

Editor: Judith Fortney
PO Box 51969
Durham NC 27717
jafortney1@aol.com
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>



Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

September 2013

Volume 41

No.6

Next Meeting: Monday, 23 September

When/where: 7:15 pm refreshments; 7:30 pm meeting. The lounge, Olin T Binkley Baptist Church, corner of Highway 15-501 Bypass and Willow Drive, behind University Mall, Chapel Hill.

*23 September; Judith Fortney
Birding Mongolia*

Why on earth would anyone want to go to Mongolia? The inspiration to see the country – the Gobi desert, the steppe, the taiga forest – was an exhibit in a Raleigh museum. What better way to see a country than on a birding trip? The reward was spectacular scenery and wonderful birds. The first speaker of the year is the editor of this newsletter and a former expert in international public health.

Saturday Field Trips

Trips are led by **Doug Shadwick** and depart from Glen Lennox Shopping

Center parking lot off Highway 54 promptly at 7.30 every Saturday morning. All skill levels are welcome. Trips are usually over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. Details? Call Doug at 919 942 0479. Call Doug the night before in case the trip is not local and leaves from another location.

2012 Chatham County Fall Migration Count

Will Cook

The 2012 Chatham County Fall Migration Count (16 September 2012) was a bit of a washout, with light to heavy rain all morning, leading to difficult birding conditions and some birding parties dropping out of the count. With lake levels a little above normal pool, there were few shorebirds, further dampening our totals. We found an even 100 species and 2840 individuals, a bit below the average of 105 species and 3700 individuals., but typical for

a year with no mudflat habitat. Observer effort was a low 53.75 party-hours (average 66). For those of us who managed to slog it out, it was a decent day warbler-wise, with 22 species and 402 individuals, well above average. Birds per party-hour was 52.8, below the average of 57.8, but good for a non-shorebird year.

The best bird was a Common Raven heard by Andrew Thornton. Raven is new to the count, but not unexpected, perhaps even overdue, as local sightings have been increasing greatly in recent years. Other rarities included Eastern Kingbird (Bo Howe's team), Gray-cheeked Thrush (Thornton), Worm-eating Warbler (Howes), Nashville Warbler (Tove), and a count week Black-billed Cuckoo (Tove).

Despite the deluge, we still managed to set a few record highs: 4 Pied-billed Grebe (average 0.6), 37 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (average 13), 26 Pileated Woodpecker (average 13), 5 Eastern Kingbird (average .5), 8 Veery (average 0.9), 46 Swainson's Thrush (average 3), and 39 Northern Mockingbird (average 20). The amazing migrant thrush totals were due to Andrew Thornton's efforts listening for their distinctive nocturnal flight calls.

One species set a record low this year: 2 Wood Duck (average 25). Canada Goose was also quite low, with 13 the lowest since 1996, the first year of the count (average 64). The biggest miss was House Wren.

Shorebirds were in very short supply because of the lacking habitat: compare this year's 3 individuals in

three species with last year's astounding tally of 851 individuals in 12 species. Warblers had an excellent showing, with a high of 22 species (average 18) and overall warbler numbers also well above average, with 402 individuals (average 332). Subtracting Pine Warblers better reveals the migrant warbler picture: 151 non-Pines (average 135).

Highest teams counts: Andrew Thornton, covering southwestern parts of Chatham county, had the best species total by far, with 76; Will Cook's team, covering the NC 751 area, was a distant second with 61. For the tally of individual birds, Will Cook's team came in first with 614 birds, with Andrew Thornton second with 531.

Effort: 17 counters in 9 parties. 53.75 party-hours (48 foot, 5.75 car), 114 party-miles (30.5 foot, 83.5 car). Owling 2 hours, 1 mile.

Weather: temperature 59-64°F, wind NE 0-7 mph, light to heavy rain in the am, overcast in the pm, lake level 216.15'.

Thanks to the dedicated counters for slogging through the rain to find some birds!

Will Cook, compiler

Future Meetings

The vice presidents have enlisted a terrific cast of speakers for our monthly meetings in the coming year. We meet the third Thursday of most months – not in December or during the summer. The speakers are:

October 28: **Erich Jarvis:** Vocal learning in songbirds.

November 25: **Don Seriff:** Early birders of the greater Charlotte region.

January 27: **Ali Iyob:** My NC Big Year.

February 24: **Scott Winton:** Mattamuskeet waterfowl and climate change.

March 24: **Charlotte Goedsche:** Cerulean warblers of Bull Creek.

April 28: : **Judy & David Smith:** Birding Ethiopia.

May 19: **Brian Bockhahn:** Spectacular birds of NC state parks.

More details in coming Bulletins!

Officers of the Chapel Hill Bird Club

Elected Officers

President: David Smith

(davidjudysmith@frontier.com)

Vice President (Durham area): Eddie Owens (banjoman_57@yahoo.com)

Vice President (Chapel Hill area): Kent Fiala (kent.fiala@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Patricia Bailey (pbailey_489@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Edith Tatum (etatum@nc.rr.com)

Appointed Officers

Bird Count Supervisor/compiler:

Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Field Trip Chairman: Doug Shadwick (dougshadwick@nc.rr.com)

Bulletin Editor: Judith Fortney (jafortney1@aol.com)

Webmaster: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

2012 TRIANGLE AREA FALL BIRD COUNTS

— Chatham County observer parties —

9/20/12 9/21/12 9/16/12

Species	FL	KL	CC	notes	NB	WC	BH	JO	DS	PT	AT	MT	AU	PW	SW
Canada Goose	109	175	13	L							7			6	
Wood Duck	4	27	2	RL									2		
Mallard	10	67	8							8					
Blue-winged Teal		9	0												
Wild Turkey	6	6	0												
Northern Bobwhite	1		0												
Pied-billed Grebe	14	3	4	RH	3							1			
Double-crested Cormorant	13	50	48		1	27	2			2	4	8		4	
ANHINGA	10														
Great Blue Heron	37	62	58		5	25	9			2	8	3	2	3	1
Great Egret	46	2	40		2	32	1			1	3			1	
Green Heron	1		2								1		1		
Black Vulture	75	299	23				1				2		9	11	
Turkey Vulture	44	101	89			3	2			1	29	6	22	26	
Osprey	9	6	9		1	1	1				2	3		1	
Bald Eagle 8 ad., 5 imm.	15	24	13		1	4	1				3	4			
Northern Harrier	cw														
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	0												
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	0												
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	13	13			1	1				5		5	1	
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	0												
Red-tailed Hawk	5	7	4			1	1						1	1	
American Kestrel	3	3	3								1		1	1	
Merlin	1		0												
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	0												
American Golden-Plover		1	0												
Killdeer	10	35	1								1				
Whimbrel		1													
Solitary Sandpiper		1	1									1			
Spotted Sandpiper	2	2	1								1				
Sanderling		1	0												
Western Sandpiper		1	0												
Least Sandpiper		6	0												
Pectoral Sandpiper		4	0												
Ring-billed Gull	1	20	0												
Black Tern	2	1	0												
Forster's Tern	3	45	0												
Rock Pigeon	46	49	2								2				
Mourning Dove	39	63	86		4	2	13				7	3	20	37	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	6	4				1						1	2	
Black-billed Cuckoo			cw	R								cw			
Eastern Screech-Owl	2		6			3					1			2	
Great Horned Owl	2	5	3										3		
Barred Owl	3	6	4										2	2	
E. Whip-poor-will		1	1								1				
Chimney Swift	97	16	66		2	14	8			27	6			2	7
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11	9	37	RH	1	1	6				2		6	21	
Belted Kingfisher	15	12	12				7				2		1	1	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	19	25	10			1								9	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	49	40	38		5	8	6			4	3	5	4	3	
Downy Woodpecker	33	32	51		5	8	14			2	6	12	2	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	19	9	3			1					2				
Northern Flicker	34	21	12			4	3				2		1	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	11	24	26	RH	2	2	7			1	5	2	4	2	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12	12	13			4	3				2	1	2	1	
Acadian Flycatcher		1	1								1				
Willow Flycatcher		1													
Eastern Phoebe	17	15	21			4	3			2	2	4	3	2	1
Eastern Kingbird			5	RH,R			5								
Great Crested Flycatcher		1	0												
White-eyed Vireo	7	18	26			5	1				10		7	3	
Blue-headed Vireo	1		1		1										
Yellow-throated Vireo		7	2			1							1		
Warbling Vireo		1													
Philadelphia Vireo	1														
Red-eyed Vireo	11	12	14		3	1					4		4	2	
Blue Jay	67	79	95		9	13	12			2	32	10	10	7	
American Crow	140	184	190		18	11	18			12	41	33	30	22	5
Fish Crow	4	17	18		1	1				4	9	3			
COMMON RAVEN	1		1	NC							1				
Tree Swallow	1		0												
Barn Swallow	1		0												
Carolina Chickadee	112	91	200		14	29	38			28	45	25	7	8	6
Tufted Titmouse	129	115	167		19	40	10			17	27	25	6	12	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	3													
White-breasted Nuthatch	19	22	19		3	3				1	2	4	3	3	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	53	26	45		5	5	2			10	4	19			
Carolina Wren	88	103	112		11	31	29			6	10	14	5	4	2
House Wren	1	1	0												
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	9	10			2						5	3		
Eastern Bluebird	77	91	64			1	14			7	7	11	10	14	
Veery	1	2	8	RH		1	1				5	1			

2012 TRIANGLE AREA FALL BIRD COUNTS

— Chatham County observer parties —

9/20/12 9/21/12 9/16/12

Species	FL	KL	CC	notes	NB	WC	BH	JO	DS	PT	AT	MT	AU	PW	SW
Gray-checked Thrush	1	1	1	R							1				
Swainson's Thrush	7	8	46	RH			3				40	3			
Wood Thrush	6	2	5			1					4				
American Robin	38	11	13								13				
Gray Catbird	42	35	13			2	4				4		1	2	
Northern Mockingbird	53	37	39	RH	1	4	10			2	10	6	3	3	
Brown Thrasher	10	23	11			1	3				5		1	1	
European Starling	27	149	27				25				1		1		
American Pipit	1														
Cedar Waxwing		12	0												
Ovenbird		2	1			1									
Worm-eating Warbler			1	R			1								
Northern Waterthrush		1	4			1				2					1
Black-and-white Warbler	15	18	24		1	2	3			1	12	1		3	1
Tennessee Warbler			4				3				1				
Orange-crowned Warbler	1														
Nashville Warbler	1		1	R							1				
Kentucky Warbler		1													
Common Yellowthroat	19	23	23			14	3			1	2		1	1	1
Hooded Warbler	1	3	6			2					4				
American Redstart	29	11	25			5	3			1	5	3	1	3	4
Cape May Warbler	4	5	3		1		1					1			
Northern Parula	16	16	24		2	2	4				5	1	6	2	2
Magnolia Warbler	3	17	11			5	2				1		1	1	1
Blackburnian Warbler		1	2								1		1		
Yellow Warbler	1	1	0												
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	5	3			2					1				
Blackpoll Warbler	2		1	R								1			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4	1	1								1				
Palm Warbler	4	2	13			5	1					7			
Pine Warbler	187	131	251		45	23	1			47	13	100	2	20	
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler		3													
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	3	1								1				
Prairie Warbler	1	3	1			1						cw			
Wilson's Warbler		1	1	R								1			
Yellow-breasted Chat		1	1			1									
Eastern Towhee	11	13	23			17					4			2	
Song Sparrow			1								1				
Chipping Sparrow	48	76	56		9	11	9			3		3	6	15	
Field Sparrow	5	3	6			5					1				
Summer Tanager	14	8	11		1	3				1	1		2	2	1
Scarlet Tanager	4	2	9			3	1				1		4		
Northern Cardinal	82	90	154		6	38	36			5	28	14	15	11	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	6	6			1					1		4		
Blue Grosbeak	1	2	20			8					2	8	2		
Indigo Bunting	9	34	73			65					5		3		
Bobolink		25	10								10				
Red-winged Blackbird			0												
Eastern Meadowlark	4	10	1										1		
Common Grackle			0												
Brown-headed Cowbird		60	0												
Baltimore Oriole			1										1		
House Finch	11	31	14				3				7		2	2	
American Goldfinch	39	176	182		2	101	10				17	2	25	25	
House Sparrow	45	3	11								11				
TOTAL SPECIES 134	103	114	100		31	61	50	0	0	27	76	40	52	48	18
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	2319	3172	2840		184	614	346	0	0	192	531	354	261	310	48

CC = Chatham County fall bird count totals, FL = Falls Lake, KL = Kerr Lake
 Weather: temp 59-64F, wind NE 0-7 mph, light-heavy rain in am, overcast in pm, lake level 216.15'
 Notes: RH = Record High, RL = Record Low, NC = New to Count, R = Rare, L=Low

Start			515		800	630	700			1030	645	700	515	600	1030
End			1615		1200	1330	1400			1615	1415	1330	1445	1300	1130
Parties	8	8	9		1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1
Individuals	12	15	17		4	3	3			1	1	1	2	1	1
Regular Party Hours: Total	39.25	57.75	53.75		4	8.5	6.25			5.5	7.5	6.5	8	6.5	1
Party Hours: On Foot	36.25	45	48		4	8	6.25			5	5.5	6.5	6	5.75	1
Party Hours: By Car	2.75	12.75	5.75							0.5	2		2	0.75	
Party Hours: By Bicycle	0.25														
Party Miles: Total	68.5	181.75	114		2	11	4			5.5	41	4	18	28	0.5
Party Miles: On Foot	29.5	22.75	30.5		2	6	4			2.5	4.5	4	3	4	0.5
Party Miles: By Car	38	159	83.5			5				3	36.5		15	24	
Party Miles: By Bicycle	1														
Owling Hours	2	2.25	2			0.5							1.5		
Owling Miles	5.5	8.1	1			0							1		

2012 TRIANGLE AREA FALL BIRD COUNTS

— Chatham County observer parties —

Species	9/20/12	9/21/12	9/16/12	notes	NB	WC	BH	JO	DS	PT	AT	MT	AU	PW	SW
Area	FL	KL	CC	Party											
Vista Point				NB	Norm Budnitz, Mike Schultz										
NC 751 bridge				WC	Will Cook, Josh Sims, Sims Roy										
Bynum Bridge, Pokeberry Creek trail				BH	Bo Howes, Jill Paul, Mike Kosiewski										
Henley Road				JO	Jane Oliver										
Farrington Road				DS	Doug Shadwick										
Seaforth, Parker's Creek				PT	Paul Taillie										
southwestern Chatham				AT	Andrew Thornton										
Ebenezer Point				MT	Mike Tove										
Jay Shambley Rd, Rocky River, etc.				AU	Andy Upshaw, Rouse Wilson										
Hank's Chapel Road				PW	Phil Warren										
O'Kelly Chapel Road Impoundment				SW	Scott Winton										