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Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

February 2014

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No.2

Next Meeting: Monday, 24 February

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.

24 February: **Scott Winton:**
*Mattamuskeet Waterfowl and
Climate Change*

Scott Winton is a PhD candidate studying environmental science and policy at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He works in the Duke University Wetland Center under the direction of Professor Curt Richardson. Scott hypothesizes that wintering waterfowl may play a role in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in wetland areas such as Lake Mattamuskeet. Join us as Scott explores this question and reveals the methods he is using to arrive at answers.

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.

Rare Birds

This past December and January have been remarkable for the number of chaseable rare birds in North Carolina (chaseable meaning that they stayed around long enough for many people to be able to make a successful trip see them). How many of them did you see?

The rarity wave was kicked off by a November 26 report of a Snowy Owl at Cape Point on the Outer Banks. It remained for at least 10 days and was seen by many, and was soon followed by another, and another, report from many places in

the state, eventually more than 20. Two (or more?) Snowy Owls that appeared on Ocracoke on December 30 have proven to be especially viewable, remaining until this writing. Peter Vankevitch has used his "beach-legal" Jeep to guide well over 100 people to see one or both of these owls.



Snowy Owl on Ocracoke. Photo by Kent Fiala.

Other rare birds that appeared in December and remained for long intervals included Cackling and Greater White-fronted Goose and Say's Phoebe near Creswell, Ash-throated Flycatcher at Alligator River NWR, and Harlequin Ducks at Oregon Inlet. Perhaps due to the exceptionally cold season, unusual numbers of Common Goldeneyes, White-winged Scoters, and Long-tailed Ducks have been widely reported. And there have been an above-average number of Western Kingbird sightings along the coast.

Most remarkable of all, and scarcely believable if there weren't a few previous records, a Band-tailed Pigeon (a species of the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountains)

appeared at feeders in Manteo on January 7, and continues at this writing. 150 birders had visited the home to see it as of February 1.



Band-tailed Pigeon in Manteo. Photo by Kent Fiala.

Facebook

Did you know that the Chapel Hill Bird Club has a Facebook group? If you are a Facebook user, just go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chapelhillbirdclub/>, and if you are not yet a member, click on the "join group" button. Although it's an open group, we limit membership to people from the Triangle area, so it's a friendly place to talk about local birding topics. Share what you have been seeing in your yard, or afield, or something interesting that you have found on the web. And while you're there, you might occasionally see an extra reminder about the upcoming meeting, or other such club business.

Future Meetings

We are coming into the back half of our season of meetings, but we still have a great slate of upcoming talks. We meet the third Thursday of most months – not in December or

during the summer. The speakers for the rest of this season are:

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!

**Pay your dues last month? No? Bring them to the Club meeting on Monday or mail to our Treasurer:
Patsy Bailey, 277 Mint Springs Rd, Pittsboro NC 27312.
Dues are \$15 a year for however many years you wish to pay in advance.**

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)

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