

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

September 2017 – Volume 45 number 6



Upcoming meetings (2017-18)

Chapel Hill Bird Club membership meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, September through May. (No meeting in December; May 2018 meeting on third Monday.) Refreshments are available at **7:15 pm**, meetings start at **7:30 pm**. **Location** is the Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church, corner of Highway 15-501 Bypass and Willow Drive, behind University Mall. **Address:** 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Members and guests are welcome to gather for dinner at the K & W Cafeteria (University Mall) at 6:00 pm before the meeting. Go to the back room of the cafeteria to join the group after making your dinner selection.

9/25/17



Dr. Kent Fiala – A Birding Tour of Cuba

Kent was among a group of 12 birders from the Carolina Bird Club who toured Cuba early this year. The group saw 147 bird species, including all 24 Cuban endemics. These include Cuba's national bird – the Cuban Trogon, and the world's smallest bird – the Bee Hummingbird.

Dr. Fiala is a past President and Vice-President of the Chapel Hill Bird Club and has spoken to the club several times about his research and travels. He is active in the Carolina Bird Club and runs their web site, which he invites you to visit at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org>

10/23/17



Dr. Mark Stanback –Reproductive biology of African hornbills

An unusual breeding strategy – the sealing of the nest entrance – has multiple consequences for hornbills. Do males demand fidelity in exchange for their unparalleled degree of paternal investment? Is female egg production determined by her mate's food delivery?

Dr. Stanback is a professor of Biology at Davidson College. As a behavioral ecologist, he studies the interactions among evolutionary biology, animal behavior, and ecology.

11/27/17

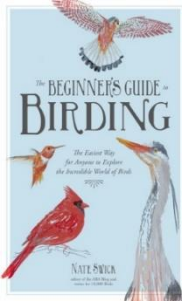


Dr. Aurore Canoville – Can we determine the sex of dinosaurs by looking into their bones?

Medullary bone is a specialized reproductive tissue found only in reproducing female birds. This bone tissue may be used to determine the gender of fossil birds and their non-avian dinosaur ancestors, such as the iconic *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Dr. Canoville is a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at North Carolina State University.

1/22/18



Nathan Swick – The Field Guide in the Digital Age, an Evolution

The field guide is one of the most indispensable tools in the birder's toolbox, but the form has evolved over the years as birders' needs have changed. From Audubon to Peterson to the digital realm, we'll take a look at what works, what doesn't, and why.

Swick is author of the ABA *Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas*. He serves as editor of the American Birding Association (ABA) blog and has been a birder for more than 20 years.

2/26/18



Dr. Richard Mooney – From song to synapse: The neurobiology of birdsong

Dr. Mooney's research examines the role of auditory experience in the development of brain and behavior. He and his colleagues have identified how auditory experience alters the structure and function of nerve cells.

Dr. Mooney has served as a George Barth Geller Professor of Research in Neurobiology at Duke University since 2010. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Yale University and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

3/26/18



Julie J. Thomson – Birds in American Art

Birds have been the subject of, and the inspiration for, many American artists. This presentation will provide an overview of birds in American art from the nineteenth century through today. Artists to be discussed include John James Audubon, Genevieve Estelle Jones, Charles Willson Peale (left), Eliot Porter, Andy Warhol, and Barbara Bosworth. Birding knowledge will come in handy as we pay close attention to how birds have been identified in some of these works of art.

Julie J. Thomson is an independent art historian and curator who lives in Durham. Julie began birding in 2010 while living in New York City, an interest she has continued as she moved to Houston and then back to Durham. She has worked for various art museums including the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke. Julie currently works at Duke University Press. You can visit her blog at <http://juliejthomson.blogspot.com/>

04/23/18



Keith Kennedy – Japan's Winter Wildlife

A winter trip to Japan provided a unique opportunity to experience both its culture and its incredible scenery and wildlife. Wildlife viewing and photography opportunities were exceptional, including "snow monkeys" sitting in thermal pools, and Hokkaido's beautiful Red-crowned Cranes. Additional highlights were Steller's Sea-Eagles on drifting pack ice, Whooper Swans, Blakiston's Fish-Owl, red foxes, and Sika deer.

Keith Kennedy – Japan’s Winter Wildlife (continued)

Keith is a retired entomologist who has been pursuing bird and insect photography for over ten years. He and his wife Sharon recently relocated to Raleigh from Wisconsin, where they lived for 30 years.

5/21/18



Bob Lewis – A Bird’s Rainbow

Many birds are brightly colored, and others use patterned feathers for camouflage. How do these colors originate? What’s the difference between colors from pigments and physical colors? From Yellow warblers to Anna’s Hummingbirds, each species makes unique use of the feather colors it possesses. Bob will unravel some of the mysteries of color in birds with a little chemistry, a bit of physics, and a lot of brightly colored photos.

Bob trained as a chemist and worked for Chevron for 33 years. He’s taught birding classes in the Bay Area for over 20 years, and served as the chair of Golden Gate Audubon’s Adult Education Committee. He loves to travel and photograph birds, and has recently returned from a trip to Peru, chasing the brightly colored birds of that area.

Field trips (2017-18)

The Chapel Hill Bird Club conducts regular field trips during fall, winter, and spring, usually on Saturdays. The general schedule for field trips can be found at:

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/fieldtrips.html>

Specifics for any given trip will be posted on the Carolinabirds e-mail list and the Chapel Hill Bird Club Facebook page one or two days beforehand. Specifics will include the destination, meeting details, need for special gear, lunch, etc. Most trips are to areas within 25 miles of Chapel Hill and finish by noon, but they may range further afield and return later. The field trip chair is open to suggestions for new locations. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on field trips.

Note from the editor



I have been birding since age five and have lived in Durham since 1988. I edited the New Hope Audubon Society Newsletter for several years and decided to give newsletter work another try. Thanks for your patience as I reacquaint myself with print design. (Photo by Caroline Gilmore.)

–Patrick Coin



Blakiston's Fish-Owl

Officers of Chapel Hill Bird Club – 2017-18

Elected officers

President

Mary Kay Robinson
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Co-Vice President

Jim Capel
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Co-Vice President

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Treasurer

Patricia Bailey
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Secretary

Edith Tatum
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Appointed officers

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Webmaster

Bird count supervisor/compiler

Will Cook
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Field Trip Chair

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Editorial notes

Volume 45 of the Bulletin is published in 2017. Issues 1-5 for 2017 were listed as volume 47 in error.

Artwork in this issue is either public domain or subject to fair use. Editor has details for any individual work.

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