



The Bulletin

April 2026
Volume 53, Number 8



Photo by William Lutin/Audubon Photography Awards

April Greetings

It must be April since the Yellow Crowned Night Herons are putting on a show. The most photogenic I know of in the area are at Sandy Creek Park in Durham, but there are more birds nesting in Ephesus Road Park. I counted six nests high in the trees near the pickleball courts and along the small stream through the park this week. This is at least the third year they have nested at the park which is on

one of my regular dog walking routes. What I most like about walking through the woods under the heron nests is the variety of hoots and toots they make as they tend to their nests. None of the harsh squawks I associate with Great Blue Herons. To help find them look down not up, the whitewash will tell you when to look up, just down stand under there with your mouth open, you might get more than you bargain for.

April and May also bring our spring bird counts. Chapel Hill Bird Club sponsors the Chapel Hill Count on May 2, the Durham Count is on April 26, and the Jordan Lake Count is on May 3. Bird Counts are an important citizen science tool that provides longitudinal data for researchers to study population trends of our local and migrating birds.

Surely, the most exciting part of April is the revelation at the April meeting of our slate of officers for election to lead the Chapel Hill Bird Club in the coming year. As it happens, there is still one slot open for a co-secretary if anyone is interested in joining the team. Contact me if you have any interest in more information about what the job entails.

See you at the meeting or on one of our bird walks!

Cheers,
Bo Howes



Azure Kingfisher

***April Program: Tom Driscoll —
Birds, Animals, Herps, & Insects
of Central Northern Australia***

When: Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:15pm (light refreshments served at 7:15, program to start at 7:30)

Where: Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
or on [Zoom](#).

RSVP: Let us know you are coming by responding to our [Facebook event](#). To attend by Zoom, register [here](#).

Tom Driscoll is back to share photos from his latest trip to Australia with us. Their birdwatching tour started in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. They flew north to Darwin then drove south to Kakadu National Park. They then drove further south to the Katherine area and proceeded west to Kunnanurra. Afterwards, they spent 5 days on the northwest coast of Western Australia swimming with whale sharks and more birding! Tom will also include a few mammal photos from previous trips to Australia in this presentation.



Agile Wallaby

Tom has been bird watching a very long time. He began his career as an Environmental Protection Specialist for the Texas Air control Board and retired as an Environmental Scientist from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He is past president of the New Hope Audubon Society (now the New Hope Bird Alliance) and a past board member for the Eno River Association.



Blue-winged Kookaburra

All photos are courtesy of Tom Driscoll.



Chapel Hill Spring Bird Count: Saturday May 2nd

This year's Chapel Hill Spring Bird Count will be on Saturday May 2nd. New counters are welcome. For returning counters, please email [Will Cook](mailto:Will.Cook@duke.edu) to let him know if you can count your usual area or if you would like to try a new area. See our [website](http://www.duke.edu/~birdcount) for more information.



Prothonotary Warbler at Old Bynum Bridge, photo courtesy of Do Hodgson

Field Trips

We have bimonthly field trips from September through April, except during bird count seasons. Jim Capel will lead our next field trip on Sunday April 19th at 7:30am at the Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment, which is located on Old Oxford Road in Durham County, about .4 miles north of Jack Road. Check our [bird walk schedule](#) for more information..

The purpose of the Chapel Hill Bird Club is to provide engagement and educational opportunities for area birders of all experience levels. We offer interesting educational programs, local birding field trips, Christmas and spring bird counts, and connection to other members via a Facebook group. Members have access to like-minded people including experts who can answer your

questions. Whether you watch birds in your yard or travel to the ends of the earth to chase rarities, our club offers something for you. We are a friendly group and welcome all to join us, especially new birders! Our members are mostly from the Research Triangle area of North Carolina: Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Cary, Pittsboro, and surrounding towns.

See you next month!