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The **BULLETIN...** Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

January 2012

H<u>http://chbc.carolinanature.com</u> http://chbirds.blogspot.com/

Vol.40

Meeting: Monday, January 23, 2012

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: John Dole & Will Cook

will be speaking about

What: Colombian Birds and Adventures

Colombia has the longest bird list of any country in the world and has become safe enough to travel in. John Dole, Professor of Horticulture at NC State, and our own Will Cook, researcher in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke, will highlight birds and experiences from a recent birding tour in Colombia. The trip was put together by fellow birder Derb Carter.

Join us for an evening's exploration of the kind of trip we'd all like to take!

Saturday Field Trips

Trips are led by Doug Shadwick and depart from Glen Lennox Shopping Center Parking lot off HWY 54 promptly at 7:30 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.

Male Bar-crested Antshrike at the Cerulean Warbler Reserve Photo by Will Cook

Save the Date: February 11th A Watershed Event

Friends of Bolin Creek have developed "**Can We Heal Our Local Waterways?**" a Symposium and Exchange focused on a community discussion of current water quality problems and actions needed to

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restore our local urban streams. A series of speakers and a community discussion takes place between 9 and 11:30 am. Then Mary Sonis takes us all on a photo journey down Bolin Creek. Between 12 - 1 pm local groups and exhibitors tell us about what they are doing for water quality. We are offering a special program for the children of those attending the Symposium. The details are on our website at <u>www.bolincreek.org</u> or on the blog <u>www.bolincreek.org/blog</u>. And food will be available.

We need your support for this event. What can you do?

- •First mark Feb 11th on your calendar and tell your friends.
- •Refer folks to <u>www.bolincreek.org</u>.
- •Be willing to play a part to support the event.

It's been a big effort to coordinate with the UNC Institute for the Environment, staff from the Towns, the NC Botanical Garden and our speakers. The more the program has come together the more we realize the acute need to begin a dialogue about how to protect our creeks. Friends of Bolin Creek and the UNC Institute for the Environment are the program developers, and the NC Botanical Garden is a co-sponsor.

From Julie McClintock



Misty evening in the bosque (rainforest) at the Piha reserve Photo by Will Cook

Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine!

For over 75 years the National Audubon Society has offered residential birding programs for adults, teens and families at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott, Don Kroodsma, Bill Thompson III and many more expert ornithologists, naturalists, educators and authors will be in residence during the 2012 sessions. Most programs sell out months in advance, so it is worth registering early. Nearly 100 scholarships are offered each year by local Audubon Chapters and birding clubs.

See website: http://hogisland.audubon.org



2010 Chapel Hill (NC) Christmas Bird Count Summary

The Chapel Hill Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, 26 December 2010 was definitely one for the record books. Not the number of species or individual birds, but for being the snowiest, prettiest, and siskiniest Chapel Hill count ever. Heavy snow began falling late the night before the count and by daybreak everything — ground, roads, trees, shrubbery, grasses — was covered by a spectacularly beautiful 5" thick layer of white. The snow continued off and on most of the day and eventually totaled about 6". Because of the snow many counters played it safe and stayed home; those that lived in the count circle counted their feeder birds. Most of those that ventured out found that the roads in Chapel Hill mostly weren't all that slick, just snowy, and enjoyed the most beautiful count day ever. Just 19 intrepid observers made it out in the snow, our lowest since 1971. Conversely, the number of feeder watchers, 19, is a record high.

So how did we do with the birds? As you might guess, the weather did have a big impact on the count. We ended up with 80 species, just one shy of last year's 81, but about 10 below the 10-year average and our lowest since 1997. Not too bad, especially considering that the most productive areas at Jordan Lake went uncovered. We counted a paltry 6234 birds, less than half the 10year average of 15978 and our lowest total since 1968. This has mostly to do with the low number of partyhours, but also the fact that it was difficult to actually see the birds in all that snow! With snow covering every limb of every tree, perched birds were lost from sight as soon as they landed. Sparrows and other field birds mostly stayed hidden in the low vegetation, under the snow. Walking through snowy fields at Mason Farm, it was bizarre to have sparrows popping out from underfoot! Number of birds per party-hour, which takes into account the low turnout, was 93.7, well below the 10-year average of 112. Also keeping birds per partyhour down, no big flocks of blackbirds, robins, or gulls were found.

The highlight of this count was an adult Bald Eagle and two Common Ravens that Derb Carter spotted feeding on a deer carcass in the snow on the side of Dairyland Road. This seems more like something you'd see in Alaska, not Chapel Hill! Besides being an amazing display of nature in the raw, this is our third count record of Common Raven, seen also in 2006 and 2007. All these were from the western edge of the count circle, though ravens have now made it much further east, to Raleigh and even to the Coastal Plain. Derb also had some Fish Crows in downtown Chapel Hill in the days before the count, for a first count week record. Other good finds on count day included an American Black Duck and Black Duck x Mallard hybrid at Mason Farm (Will Cook), a Green-winged Teal (Carter), a Blueheaded Vireo (Kent Fiala), two Red-breasted Nuthatches (Shelley Theye), a Gray Catbird (David and Judy Smith), two White-crowned Sparrows near Dairyland Road (Derb Carter), and a Baltimore Oriole at each of 3 different feeders (Judy Murray, Julia Shields, and Susan Stone). Pine Siskins are often hard to find on the count, but this year they were widespread and abundant. Total count was an astounding 357, including 150 at Cynthia Fox's feeders and 106 in Carolina Meadows.

This year we set just one record high. As you might guess — Pine Siskin! The count of 357 handily beats the 290 we had in 1969. Our average is 28; we miss them about every third count. The only other bird seen in unusually high numbers was Purple Finch — 46 is thrice the average of 15.

We set no record lows and there were no big misses, but because of the low number of field hours, dozens of species were at a small fraction of normal, at their lowest numbers in decades. Those with the lowest numbers in 40 years or more: 110 Mourning Doves (average 279, lowest since 1970), 28 Northern Flickers (average 125, lowest since 1958), 65 Blue Jays (average 248, lowest since 1964), 20 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (average 214, lowest since 1964), 51 Northern Mockingbirds (average 147, lowest since 1968), 93 European Starlings (average 716, lowest since 1958), and 50 Eastern Towhees (average 178, lowest since 1961). The count of 4 House Sparrows (average 55) is especially noteworthy since it's the lowest total since they first made an appearance on the Chapel Hill count in 1933 (no House Sparrows from the first count in 1923 through 1932).

Team honors: Derb Carter, covering the Dairyland Road area, had the highest species count and highest individual count, with 1003 birds in 58 species. Will Cook's Mason Farm team came second in species, with 52 (797 birds).

Most abundant birds: Dark-eyed Junco (1044), Whitethroated Sparrow (616), American Goldfinch (405), and Pine Siskin (357).

Weather: Temperature 28-30 F, wind from the north at 5-10 mph, overcast, heavy snow in morning, light snow in afternoon, still water partly frozen, running water open. Effort: 19 observers in 10 field parties, 66.5 party hours (53.75 by foot, 12.75 by car) and 157 party miles (35.5 by foot, 121.5 by car), 2 hours and 1 miles owling, 19 people and 53 hours watching feeders.

Thanks to all the participants for slogging through the snow to count some birds!

-- Will Cook, compiler

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers

President: David Smith, <u>davidjudysmith@verizon.net</u> Vice President: Thierry Besançon, thi.besancon@gmail.com Vice President: Judy Smith, <u>davidjudysmith@verizon.net</u> Secretary: Edith Tatum, ektatum@nc.rr.com Treasurer: Patsy Bailey, (919) 933-5850 Field Trip Coordinator: Doug Shadwick, (919)942-0479 dougshadwick@nc.rr.com Webmaster: Will Cook, <u>cwcook@duke.edu</u> Bulletin Editor: Karen Pinlani, karen pinlani@gmail.com

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2010 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

	12/18	-	1/2	1/4	1/5	12/26					— Ch	apel	Hill (Obser	ver I	Party -	_				
Species	Ral	Dur	JL	Kerr	Falls	СН	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9) 10	11	12	13	14	15
Snow Goose	3	1		5																	
ROSS'S GOOSE	1141	1107	255	3	207	224	51				10	2	75	-			10	17	20		4
Canada Goose Mute Swan	1141	1187	355	189	287	224	51	3			10	2	75	5			19	17	38		4
Wood Duck	10	172	53	15	5																
Gadwall	40		55		31																
American Wigeon	40	20	30	1	51		-														
American Black Duck	41	53	20	99	6	1												1			
Mallard x Black Duck	41	55	20	,,	0	1												1			
Mallard	277	453	65	61	36	84	37	2			2						6		7		
Northern Shoveler	69	21	4	2	1												-				
Northern Pintail	1	3	-	_	4																
Green-winged Teal	90	12	15			1	1														
Redhead			5																		
Ring-necked Duck	263	3	32	15	3	5					5										
Greater Scaup				5	1																
Lesser Scaup	21				5																
BLACK SCOTER				1																	
Bufflehead	101		47	63	145																
Common Goldeneye	1	2	2	2	1																
Hooded Merganser	395	18	117	182	606	16	5							2				5	4		
Ruddy Duck	217		cw	2																	
Northern Bobwhite			8	1	1																
Wild Turkey		12	26	16	11																
PACIFIC LOON				1																	
Common Loon	1		2	134												L					
Pied-billed Grebe	12	1	50	40	46	1													1		
Horned Grebe	2		5	120																	
Double-crested Cormorant	79		1214	88	46	1													1		
Great Blue Heron	49	77	71	46	51	18	3						1	1			1	3	8		
Black Vulture		55	62	321	93		12				3		1					12			15
Turkey Vulture	17	214	122	65	123	60	39	3			2	3	2					5			6
Osprey					1																
Bald Eagle 4 ad., 1 imm.	4	14	21	19	19	5	1												4		
Northern Harrier	2	2	2	5																	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	4	3	2	2	1												1			
Cooper's Hawk	12	5	5	2	5	3	1	1		1											
Accipiter sp.	1		2																		
Red-shouldered Hawk	32	24	31	11	30	6	2		1			1						1			1
Red-tailed Hawk	11	27	21	12	12	8	2	2										3	1		
American Kestrel	5	11	7	3	3																
Merlin			1		1																
American Coot	37		1360		2																
Killdeer	55	166	47	25	39	13	7						1					5			
Greater Yellowlegs		1																			
Lesser Yellowlegs				2	1																
Least Sandpiper		85																			
DUNLIN		2		1																	
Wilson's Snipe		18	2	cw	1	0															
American Woodcock	5	1	1(0	3	3	2											1	1			
Bonaparte's Gull	500	8	162	222	17.12	2	10	20			1	1	20				6	25	2	2	
Ring-billed Gull	582	4062	65000		4743	130	12	20			1	1	20				6	25	19	3	23
Herring Gull	3	27	89	1	52	1											1				
Lesser Black-backed Gull Great Black-backed Gull			ļ							-						-					
	413	187	54	71	50	51	7				18		1		-	-			25		
Rock Pigeon White winged Deve	413		54	/1	50	51	/				18		1		-	+			25		
White-winged Dove Mourning Dove	262	cw 106	293	147	156	110	22	4	1	15	6	2	12	2		6	1	6	10	10	12
Eastern Screech-Owl	202	106	293	14/	156	110	3			15	6	3	12	2	-	6	1	6	10	10	12
	2	1	2	9	2	3															
Great Horned Owl Barred Owl	1	3	5	9	2	cw 5	cw 2								-	+		1	1		1
Rufous Hummingbird		4	3	9	3	- ³	2									-		1			1
Belted Kingfisher	26	12	25	8	23	6		1						1		+	1	2	1		
Red-headed Woodpecker	20	55	25		23									1		+	1	2	1		1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	164		136		111	90	8	3	2	1	34	2	5		-	2	5		3	4	9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	33		38		31		8	2			34	2	5		-	- 2	3	3	3	4	9
Downy Woodpecker	98	40			53		6			2	-	4		1	-	1	4			4	13
Hairy Woodpecker	98	16	16		14		0		3		2	4	3	1	-	1	4	3		4	13
N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	83	16	10		78		7			-	2	3			-	1		<u> </u>		1	1
N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker Pileated Woodpecker	23	189			27	28					3	3	4			1		9	1	1	1
Eastern Phoebe	23	36	26	17	14		3	2			2	1	3			1		6			
Loggerhead Shrike	28		22	13	14	16	3	2				1	1			+		0	1		
Blue-headed Vireo	4				2	1							1			-					
Blue Jay	139	227	330	101	97	65	2	4	2	8	10	5	4		1	2	4	19	1	1	2
American Crow	223	525	683	291	359		29					<u> </u>				2	4	19		6	16
American Crow Fish Crow	223	525		291	359	202	29	15	4	⊢ <i>′</i>	20	9	26	6	-	+	11	6	41	0	16
Common Raven			cw	4	5	2	2									-					
Carolina Chickadee	301	270	381	88	262	143	16		3	5	31	10	2	4	2	2 1	6	18	4	10	17
Tufted Titmouse	193		343		262		10												4	10	
ranca rumouse	193	233	545	113	204	100	- 11	13	2	1 3	20	10	9	3	4	r 1	/	21	1	10	23

2010 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

	12/18	12/19	1/2	1/4	1/5	12/26					— Cł	ianel	Hill (Dbser	ver P	artv -	_				
Species	Ral	Dur			Falls	Сн	1	2	3	4		-	7			-		12	13	14	15
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	3	92	1	6	-	-	_				Ű		Ŭ		10				2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	77	49	48	30	66	28	8	2	1	2	3	3				1			1	2	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	66	80	141	30	137	33	6	7			4	2		2	1	1		2		2	
Brown Creeper	11	15	11	11	19	9			1	1	5									2	
Carolina Wren	218	226	290	85	139	118	12	4	3	3	26	9	7	4	3	2	6	18	2	2	17
House Wren	1	2	2			cw	cw														
Winter Wren		2	15		27	11		3				1						5		1	1
Sedge Wren			1																		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	209	187	223	40	245	59	4				32	7		2				2	1	6	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	80		84	24	103	20	2					1	2				1	7	4	1	1
Eastern Bluebird	218	326	341	262	233		31		3	5			4	7		6	7	75	4		17
Hermit Thrush	30		30	31	44	43	7	4		1	4	2						14	1	4	-
American Robin	825	577	660	1570	135	196	18	38				6	25	5			43	1	1		59
Gray Catbird					2	1											1				
Northern Mockingbird	108		92	49	66		14	1	1		3		1		1	1	6		2		13
Brown Thrasher	34		14	10	16						5					1		6			L
European Starling	338	412	619	313	223	93	15				18		45	1			6	8			L
American Pipit	22	188	1207	4	24	26	26					20		1.5			50	-			10
Cedar Waxwing	341	282	1386	299	90	182	33				2	30	4	15			53	5			40
Orange-crowned Warbler	210	252	120	10	117	126	-	-		-	-	_	10		<u> </u>	-	-	- 22			25
Myrtle Warbler Pine Warbler	210		139	19	115	136	5					-	18	2		3	7	33	2	4	
	23	54	37	19	35	38	4	6	3	1	2	2	1			2	1		8	8	
Palm Warbler Common Yellowthroat	8	1			1																
Eastern Towhee	00	165	134	76	116	50	1	5			1.5	1	2	5	1	1	1	9			2
Eastern Towhee Chipping Sparrow	88	165 256	325	76	251	50	1 5				15		2	5	1		1	9	7	2	
Chipping Sparrow CLAY-COLORED SPARROW	121	230	323	/8	231	/1	3	- 3			0	13							36	2	
Field Sparrow	62	141	76	20	128	47						26	1					12	1		7
VESPER SPARROW	02	141	70	20	120	4/						20	1					12	1		
Savannah Sparrow	70	98	42	57	48	9	9														
Fox Sparrow	10		45	25	30	57	27	1			13	5						2	2	3	4
Song Sparrow	338	789	392	103	312	158	27	1			2	17	30	3			5		14	5	4
Swamp Sparrow	31	153	51	31	46	24	27	1			2	1	6	5			5	10	7		
White-throated Sparrow	866	963	799	380	662	616	178	10			49	56	27	10	1	6	33		75		46
White-crowned Sparrow	1	17	.,,,	3	1	2	2	10					27			-	55	120	,,,		
Dark-eyed (Slt-col) Junco	506	708	1447	602	683	1044	133	42	30	5	148	126	77	73	1	8	95	120	70	60	56
SUMMER TANAGER	cw									-	-	-				-		-			
Northern Cardinal	342	335	415	127	260	251	17	20	2	7	44	17	10	10	2	7	39	21	23	6	26
Red-winged Blackbird	82	176	1748	820	114	35													34		1
Eastern Meadowlark	65	67	31	62	32	24	24														
Rusty Blackbird		100																			
Common Grackle	61	1013	6000	152	14	2	1											1			
Brown-headed Cowbird	124		70	11	17	32	32														
Baltimore Oriole	7		1			3				1					1	1					
Purple Finch	18		49	5	15		14			2	1	5						2		12	5
House Finch	140		133	27	120	123	5				6		1	7		8	2		2	1	61
Pine Siskin	13		276	7	60	357	7					60						5		25	106
American Goldfinch	334	527	484	134	260	405	37	15	12	10	24	20	1	18		4		20	9	100	135
House Sparrow	16			4	42								2	_			2				
TOTAL SPECIES124	97	93	97	96	105	80	58					42	39	24	12			52	43	29	
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	11726	17684	88354	10195	12947	6234	1003	272	228	93	642	520	437	189	19	67	381	797	482	293	811
Number of Field Parties			50	10		10	1	1	0			1	1	1	0			1	1	0	
Number of Participants	55	35	56	19	27	19	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	3	0	3
Ctaut Times												60.0	0.50								
Start Time: End Time:						500	500				710		850				830		730		700
Enu Time:						1745	1730	1250			1455	1530	1600				1500	1745	1130		1400
Party Hours: Total	87.5	103.5	125 5	71.75	95.5	66.5	12.5	5.5	0	0	75	8.5	7	2.5	0	0	55	0	4	0	55
Party Hours: Total Party Hours: On Foot	87.5	103.5	135.5	/1./5	95.5	53.75				0	7.5		5.5			0	5.5 4.75	8	4	0	5.5 5.5
Party Hours: On Foot Party Hours: By Car						12.75	11 1.5	5 0.5			4.5	7.5	5.5 1.5	0.5			4.75	8	3		5.5
Party Hours. By Car						12.75	1.5	0.5			4.5	1	1.5	2			0.75		1		
Party Miles: Total						157	23	7	0	0	22.5	8	30	18	0	0	7.5	5	32	0	4
Party Miles: On Foot						35.5	23				22.3	3	50	18			4.5	5	<u> </u>	0	4
Party Miles: By Car						121.5	21				19.5		25	17			4.5		28		
						121.3	21				19.3		23	1/			- 3		20		
Nocturnal Hours						2	1.5					0.5									
Nocturnal Miles						1	1.5					0.5									
						<u> </u>		<u> </u>													<u> </u>
Feeder Watchers						19			1	2	2			1	1	1				1	10
Feeder Hours						53			4					4	2	4				5	
	1					- 33		-		+	<u> </u>					+				5	25
								1							I	1		L			

CH: Chapel Hill count date: 12/26/10; compiler: Will Cook; 28-30 F; N 5-10 mph; heavy snow in am; light snow in pm Ral: Raleigh count date: 12/18/10; compiler: John Connors Dur: Durham count date: 12/19/10; compiler: Mike Schultz

Kerr: Kerr Lake count date: 1/4/11; compiler: Brian Bockhahn

Falls: Falls Lake count date: 1/5/11; compiler: Brian Bockhahn

JL: Jordan Lake count date: 1/2/11; compiler: Norm Budnitz

2010 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

12/18	12/19 1/2	1/4	1/5	12/26	— Chapel Hill Observer Party —															
Species Ral	Dur JL	Kerr	Falls	СН		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Party Areas	Party Members					Р	arty	A	reas		Party	Mem	bers							
1 1,4	Derb Carter																			
2 2,7	Pam Timmons, Perry Haaland						13	22	2 S Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Phil Warren											
3 4-yard	Cynthia Fox						14	25	-yard	d Shelley Theye										
4 7-yard	Susan & Bill Stone																			
5 8, 13	Tom Driscoll, Bo Howes; Feeder watchers: Barbara Driscoll, Diane Meyer																			
6 9, 10	Norm Budnitz, Gene Kingsley						15 32 Steven Graves, David Murdock, Marge Miles													
7 11, 12	Kent Fiala					Feeder watchers: Mary Floyd								Floyd	, Sara	John	son			
8 14,15,18	Nathan Swick										Lynn (Ogden	, Can	dace	Owen	s, Har	ry &	Caroli	ne	
9 14-yard	Julia Shields						Pederson, Joan Redmann, Jerrold & Joan Walecka,									ecka,				
10 17-yard	Judy Murray							Bobbi	e Hah	n										
11 16, 29	David Smith, Jud	y Hinderli	ter Smith																	
12 20	Will Cook, Andre	w Thornto	on																	