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The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

February 2011

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

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Meeting: Monday, Feb. 28, 2011

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: **Jessica Stocking**
&
Tracy Borneman

of the North Carolina State Biology Department,
will be speaking about

What: **“Current Research**
with
American Oystercatchers
Of the North Carolina Coast”



Photo Courtesy of Walker Golder, Audubon North Carolina

Saturday Field Trips

Few of us can forget the first time we saw an American Oystercatcher. The brown back, white chest, with the black head, and startlingly bright orange bill and eye ring are not-to-be-forgotten. Our speakers will be giving us an up-date on the state of current research on these wonderful birds on the North Carolina coast.

Join us on Monday, February 28, to hear about the status of this fascinating bird in North Carolina, directly from folks who are conducting research currently.

Trips are usually led by Doug Shadwick and depart from Glen Lennox Shopping Center Parking lot off HWY 54 promptly at 7:30 most Saturday mornings. Remaining field trips are scheduled for Feb 26, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 17 - last regular local trip of the season.

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.

Dues Notices went out this Month

The Chapel Hill Bird Club fiscal year goes from January to December. Folks who have paid their dues through January 2011 have received notices that their Bird Club membership payments are due now.

Your dues support the provision of meeting space for our speakers and the club, assistance with the costs of the annual Christmas Bird Count, and support of other worth-while projects. If you have any questions, please e-mail or call Karen Piplani, karen.piplani@gmail.com, 919-929-6553.

Piedmont Wildlife Center 2011 Festival for Wildlife

The Piedmont Wildlife Center will be having its fourth annual Festival for Wildlife, an event to promote the preservation of and education about nature and wildlife. It includes live music, live animals, food, games, crafts, and of course, lots of outdoor fun! People of all ages and backgrounds come out to enjoy this exciting spring celebration. Last year was a hit with more than 500 attendees and 25 participating organizations showcasing their commitment to conservation in the local community. This year's Festival will take place Saturday, May 14th from 11:00am – 6:00 pm!

The proceeds from this event enable Piedmont Wildlife Center to pursue our mission and goals of helping native wild animals, educating the community, and participating in wildlife conservation.

They are looking for organizations and individuals who would like to take part, either with a booth, or with assistance in some other form. This might be people or organizations that could help us by bringing informational booths, hands-on activities, scheduled hikes, crafts, programs and games throughout the day.

If you or an organization is interested in participating, or if you have any questions, feel free to call (919-489-0900) or email us at festival@piedmontwildlifecenter.org for information or a registration form.

Thoughts of Spring

As birds are beginning to nest in our area, I remember James Coman, now deceased, who was a birder, farmer, and instrumental in the formation of the Blue Ridge Land Trust. He sent a note that I loved to Carolina Birds in 2008 when the topic of wrens nesting sites came up for discussion.

“Date: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:30 AM
Dear carolinabirds and Blue Ridge Birders:

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.

About 1980 a Carolina Wren successfully nested between the winch housing and seat of a Caterpillar D7-3T I was using on a farm in Caswell County. I had been using the old Caterpillar nearly every day for a week before I found that nest with healthy young nearly ready to fly, so the parent bird had obviously been following the tractor around and feeding them.

I have also found unfinished wren nests being built in impossible places such as on the exhaust manifold or cylinder head of various equipment, which had to be removed.

James Coman
Executive Director
Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust”

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