

birding the triangle... and beyond, for over half a century

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The BULLETIN...

Chapel Hill Bird Club

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<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

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>> Meeting: Monday, Sept. 22 <<

Birding Ecuador

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

Who/What: Will Cook, Derb Carter, and Kent Fiala will tell tales and show photos of their three week tour of northern Ecuador in Nov-Dec 2007. Traveling from Wild Sumaco to Tandayapa and Rio Cananda, we'll hit the prime foothills hotspots east and west of Quito. We'll see a sampling of the well-over 500 bird species total on the trip (61 hummingbirds!) from the improbably-named Band-tailed Barbthroat and the petite Booted Racket-tail to the magnificent Sword-billed Hummingbird. Plus 'Maria' the Giant Antpitta in action! And of course, some of the fascinating butterflies, mammals, flowers, and other wondrous things found along the way.

Saturday Morning Field Trips

Local field trips, usually lead by Doug Shadwick, depart from Glen Lennox Shopping Center Parking lot off HWY 54 promptly at 7:30 most Saturday mornings. All skills are welcome. Trips are usually over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. For further details, call Doug at 942-0479.

To :

No. 6

Many, Many Thanks to Doug Shadwick

Doug Shadwick has been our Field Trip Leader and Coordinator for the past 20 years!

Every Saturday morning from September to April, excluding the Bird Count days, Doug has been available (with the occasional rare substitute) to lead trips to a variety of local birding sites. He has patiently tutored neophytes and made his opinions gently available to any one who wishes to join the Saturday morning group. He's a tremendous asset to our whole community.

Thank you, Doug!

New Hope Audubon Society 2008 Bird Seed & Bird-friendly Coffee Sale

Judy Murray has asked me to let you know that the annual Audubon Society sale is at hand. This is a wonderful opportunity to buy seed at a reasonable price, and to support the growers who help sustain our migrating birds in their trips to their wintering grounds. We will have some sample forms at the September meeting.

Please contact Judy at 942-2985, or e-mail her at jmurray@unc.edu for further information and order forms. Judy **must** have all orders and pre-payment in hand in hand by October 15, 2008.

Judy and Dave Smith's May talk on Birding in Antarctica

The town of Ushuaia on Terra del Fuego was the starting point for Dave and Judy Smith's trip to Antarctica. They traveled on a Russian ship, the "Akademik Ioffe", named after for a Russian physicist. The ship had originally been a research vessel, but was currently outfitted to carry tourists. There were about 100 passengers.

Their first stop was on the Falkland Islands, about 300 miles from the Argentine coast. They saw four kinds of penguins there, but most impressive was a huge mixed breeding colony of Rockhopper penguins and Black-browed albatross.

The next stop was South Georgia, a former sealing and whaling center. This is the island where Ernest Shackleton and 5 comrades found assistance for their expedition (expedition mates on Elephant Island after rowing in an open boat for 800 miles.) Four kinds of penguins including Gentoo, Megellanic, and King Penguins were seen. They also saw the southernmost passerine in the world, the South Georgia Pipit

From South Georgia they continued to the islands off the coast of Antarctica, and to the continent itself. The international authorities limit the number of tourists which can land on the continent at one time. Dave and Judy noted that because their ship was small, all of the passengers would be loaded into Zodiacs, and while half their number were landed and observing wild life, the other half were traveling around smaller islands and icebergs. After about 2 hours, they would change places, allowing everyone to get good views. They saw Chinstrap, Gentoo and Adelie Penguins.

They dressed in layers, as they had been advised, and were especially glad that they had splurged on well insulated boots. When asked if they had been able to stay warm, Dave said that the gloves could have been a bit warmer, but taking the outer layer off to take photographs may have caused the problem in keeping his fingers warm. Otherwise, they did well. When asked what part of the trip was most memorable, When asked what part of the trip was most memorable, David said that the sight of the massive numbers of King Penguins in the colony on South Georgia was on a par with anything listed.

The Smith's photos were wonderful, and gave a real sense of what they saw. We are fortunate that they shared their experiences with us, and I regret that more people were not able to attend. By Karen Piplani

Mobile Wrens

For those of you who do not subscribe to "Carolinabirds", there are frequently amusing stories relating to various species. Last March there were several stories about the strange places that Carolina Wrens choose to roost.

From: "James Coman" <hillshepherd@skybest.com>
Date: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:30 AM
A day or so ago Dr. Mark Simpson forwarded a note from a Tennessee listserv about Carolina wrens successfully nesting on a tractor that was in use. I think that this may be a much more common occurrence than the writer thought, as the same thing has happened to me on no less than three occasions.

In the '60s a Carolina Wren nested in the toolbox of a Farmall Cub that I was using almost daily for maintenance on my parent's farm near Hillsborough, and successfully raised broods to fledging in two successive years. It was probably the same wren.

From: Jafortney1@aol.com
Date: Fri, 14 Mar 2008 13:59:37 +0000
Many years ago I read in the Durham Morning Herald (as it then was) of a pair of wrens that nested in a postal service van. The wrens made their daily rounds with the mailman and successfully fledged a nestling or two.
Judith Fortney, Durham NC.

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers

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