magpie
- 7. spoonbill 8. wigeon

**Field trips, counts, meetings/talks, webpage, newsletter, checklists, fun, knowledge... your Chapel Hill Bird Club!**