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Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

November 2013

Volume 41

No.8

Next Meeting: Monday, 2 November

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.

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

What do *The Bill Cosby Show*, the movie *Fame*, the NC State bird, the 1960s Freedom Riders, and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake have to do with early Carolina birders? Join us as Don Serif tells us the answers to these and other intriguing questions about the rich ornithological heritage of the central Carolinas and its early birders. Don Serif is the Natural Resources Supervisor with Mecklenburg County's Conservation Science Office.

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.

About our Logo . . .

Newer members may wonder why there is a Brown-headed Nuthatch shown on every newsletter. When Will Cook was editor of our newsletter he thought it would be nice to have a logo. He chose the Brown-headed Nuthatch because it's cute and because it's a specialty bird of our region. It's also endemic to the United States. (How many other birds can you name that are endemic to the US?)

No meeting in December

Because it is our logo, the Chapel Hill Bird Club sponsored the restoration and preservation of the page on which this bird is shown in the original copies of JJ Audubon's famous books now in the North Carolina Museum of Art. The state owns one of the few complete sets.

For many years they were kept in the State Library where the public could study (and handle) them. The pages showing game birds were often studied by hunters and were well thumbed. The Museum sought sponsors for the expensive (\$750 per page!) restoration process. The complete set of books are now housed in a special section of the Museum; they are protected inside glass cases and the pages turned regularly by a museum employee wearing gloves.

Worth a visit!

Welcome New Members

Cheryl Drescher, Laurie Degernes, Julia Storm, Deborah Reilly and Marilyn McClelland, all of Durham

Winter Birds in Our Area

I heard the delightful song of the White-throated Sparrow last week. It wasn't the first of the winter birds to arrive – that was the Yellow-rumped Warbler. Nor was it the most obvious – that too was the Yellow-rump, the yard was crawling with them, especially in the large bayberry tree by the bedroom window (it needs drastic trimming, but I don't do that because the Yellow-rumps like it). More recently the Juncos have very much made their presence known, covering the ground under the feeders and showing off their white

outer tail feathers. The White-throated Sparrows are less showy. In fact, it was a day or two before I saw one, just heard the unmistakable Old Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody song (or Oh Sweet Canada Canada Canada).

When I visit my daughter in Louisiana I see the tan-striped color morph, not as pretty a bird in my opinion. There are roughly equal numbers of the two color morphs (tan, and white), but here in the East we see mostly the white-striped. Curiously, there are behavioral differences between the two color morphs:

- White-striped males are more aggressive and sing more than tan-striped,
- White-striped females sing, tan-striped females do not,
- Tan-striped adults feed their young more often.

Even more curiously, pairs tend to consist of one bird of each color morph – who knew? But then we live on the wintering grounds not the breeding grounds. And, as Alice said "curiouser and curiouser", pairs consisting of tan-striped males and white-striped females form pairs more quickly than the reverse. Perhaps those tan-striped get on with it while the white-striped males spend all their time singing. Both morphs leave nest building and nest sitting to the females. (Factoids from K.Kaufman, *Lives of North American Birds*)

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:

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)

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