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Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin



Doug Pratt

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Next Meeting: Monday, 24 March

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



The rapid decline of the beautiful
Cerulean Warbler led Charlotte
Goedsche on her 15-year journey to
document their activities on the Blue
Ridge Parkway just north of Asheville
in the Bull Creek Important Bird Area.
She'll discuss her research and share

what she's learned, including how
she tells individual birds apart by their
songs, and what really goes on at
the nest.

Saturday Field Trips

Trips are led by Doug Shad-
wick 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.

Chasing Rare Birds . . . Continuing

I'm very grateful to Kent Fiala for
filling in for me last month, at short
notice too. Thank you Kent for a
great piece.

And he made me think about some
other aspects of chasing. There's a

certain etiquette to the chase that we should remind ourselves of each time we go on one. Be considerate of the bird, other birders and the host.

The geometric increase in the number of birders who like to photograph their successes means that more and more birders try to get closer to the bird than they used to do. And it's not only the photographers. If harassed too often some birds move on – and the next eager birder is out of luck and misses the bird. We've all had unsuccessful chases – it's part of the game – but it's especially galling when it's a pushy birder who spoiled it for you.



This is too close!

It's a no brainer that when the target bird is on private land birders should respect the owner's right not to be harassed by hordes of people leaving gates open, frightening stock, leaving tire ruts and trash behind on the land. It may be a no brainer, but people still do it. Pick up after others if you have to.

Sometimes, just the sheer number of birders can create problems for property owners hosting a rare bird. Remember the Varied Thrush in Greensboro? Police closed the street to birders after neighbors complained of the crowds. But fortunately other home owners welcome the crowds, ask them to sign visitors' books and take pride in the numbers. I've even had hosts welcome birders into their homes and give them food and drink. Thank heavens for such generous people! Don't forget to thank them profusely. Two recent North Carolina rarities were hosted by welcoming home owners – the Band-tailed Pigeon and the Allen's Hummingbird. Both birds are (were?) long-term visitors and their hosts are more than helpful in assisting visitors in locating them.

But sadly one visitor recently insulted the host by asking who had identified the bird. The host said that he himself had. The visitor responded by asking "but who *really* identified it?" The insult was not lost on the host. So don't just be grateful, be polite too!

Welcome New Member! 😊
Meredith Weiner of Siler City

Future Meetings

The vice presidents have enlisted a terrific cast of speakers for our monthly meetings this year. We meet the fourth Monday of most months – not in December or during the summer. The remaining speakers for this season are:

*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)

LAST REMINDER!

Have you paid your dues for 2014? 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.