

Ed. Judith Fortney.
PO Box 51969
Durham NC 27717
Jafortney1@aol.com

The BULLETIN...

Chapel Hill Bird Club

March 2012

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

<http://chbirds.blogspot.com/>

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Next Meeting: Monday, 26 March 2012

Dr Alan Feduccia (UNC)

“Birds and Dinosaurs – the Fossil Evidence.”

Dr Feduccia, an evolutionary biologist, is UNC’s Distinguished SK Heninger Professor Emeritus. His book, *Riddle of the Feathered Dragons*, was published in January 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.

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. Details? call Doug at 942-0479. It’s useful to call Doug the night before in case the field trip is not local and leaves from another location.

Spring Cleaning in the CHBC Constitution

David Smith, CHBC President

Have you noticed that stuff accumulates in your house over the winter? As soon as the weather warms up a bit, many people schedule a flurry of spring cleaning, to sweep out the dust and carry out the unwanted boxes.

The same thing is happening now to the Constitution and By-laws of the Chapel Hill Bird Club. Over the years since the Constitution was last amended (May 1996, almost 16 years ago), the practices and traditions of the club have changed, and our documents haven’t kept pace. Your officers have come up with proposals to bring the Constitution and By-laws in line with the way we operate now and to build in some needed flexibility for the future.

Some of the provisions of the Constitution seem funny now. Did you know that it mandates that “potluck suppers are held monthly during the summer months”? If you’re a longtime member, you may recall the summer potluck suppers, but it has been quite a few years since we have had one, and we don’t want our Constitution telling us that we have to.

Other provisions, if followed rigorously, would cause us unnecessary trouble. The Constitution says “In the event the club funds reach or exceed a \$500 balance, all future expenditures will be made by check and will be countersigned by the Treasurer and one other elected officer.” Because we have more than \$500 in the bank, that provision means that our Treasurer should be using countersigned checks to pay for copying at Staples or for our speaker’s meal at K&W. Or consider the provision for amending the Constitution, which requires “a minimum of twenty-five members” at the meeting for a final vote. If our membership should ever dwindle to fewer than twenty-five, we would be stuck.

We are proposing many changes to the Constitution and By-laws, because it has become apparent to us that many things in those documents are no longer relevant. Here are some of the problems, along with the changes that we propose.

- Officers that we no longer have. The Constitution specifies, and the By-laws contain duties for, Potluck Supper Chairman and Publicity Chairman. We no longer have monthly potluck suppers, and the publicity duties have migrated to the Vice-presidents, so we are removing all references to those officers.
- Requirement for countersigned checks, as described above. We are proposing a change that will require countersigned checks only for expenditures of more than \$500.
- Mailing of the newsletter. The By-laws includes the following among the duties of the Bulletin Managing Editor: “...to publish and deliver the Monthly Bulletin to the U. S. Post Office for mailing on or before the 20th of each month.” We no longer mail the Bulletin (our newsletter) to members by mail. E-mail is now our preferred communication medium, but who knows what form the newsletter will take in future years? In order to leave ourselves sufficient flexibility, for format, frequency, and technology, we pro-

pose “...to publish the Bulletin in time for delivery to members before the next regular meeting.”

- Quorum for voting on amendments. It may be that in the future we have trouble attracting as many as twenty-five members to a meeting, which would make it hard to amend our Constitution. We propose to relax that requirement: “A minimum of twenty-five members, or twenty-five percent of the active membership (whichever is less), are required for all final voting....”
- No reference to the website. The world has changed in the past 16 years, and our website is a central point for communicating with our members and with the outside world. We will add Website Manager as an appointed officer, with appropriate duties, to the By-laws.

Some of the changes we propose are simply grammatical; others put into words the way we currently operate, while still others remove restrictions that no longer make sense for us. In all of these changes, we have tried to make our governing documents relevant and appropriate for the club in the present and flexible as we move into the future.

You are invited to take a look at both the old and new versions of these documents. The current Constitution and By-laws documents are on our website:

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/constitution.html>
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/bylaws.html>

The proposed text for the amended versions is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact David Smith at davidjudysmith@frontier.com or at 919-493-2607.

At our next regular meeting on March 26, you will have an opportunity to discuss these proposals. If as many as 25 members are present (because we must still operate under the rules in the current Constitution), we will then take a vote. A two-thirds majority will be required to amend our

governing documents. (If you won't be able to attend and wish to cast an absentee vote, contact Edith Tatum in advance at ektatum@nc.rr.com.)

Thank you for participating in our "spring cleaning" project!

**Constitution of the Chapel Hill Bird Club
(CHBC)
with amendments proposed Feb 2012
(draft 3: 27-Feb-2012)**

[Note: the current Constitution can be found at <http://chbc.carolinanature.com/constitution.html>]

Article I. Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be the Chapel Hill Bird Club (CHBC). The purpose of the club will be to participate and aid in the study and appreciation of bird life. The club will contact and cooperate with similar organizations as well as with local residents.

Article II . Membership and Dues

Membership shall be open to any person interested in furthering the purposes of the club as stated in Article I. Annual dues will be set at the November meeting for individual and family memberships and will be required of all members payable by January 1.

Article III. Election of Officers and Official Appointments

Clause I

The elected officers consist of a President, two Vice-presidents chosen to represent the geographic range of the membership, Treasurer, and Secretary. The election procedure shall be as follows:

1. Nominations shall be made and seconded at the April meeting.
2. Announcement of the nominations shall be communicated to the membership before the May meeting.
3. Election of the officers shall conclude with voting by a simple majority of members present during the May meeting.
4. The official terms shall begin June 1 and end the following May 31.

Clause II

Temporary and/or appointed positions such as the Bird Count Supervisor/Compiler, Field Trip Chair, and Bulletin Managing Editor are official

duties which shall be delegated by the President to members of the club. The duties of all officers elected or appointed are outlined in the accompanying by-laws.

Article IV. Finances

The CHBC shall maintain a checking account and/or savings account, for which the club's Treasurer shall be responsible. Only the Treasurer and other elected officers shall be authorized to sign checks from the club's checking account. The Treasurer shall submit and publish annual financial statements for the members and to the official records of the club. All expenditures in excess of \$500 shall be made by check and shall be countersigned by the Treasurer and one other elected officer.

Article V - meetings

Regular meetings are held monthly from September through May, except for December. The meeting location and schedule will be determined by the elected officers and published in the Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin. Only the President or Vice-presidents can reschedule a regular meeting (i.e., date, time, and/or place) or schedule a special meeting. In addition, the aforementioned officer must adequately inform the membership of any such change to insure maximum attendance (e.g., notice in the CHBC bulletin or through the public news media).

Article VI

The Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin is the official publication of the club and is issued to the members before regular meetings. The purposes of the club's Bulletin are to transmit official business information of the club, to provide information regarding bird migrations through this area, and to provide other information of interest to the members. The CHBC Bulletin Managing Editor is appointed by the President and is responsible for the publication of the Bulletin. Assistant editors may be appointed by

the Managing Editor as needed to handle publication of the Bulletin.

Article VII - amendments

Any change in or addition to the Constitution or By-Laws can only be implemented through the following procedures:

1. motion shall be discussed at two consecutive regular meetings
2. a written description of the motion will be communicated to all members before the second meeting designated for discussion
3. voting to pass or reject the motion will occur at a regular meeting and only after the above stipulations have been adequately met
4. a minimum of twenty-five members, or twenty-five percent of the active membership (whichever is less), are required for all final voting on such matters and a two-thirds majority passes the motion
5. absentee voting will be honored if the members wishing to do so submit written ballots to the Secretary prior to the meeting at which voting will occur.

Chapel Hill Bird Club By-Laws

The official duties of both elected and appointed officers are outlined below:

President

- to preside over all regular and special meetings
- to call special meetings as needed
- to collaborate with the Bulletin Managing Editor in matters concerning the official meetings
- to select all appointed officers and to collaborate with them in the coordination of club activities
- to schedule, plan the agenda for, and preside over meetings of the officers, as needed
- to delegate the above responsibilities if the need arises.

Vice-presidents

- to collaborate and function as requested by the President
- to arrange programs for the monthly meetings
- to submit notices of meetings and special events to the local news media and other appropriate forums.

Treasurer

- to pay all authorized bills as submitted
- to submit to the members and the official records of the club an annual financial report and a summary at the monthly meetings
- to ensure that the club's tax-exempt status is maintained by filing the appropriate information with the IRS
- to maintain signature authority for all financial accounts
- to issue dues notices and collect dues
- to maintain the membership list.

Secretary

- to maintain the official minutes of the club
- to ensure that the proper voting procedures are followed
- to summarize the preceding monthly meetings for the Bulletin Managing Editor.

Appointed Officials and their Duties

(appointed by the President)

Bird Count Supervisor/Compiler

- to assign bird count territories
- to keep records of the seasonal Bird Counts
- to report the tallied results of the counts directly to the regional compiler and the CHBC Managing Editor

Field Trip Chair

- to establish weekly field trips
- to announce the field trips to members in advance, as appropriate
- to plan field trips in conjunction with other clubs and organizations
- to procure birding experts if possible to lead field trips

Bulletin Managing Editor

- to prepare, arrange publication of, and distribute the Bulletin
- to collaborate with the officers of the club on matters concerning official business for publication in the Bulletin
- to publish the Bulletin in time for delivery to members before the next regular meeting

Website Manager

to maintain the information on any official Chapel Hill Bird Club website
to make information about the club available on other online forums, as appropriate

*If you have questions or suggestion on any of these revisionss, please contact David Smith:
919-493-2607 or
DavidJudySmith@frontier.com.*

Exciting Pelagic Trip on February 18

Many of Brian Patteson's winter pelagic trips out of Hatteras are exciting – think 800+ Dovies or dozens of Jaegers. But the trip of February 18 was especially so; 10 lucky birders got to see a Black-browed Albatross. The bird stayed around for a remarkable 45 minutes allowing many excellent photographs. This bird of the Southern Ocean was only the second to be seen in North Carolina waters. For more on this sighting see www.brian@patteson.com



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The Next Two Meetings

23 April: Dr Margaret Lowman (NCSU) “Canopy Towers and Walkways.”

21 May: Tom & Barbara Driscoll “Birding Australia.”

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers

President: David Smith,
davidjudysmith@verizon.net

Vice President: Judy Smith,
davidjudysmith@verizon.net

Vice President: Thierry Besançon,
thi.besancon@gmail.com

Secretary: Edith Tatum, ektatum@nc.rr.com

Treasurer: Patsy Bailey, (919) 933-5850

Field Trip Coordinator: Doug Shadwick,
dougshadwick@nc.rr.com

Webmaster: Will Cook, cwcook@duke.edu

Bulletin Editor: Judith Fortney,
jafortney1@aol.com,

Blog Administrator: Rob Gluck,
RobDGluck@gmail.com
