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# The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club March 2009

http://chbc.carolinanature.com

Vol. 37

# > Meeting: Monday, Mar 23, 2009 <

**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: Norm Budnitz will be speaking on "Birding the Galapagos Islands"

Help us celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth with a reprise of Norm's long-dreamed-of trip to the Galapagos Islands in June 2008. We'll get a vicarious tour through the lens of Norm's camera. He has close-ups of iguanas, tortoises, Boobies, Noddies, Frigatebirds, and even the almost, but not quite, look-alike finches.

Norm was a teacher of science and math at Carolina Friends School for 22 years, and then started a program with one of his former professors to teach teachers how to teach science. That program has evolved into an independent non-profit called the Center for Inquiry-Based learning. Now that Norm is working part-time, he has been doing a lot of travel, and we are the fortunate beneficiaries.

# **Saturday Morning Field Trips**

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

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-	=		

No. 3

over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. For further details, call Doug at 942-0479, or see the CHBC website at: http://chbc.carolinanature.com/

## **All Bulletins**

Will routinely be sent via E-mail starting September 2009.

If you do not have e-mail, or wish to continue to receive a mailed copy, please call the editor, Karen Piplani, at (919) 929-6553, or write her at the address in the top left corner to notify her that you wish to continue receiving the Bulletin via regular mail.

Please give us your e-mail address so that we may continue to insure that you will receive the Bulletin. Early notification will help us save even more money which may go toward local birding projects.

# Have you paid this year's dues?

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If not, there will be a yellow mark on the date on the mailing label. Please bring your dues (checks payable to the Chapel Hill Bird Club) to the next meeting, with the completed membership form, or mail them to:

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

	Membership Form	
Name_		
Address	S	
nh		
E-mail_		
	New member: or, RENEWAL:_	

dues: \$15/yr. individuals/family, \$10/year students Please make checks payable to Chapel Hill Bird Club.

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### 2008 Chapel Hill (NC) Christmas Bird Count Summary

The Chapel Hill Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, 21 December 2008, produced 86 species, the lowest count in ten years (10-year average 90.6). Weather was a major factor in this count, keeping bird numbers down with heavy rain for an hour at daybreak, followed by moderately strong winds in the afternoon. The count of 13019 individuals (10-year average 16856) is the lowest since 1997, as is the 97.2 birds per party-hour (average 116).

Rarities: Derb Carter found a Horned Grebe at the American Stone quarry pond, where he usually sees nothing, for our first since 1985. Doug Shadwick found a Black-and-white Warbler near Jordan Lake, only our third count record. Pam Timmons also saw another Black-and-white at her feeder a couple of days after the count. Other goodies included a Red-breasted Merganser at Jordan Lake (Phil Warren) and a flock of 11 White-crowned Sparrows near Dairyland Road (Derb Carter), and an adult male Baltimore Oriole (Julia Shields).

Record highs: The count of 33 Ruddy Ducks almost triples the previous high of 13 set in 2005. The rain and wind kept vultures on their roosts for easy counting. We set a record high of 377 Black Vultures (280 in 2006) and almost a record of 405 Turkey Vultures (surpassed only by 407 in 1977). The amazing count of 506 Chipping Sparrows (381

in 2004) is 3.67 times the average count. Field Sparrows were also well above normal (highest since 1995), though not near a record. Pine Siskins made a major push into the area this winter and the count of 154 is the highest since 1980.

No record lows were set, but quite a few species were the lowest in more than a decade: Sharpshinned Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, and House Sparrow. Because of the rainy and windy conditions, we missed all the owls for the first time since 1989.

Teams honors: Derb Carter, covering the Dairyland Road area, had the highest species count, with 57 (1438 birds). Jeff Pippen's party, covering the Orange County landfill area, counted the most birds, 1510 (51 species).

Most abundant birds: White-throated Sparrow (1175), Dark-eyed Junco (961), Ring-billed Gull (814), Northern Cardinal (532), and Canada Goose (511).

Weather: Temperature 42-59 F, wind from the west at 5-20 mph, overcast-partly cloudy, heavy rain in am, water open. Effort: 39 observers in 21 field parties, 134 party hours (99 by foot, 35 by car) and 344.25 party miles (82.25 by foot, 262 by car), 3.3 hours and 2.75 miles owling, 9 people and 12 hours watching feeders.

Full count results are available on the Christmas Bird Count web site.

Thanks to the participants for counting through the miserable weather!

-- Will Cook, compiler

#### **Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers**

President: Amalie Tuffin, amaliet@post.harvard.edu

Vice President: Ginger Travis, (919) 942-7746 ginger\_travis@bellsouth.net

Vice President: Dave Gulick <u>d2gulick@earthlink.net</u> Secretary: Amalie Tuffin, <u>amaliet@post.harvard.edu</u>

Treasurer: Patsy Bailey, (919) 933-5850
Field Trip Coordinator: Doug Shadwick, (919)942-0479 dougshadwick@nc.rr.com
WebMaster: Will Cook cwcook@duke.edu

Bulletin Editor: Karen Piplani,(919) 929-6553, k\_piplani@alumni.unc.edu

#### 2008 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

Simulat Cooker   1909   1956   556   251   201   511   88   70   31   40   22   20   60   24   20   31   53   12   11   48   14   14   15   15   15   15   15   15		12/20					12/21										— Cl	hapel	Hill O	bserve	r Part	y —									
Triumfer Soan  15	Species	Ral	Dur	Kerr	JL	Falls	СН	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	8	3 9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Mides Swam    15	Canada Goose	1094	1295	556	251	281	511	88	76	31		40	2	2 26	66	5	24			20	14		53		12	11		48			
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American Bisk Dock  S	American Wigeon	2	29	5																											
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Double-crested Commorant   38   418   69   1082   638   8				74	4	29	1	1																							
Greet Blue Herom  41 73 27 74 51 40 2 2 2 1 1 1 5 1 4 3 4 7 2 1 5 5 1 4 6 1 8 8 8 1 1 2 2 1 1 5 5 1 1 4 4 3 4 7 7 2 1 5 5 1 1 4 4 5 8 8 1 1 2 2 1 1 5 8 8 1 1 1 1 5 1 4 3 8 8 2 4 7 7 13 2 2 6 6 8 3 6 82 125 1 1 4 4 6 7 12 1 1 5 1 4 1 4 20 1 1 5 1 1 4 1 4 20 1 1 5 1 1 4 1 4 20 1 1 5 1 1 4 1 4 20 1 1 5 1 1 4 1 4 20 1 1 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Eared Grebe				1	cw																									
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Cooper's Hawk  6		2	1	4	1	2	1																								
Red-shouldered Hawk  18		6	4		2	4	3			1										1									1		
Red-tailed Hawk		18	28	10	23	12	27	2	2			3	-	2 3	1		1			4	1	1				1			2		
American Kestrel 5 4 5 5 3 3 1			-													,	4			3	2	2	3	1	2	-		1	2	$\rightarrow$	
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Spotted Sandpiper		24	01	20		20	52	20					-	1	<b>—</b>							-	11								
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American Woodcock 5 6 8 3 3 7				<u> </u>	10	- 1																							$\rightarrow$		
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Herring Gull 245 49 226 188 2 1 1 1			1																			-									
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Rock Pigeon         299         204         52         59         50         59         2         30         14         1         3         9         9         1         1         3         8         18           Mourning Dove         171         157         201         346         252         292         64         4         17         4         20         2         1         36         1         6         16         34         15         2         25         1         10         3         8         18           Great Horned Owl         4         2         2         1         8         8         8         8         9         8         9         9         9         9         9         10         3         8         18           Great Horned Owl         4         2         2         1         8         9         9         9         9         9         9         10         3         18         18         9         1         10         3         18         10         3         1         10         3         18         18         10         15         10         10         10 </td <td>Great Black-backed Gull</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td></td>	Great Black-backed Gull		1			2																									
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Mourning Dove 171 157 201 346 252 292 64 4 17 4 20 2 1 36 1 6 16 34 15 2 25 1 10 3 8 18  Eastern Screech-Owl 1 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	Rock Pigeon	299	204	52					2	30		14			1			3					9								
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Great Horned Owl         4         2         2         1         8	Eastern Screech-Owl		1		3									$\top$															$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	
Barred Owl 1 6 3 3 2		4	2	2 2	1	8													_										$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	_
		1	6	3	3	2								+		+			_	$\vdash$									-	$\overline{}$	_
	BLACK-CHINNED HUMMER	1	H	1	<del>                                     </del>	<del>                                     </del>	-	1					1	1		+			<u> </u>	$\vdash$	-								$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	

#### 2008 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

	12/20	12/14	1/2		1/5	12/21										— Cl	napel l	Hill O	bserve	r Part	y —									
Species	Ral	Dur	Kerr	$_{ m JL}$	Falls	СН	1	2	3	4	5	6	5 5	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rufous Hummingbird	1	Î		1	1																									$\neg$
Belted Kingfisher	19	26	7	22	21	18			1		2		1	1		3			2		1	1	1	2	1			1		1
Red-headed Woodpecker	6	35	5 5	23	11	23								1							1	1	18	2						
Red-bellied Woodpecker	114	155	62	129	91	135	6	5	12	2	14	7	7 3	3		4	7		8	10	11	8	4		2	2	2	7	1	9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	38	70	21	. 53	38	48	2	4	3		6			9			1	1	2	5	2	4	1	2			1	2	$\neg$	3
Downy Woodpecker	88	80	20	77	57	89	3	3	3	2	8	7	7 6	6	1	3	1	4	5	5	7	3	5	3	3	2	2	3	2	2
Hairy Woodpecker	15	17		16	25	15	1		3									1	2	1	1		2						$\overline{}$	1
N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	99	195	63	83	127	81	3		9			5	5 3	5		7	2	1	7	4	8	5	4		8		3		$\overline{}$	3
Pileated Woodpecker	14	20			19		2	1			1										1			2		2	1			
Eastern Phoebe	19	54		35	23	36		1	3		2					4	1		4	2	6	2	3	1	3	1	1		_	
Loggerhead Shrike	5		1	1	1																	_		-					_	_
White-eyed Vireo	1		<del>                                     </del>		<del>-</del>	<del>                                     </del>																							-	-
Blue-headed Vireo	1	1		3	4			_					+																$\rightarrow$	_
Blue Jay	141	286	225	301	133	194	7	2	16		12	2	,	6	1	18	12		4	6	6	16	17	8	20		6	12	12	11
American Crow	319	392			433	396	55	7	30	6				_	3				12	7	5	32	36			4			-12	30
Fish Crow	8	1	300	030	3	370	33		50		20	12	1	11		31	0		12	- '		32	- 50	- 0	31		13	10	-	
Carolina Chickadee	282	527	7 73	291	347	371	21	20	34	2	49	16	5 4	23	2	19	7	15	17	18	12	14	16	12	11	2	6	19	7	25
Tufted Titmouse	180	410	79		194	318	14	12	5					_	2		10	11	15	16	13	10	14		15	3	13	14	4	16
Red-breasted Nuthatch	100	410	<b>1</b> /5	21/	194	310	14	12	٥		42	21	1	14		21	10	11	13	10	1.3	10	14	13	1.0	٥	13	14		-10
White-breasted Nuthatch	74	51	. 20	46	43	61	4	7	2	1	5	4	1 1	4		2	3	2		2	3	4	3	2	5	1	1	1	$\longrightarrow$	
	44	76			146	99		-	16					1		2				11	5	6				2	2	1	$\longrightarrow$	11
Brown-headed Nuthatch Brown Creeper	14	19				10		_	_	1	10	3	, .	0						11	3	2	1	0	- 4				$\longrightarrow$	11
	255	276		230	16 173	295	1.1	10	31	1		_	1 12	10	2	1.1	12	0	20	17	1		12	7	0		1.0	4		27
Carolina Wren	255	2/0	/0	230	1/3	293	11	10		1	33	2	2 12	! 19	2	11	12	8	29	1/	8	3	13	7	8	2	16	4	9	
House Wren	10	20		1 14	0	22		-	2				<b>!</b>						9		-	- 1		1	_					
Winter Wren	12 78	39		14	28	33	2	4	21		_	1.4		_		2		_		- 1	5	1.4	3	1	5				$\longrightarrow$	-17
Golden-crowned Kinglet		308			304		9	6	21		5				- 1	3	2	2	4	1	37	14	19							17
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	149	212	2 59	200	235	172	10	9	18		17	2	2 3	9	1	4	3	4	15	6	12	25	5	5	6	2		2	/	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4.50			1				2.1			- 10																			
Eastern Bluebird	178	337	121		239	346	55	26	37			4	_	_		33	4	2	35	20	18	15	6				25	3		15
Hermit Thrush	22	50			31	42	2	2	3		4		1			1		1	8		7	3	3		3			1		2
American Robin	601	494	333	2018	1746	228	1				11		1	12		14	8	8	10	28	1			1	4		1	59	24	45
Gray Catbird	1			1	1	2	1												1											
Northern Mockingbird	85				52	146	14	3	8		7		. 4			39	4		11	8	1	5		2	1		10	6	3	12
Brown Thrasher	19	24			18	23	1				5			1	1		1		5	1		1			1		1		3	2
European Starling	256	479		586	330	404	51		21		15		18	12			24		17	30	4						200			12
American Pipit	22	136		2	3	23	23																							
Cedar Waxwing	308	673	246		444	462	208		14		24							7	35	64		15			20		15	25		33
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	210	426			101	407	15	1	32		18		2 14	33		150		3	15	19	12		4		11	1	10	6	1	45
Pine Warbler	44	35	21	. 87	53	25	4	1	1	2	2			2			2			1		3	3		2	1			1	
Palm Warbler	2	2	2	2																										
Black-and-white Warbler						1		cw															1							
Common Yellowthroat		1																												
Eastern Towhee	150	135			88	147	1	1	21		21		1	. 5		16	6	4	22	5		11	11	5	3		4	2	3	5
Chipping Sparrow	82	204	172	398	89	506	52	47	115			2	2 15	1		130			12	21	12	87					11		1	
Field Sparrow	38	177	57	204	28	169	2	2	27				1	'		12	2		50			34	21	2	4		6			
Savannah Sparrow	11	36	45	37	5	7			6												1									
Fox Sparrow	12	17	7 10	29	13	36			2		5	1	. 4						16				6					2		
Song Sparrow	254	829	131	351	243	486	37		118		4		39	1		52	4		85	11	13	21	68	17	6		1	3	3	3
Swamp Sparrow	26				33	98	6		17										26			3	42							
White-throated Sparrow	510	1374	760	656	435	1175	67	15	147		79	2	2 80	15	1	81	15	14	400	22	6	21	18	17	49		14	20	55	37
White-crowned Sparrow	3		1			11																								
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	211	633	1204	1168	611	961		36	170	3	45	6	5 26	32		76	10	5	70	47	42	48	59	16	20	24	23	24	73	48
Northern Cardinal	269	384					14		72				_						$\overline{}$	43	9	22	7		14	3	19			27
Red-winged Blackbird	83		2393		1700			_			- '	200					_		6	100	2	21				-1	-		$\overline{}$	4
Eastern Meadowlark	41		87		48	45	35	-	10				1	$\vdash$															$\rightarrow$	$\overline{}$
Rusty Blackbird	<u> </u>	43		cw	l	11		-															11						$\rightarrow$	-
Common Grackle	160	2		115	2285	10		-+				1	1	$\vdash$	1				8						_				$\rightarrow$	$\overline{}$
Brown-headed Cowbird	1397	2		2	-200	1		$\rightarrow$				- 1	+	$\vdash$	- 1											-			$\rightarrow$	-
	,																												$\longrightarrow$	

#### **2008 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts**

	12/20	12/14	1/2	1/4	1/5	12/21										— Ch	apel I	Hill O	bserve	r Part	<b>y</b> —									
Species	Ral	Dur	Kerr	JL	Falls	СН	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Baltimore Oriole	5					1									1													$\neg$		$\neg$
Purple Finch	14	22	1	58	14	25						20							3							2		$\neg$		
House Finch	199	190	89	76	78	163	22	2	11		42	5		2	1	12	4	5	10	19		2					1	$\neg$		25
Pine Siskin		24	69	598	250	154	5		25	2		1				12			5		1					20				83
American Goldfinch	337	529	274	568	451	446	38	6	45	34	26	10	12	5		10	5	14	20	21	10	19	3	2	29	16	1	35		85
House Sparrow	40	100	10	35	11	32	5				6		7				2											12		
TOTAL SPECIES 122	92	92	90	97	93	86	57	37	51	17	44	36	41	43	13	41	34	24	52	41	51	50	46	39	38	19	35	32	20	40
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	10204	23596	12509	46878	26626	13019	1438	351	1510	73	723	397	376	381	20	1044	208	145	1361	629	406	634	482	372	515	100	467	334	288	765
Number of Field Parties			10	23				1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Number of Participants	53	37	15	51	31	39	1	2	3	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	5
Start Time:						500	600	755	915		720	630	830	710		730	1030	1230	715	730	900	700	630	500	730	700	835	700	730	600
End Time:						1800	1700	1700	1615		1255	1600	1500	1540		1800	1530	1530	1745	1330	1730	1300	1300	1430	1200	830	1710	1300	1715	1630
Party Hours: Total	81	112.75	72.25	128		134		6.75		-	7	6	0.5	7.5	0	10	5	3	7	6	6.5	6.5	6	l VI	4.5	0	5.75	6	5.5	9
Party Hours: On Foot			53.5	85		99		5.25			1.5	5	5.5	2.5		4.5	4.5	3	7	2	5.5	6	5.5		4.5		5.25	2	4.5	9
Party Hours: By Car			18.75	43	18.25	35	1	1.5	1		5.5	1	1	5		5.5	0.5			4	1	0.5	0.5	1.5			0.5	4	1	
Party Miles: Total			229.5	332		344.25		18.5		0	23.5	7.5	30	21	0	31	9.5	3	5	23	11	18		11.5		0	10	44	5.5	4.5
Party Miles: On Foot			37.25	65		82.25	2				3.5	2.5	5	1		7	4.5	3	5	2	6	8	4		1.75		8	2	3.5	4.5
Party Miles: By Car			192.25	267	173	262	37	15	17		20	5	25	20		24	5			21	5	10	2	10			2	42	2	
			L.,																0.0											
Nocturnal Hours			5	3.5		3.3						0.5						0.5	0.3					0.5					$\rightarrow$	1
Nocturnal Miles			32.35	9	1.25	2.75	2					0						0.25						0					$\rightarrow$	0.5
F 1 W/ (1					L					- 1					- 1											1		$\longrightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	_
Feeder Watchers					2	9				1					1											1		$\longrightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	- 6
Feeder Hours					7	12				1.5					1											2.5				7

CH: Chapel Hill count date: 12/21/08; compiler: Will Cook; 42-59 F; W 5-20 mph; rain in am; overcast-partly cloudy Ral: Raleigh count date: 12/20/08; compiler: John Connors; weather: 55-65 F, cloudy, no rain

Harriet Sato, Bob Winstead

Falls: Falls Lake count date: 1/5/09; compiler: Brian Bockhahn; 44-54 F, overcast, wind 5-10

14 21

Kerr: Kerr Lake count date: 1/2/09; compiler: Brian Bockhahn;

**Dur:** Durham count date: 12/14/08; compiler: Mike Schultz; temp 27-52 F, partly cloudy-cloudy, no precip **JL:** Jordan Lake count date: 1/4/09; compiler: Norm Budnitz; temp 45-52 F, cloudy, rain in am, calm.

Party Areas	Party Members	Party	Areas	Party Members
1 1,4	Derb Carter	15	22 N	Brian Bockhahn
2 2,7	Pam Timmons, Perry Haaland	16	22 S	Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Phil Warren
3 3,5, 6	Jeff Pippen, Toni Rexrode, Jacob Socolar	17	24 N	Doug Shadwick
4 4-yard	Cynthia Fox	18	24 S	Edith Tatum
5 8, 13	Tom Driscoll,Bo Howes	19	23, 25	Amalie Tuffin
6 9, 10	Norm Budnitz	20	25-yard	Shelley Theye
7 11, 12	Kent Fiala	21	26	Jane Brinkley
8 14, 17	Betty King, Judy Teague	22	27, 28	David Curtin
9 14-yard	Julia Shields	23	29	Pat Cummins, Tom Biek
10 15, 18	Eric Scholz, Michelle Smith	24	32	Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Bobbie Hahn, David Murdock, Lynn Ogden
11 16-part	Ginger Travis			Feeder watchers: Candace Owens, Harry & Caroline Pederson, Joan Redmann,
12 16-part	Jay Linke			Jerrold & Joan Walecka
13 20	Will Cook, Jack & Pam Stewart, David Edsall			