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

To :

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>> **NEXT PROGRAM: Monday, Apr. 23**
“Butterflies of North Carolina”

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: Birders’ interests often run farther afield than just our avian friends. The Club’s own Will Cook and Jeff Phippen will tell us about those other bedazzling flying creatures amongst us, butterflies. If you’re a birder already smitten with these fascinating fragile gems you won’t want to miss it... and if you’re someone who hadn’t really given our local butterflies much thought before, well then, you ought not miss it!

And if you want a preview of what they’ll be talking about visit Will or Jeff’s butterfly pages on the Web:

<http://www.carolinanature.com/butterflies/>
<http://www.duke.edu/~jspippen/butterflies.htm>

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~ 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 (**Apr. 22** will be the LAST regular Sat. outing of season prior to the start of spring counts). 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.

By the way, LOTS of pelagic (seabirding) offerings coming up through the summer months off the Carolina coast from Brian Patteson. Check ‘em out here if interested:

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

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

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

“Fish gotta swim and birds gotta fly; insects, it seems, gotta do one horrible thing after another. I never ask why of a vulture or shark, but I ask why of almost every insect I see.”

~ Annie Dillard

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Spring Counts Around the Corner

If it’s springtime, there are compilers seeking out bird counters. Spring bird counts, dates, and contacts for nearby areas are listed below. Ol’ timers know the ropes; if you’re new take the plunge and offer your assistance! :

Chapel Hill, Saturday, 5 May 2007
Contact: Will Cook, cwcook@duke.edu
(919)382-9134

Durham, Sunday, 29 April 2007
Contact: Mike Schultz, ross.gull@verizon.net
(919)490-6761

Falls Lake, Monday, 30 April 2007
Contact: Brian Bockhahn, Brian.Bockhahn@ncmail.net or cbockhahn4@earthlink.net, (919)676-1027

Jordan Lake, Sunday, 6 May 2007
Contact: Carol Williamson, cnbrdr@yahoo.com
(919)383-2364

Kerr Lake, Tuesday, 1 May 2007
Contact: Brian Bockhahn

Raleigh/Wake County, Saturday, 12 May 2007
Contact: John Connors, John.Connors@ncmail.net
919-755-0253 (h)

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

[Due to a lack of recent respondents, this month you're forced to meet CHBC member Rob Gluck...]:

Rob's interest in birds started as a youngster growing up in Illinois, but dropped during college years in California, Kentucky, and Michigan where he missed out on some great birding! He renewed the hobby upon joining CHBC in 1981, under the infectious enthusiasm of Bill and Margaret Wagner. Favorite local birding spots include the Horace Williams Tract in central Chapel Hill, and in the springtime, Johnston Mill Tract and certain stretches of Bolin Creek.

Pileated Woodpeckers are his favorite local bird, but hummingbirds, Yellow-B. Chats, Prothonotary Warblers, and B. Eagles are also high on that list, and he loves psittacine birds as well. Since seeing the vagrant Snowy Owl at Fort Fisher many years ago there is nothing particular on his wish list, though an exotic hummingbird in his own backyard would be a treat.

One of his more memorable birding joys involved chasing a Pileated Woodpecker through the woods at Mason Farm until it met up with its spouse and after some quick greeting 'kuk-kuks' seeing the two mate. He's also had many wonderful encounters with adult and juvenile Barred Owls on UNC campus over the years.

Among side interests are hand-drumming, and running a blog solely devoted to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. In that regard his overall favorite bird book probably remains Jerome Jackson's **In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker**.

Rob has worked mostly as a lab technologist, but also had many odd jobs over the years, and oh yeah, on the side, he currently edits a local bird club newsletter...

..... **HEYYYY THERE!...**

---> Some members are still tardy on their dues for 2007. Check your mailing label to make sure you're not one of them (right-hand date is when your dues were/are due). If you renewed recently the label might not yet show it. The mailing list will soon be brought up-to-date to reflect paid-up members, so don't get left on the cutting room floor! <---

..... ~~ Spring Has Sprung ~~

Migrant birds are showing up daily (or passing through) from their wintering grounds so be on the lookout for warblers, swallows, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, and of course hummingbirds, if you haven't already seen some (and get those hummer

feeders up and filled!).

The regularity of some bird behavior (like migration) is a fascinating thing -- but birds' unpredictability is probably even more interesting: Harry LeGrand reports being "baffled at the nesting colonies of Yellow-crowned NH's in downtown Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro;" and for whatever reason, more and more inland Great Blue Heronries are being reported in the Piedmont every year; and Ravens continue their movement eastward -- two nesting pairs are known in Winston-Salem; how much longer before a nest is found in the Triangle? Every week birding offers surprises if only we could catch them all.

..... **Notice From the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh**

The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Downtown Raleigh is pleased to announce the opening of its newest special exhibit: "Hunters of the Sky" running from Saturday, March 10 - Monday, May 28, 2007.

"Hunters of the Sky" takes a closer look at birds of prey, or "raptors" -- eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and vultures -- and helps visitors understand them as diverse, charismatic, biologically complex animals. In addition to more than 70 museum-traditional bird mounts, the exhibit includes several interactive portions, including birds-eye-view video footage shot from gliders, a demonstration about the physics of flight, and a "hooting" booth that lets listeners hear and attempt to mimic owl calls.

The exhibit also presents information about controversial bird extinction and preservation issues, but allows visitors to make up their own minds about the debates and to share their opinions through computerized "polling booths."

For more details on the exhibit, please call 919-733-7450 or visit:

www.naturalsciences.org

Another related upcoming presentation will be "Raptor Day" on Saturday, May 5, featuring live birds from Charlotte's Carolina Raptor (rehabilitation) Center.

The Museum is located at the corner of Jones and Salisbury Streets in downtown Raleigh.

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-- Quiz Corner --

(answer at end of pg. 4)

Birds: from head to tail

Can you place the following parts/areas of a bird in the sequential order that they occur running from a bird's beak to it's tail? :

- a. nape
- b. culmen
- c. vent
- d. lores
- e. supercillium
- f. rectrices
- g. mantle

Book Corner

As of this writing no telling what the final outcome of the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker will be, but the publication of books on the subject is a definite success! Auburn's Dr. Geoffrey Hill is out with his story of the purported find along the Choctawhatchee River in the Florida Panhandle: **Ivory Hunters: The Search for the Ivory-billed Wood-pecker in a Flooded Wilderness.**

(By the way, Triangle-ites Dr. Greg Lewbart and wife Diane recently returned from 3 months participation in the official Choctawhatchee search.)

VENTURES

If you're looking for a birding adventure either within the state of North Carolina or MUCH farther afield, you can't do much better than Simon Thompson's "Ventures" birding tours based out of western N.C. (and if you like English accents all the better!) Many varied upcoming offerings:

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

Who Knew...?

An inquiry to CHBC-er Will Cook regarding "resident vs. migrant" Belted Kingfishers brought about a look at a decade's worth of count data in our area which seemed to indicate that there might indeed be twice as many of the species around in the wintertime as in the breeding months. Just when they start arriving (and from where) or departing, unknown.

Do Kingfishers Play?

-- from Ginger Travis

I think they do.

A recent thread on Carolinabirds about kingfishers brought up an old memory. On Oct. 15, 2000 I paddled up the Haw River from Bynum dam. In the distance I saw a couple of birds chasing each other. When I got close enough to sort things out, I saw what looked like a game of catch-me-if-you-can. An immature accipiter sat on a branch over the water. A kingfisher sat on another branch just a few yards away – and nonchalantly preened. The accipiter launched itself straight at the kingfisher, which dove down off its perch and smacked the water hard. The splash really unnerved the hawk, which veered away and flew back up to its perch. The kingfisher returned to its branch and sat there while the young hawk stared and seemed to be pondering how to catch it. After a minute or so, the hawk launched itself at the kingfisher again, the kingfisher hit the water, and both returned to their perches. Repeat: again and again.

Later, when I wrote down what I'd seen, I estimated the game was repeated "20 to 30 times." Sounds improbable, but it seemed to go on forever, with the same result every single time. So let's say, conservatively, that the score was at least 13 or 14 to 0 in favor of the kingfisher.

Finally the kingfisher seemed to have had enough of the game. Silently, it left its perch and flew straight across the river, turned upstream and was gone. Game over – bye, bye. And the hawk just sat there.

Gull Watchers Beware

A published study in a UK "Molecular Ecology" journal, classifying bird species by genetic analysis, found that around 5% of N. American birds were misclassified by the usual, non-molecular techniques -- some species needed to be lumped together (including at least 8 gull species that could not be genetically distinguished), while other species needed to be split (having genetically-distinctive, though physically similar "cryptic" species within their classifications). For the time being the molecular approach won't be the final arbiter of such matters, but it will certainly add to the debate.

Riddle...

What do the NRA, Governor Easley, Congressman David Price, the Audubon Society, farmers, hunters,

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birders, environmentalists, and uhhh, other thinking people, all have in common? -- nothing!... except that they all actively oppose the U.S. Navy's plan for a 230 million dollar outlying landing field in Eastern N. Carolina; but that apparently won't prevent the Navy from spending more taxpayer dollars pursuing it. Stay tuned.

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Arthur Bent "Life Histories" on the Web

Arthur Cleveland Bent published his incredible 21-volume series **Life Histories of North American Birds** over many years starting in 1919. While some of his information and terminology is outdated it still makes for interesting reading, and much of it is now available (for free) on the Web here:

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

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==> Clarification

A few months back I cited two bird websites of interest in the *Bulletin*. As luck would have it, shortly after the newsletter came out one site was hacked into and went offline for quite awhile and the other one changed its URL. So, just a note that "http://www.surfbirds.com" is back up and running now, and the new URL for the other site mentioned is "http://littlebirdiehome.com."

~~ 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:

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*, 844-9050)
- >Vice-Pres.(RDU): *Karen Bearden*, 844-9050,
chickadeebirders@earthlink.net
- >Vice-Pres. (Chapel Hill): *Ginger Travis*, 942-7746,
ginger_travis@bellsouth.net
- >Secretary: *Amalie Tuffin*, 360-0498, 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>

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-- CBC Anniversary --

The Chapel Hill Bird Club isn't the only N.C. birding group with a long, illustrious past -- the Carolina Bird Club just celebrated its 70th anniversary in March! If you're not already familiar with it check them out here:

<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>

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DON'T Be Shy Y'all...

Sti-i-i-ill searching for a prospective newsletter editor (one individual expressed interest in doing it a year+ from now, but just can't take it over for next season); as newsletters go, ours is a fairly simple one to do (but does require some time and organizational skills), and if you've done a newsletter before, or just have ample computer experience, there's a lot of room to 'dress it up' if so inclined. Email me at "thrush@hotmail.com" or call 967-3134, if interested (the sooner the better!!).

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Parting Words...

"It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out; it's the grain of sand in your shoe."

~ Robert Service

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Quiz Corner answer: b, d, e, a, g, c, f

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