

birding the triangle... and beyond, for over half a century

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The BULLETIN...
Chapel Hill Bird Club
March 2009
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

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> Meeting: Monday, Mar 23, 2009 <

When/Where: 7:15 PM/refreshments; 7:30/Meeting
The lounge, Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church, corner
of Hwy. 15-501 bypass and Willow Dr., behind
University Mall, Chapel Hill.

Who/What: **Norm Budnitz** will be speaking on
“Birding the Galapagos Islands”

Help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth with a reprise of Norm’s long-dreamed-of trip to the Galapagos Islands in June 2008. We’ll get a vicarious tour through the lens of Norm’s camera. He has close-ups of iguanas, tortoises, Boobies, Noddies, Frigatebirds, and even the almost, but not quite, look-alike finches.

Norm was a teacher of science and math at Carolina Friends School for 22 years, and then started a program with one of his former professors to teach teachers how to teach science. That program has evolved into an independent non-profit called the Center for Inquiry-Based learning. Now that Norm is working part-time, he has been doing a lot of travel, and we are the fortunate beneficiaries.

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Saturday Morning Field Trips

depart from Glen Lennox Shopping Center Parking lot off Hwy 54 promptly at 7:30 most Saturday mornings. All skills are welcome. Trips are usually

To :

No. 3

over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. For further details, call Doug at 942-0479, or see the CHBC website at:
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/>

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All Bulletins

Will routinely be sent via E-mail starting September 2009.

If you do not have e-mail, or wish to continue to receive a mailed copy, please call the editor, Karen Piplani, at (919) 929-6553, or write her at the address in the top left corner to notify her that you wish to continue receiving the Bulletin via regular mail.

Please give us your e-mail address so that we may continue to insure that you will receive the Bulletin. Early notification will help us save even more money which may go toward local birding projects.

Have you paid this year’s dues?

If not, there will be a yellow mark on the date on the mailing label. Please bring your dues (checks payable to the Chapel Hill Bird Club) to the next meeting, with the completed membership form, or mail them to:

**Patsy Bailey,
277 Mint Springs Rd.
Pittsboro, NC 27312**

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

ph _____

E-mail _____

New member: ____ or, RENEWAL: _____

dues: \$15/yr. individuals/family, \$10/year students
Please make checks payable to Chapel Hill Bird Club.

2008 Chapel Hill (NC) Christmas Bird Count Summary

The Chapel Hill Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, 21 December 2008, produced 86 species, the lowest count in ten years (10-year average 90.6). Weather was a major factor in this count, keeping bird numbers down with heavy rain for an hour at daybreak, followed by moderately strong winds in the afternoon. The count of 13019 individuals (10-year average 16856) is the lowest since 1997, as is the 97.2 birds per party-hour (average 116).

Rarities: Derb Carter found a Horned Grebe at the American Stone quarry pond, where he usually sees nothing, for our first since 1985. Doug Shadwick found a Black-and-white Warbler near Jordan Lake, only our third count record. Pam Timmons also saw another Black-and-white at her feeder a couple of days after the count. Other goodies included a Red-breasted Merganser at Jordan Lake (Phil Warren) and a flock of 11 White-crowned Sparrows near Dairyland Road (Derb Carter), and an adult male Baltimore Oriole (Julia Shields).

Record highs: The count of 33 Ruddy Ducks almost triples the previous high of 13 set in 2005. The rain and wind kept vultures on their roosts for easy counting. We set a record high of 377 Black Vultures (280 in 2006) and almost a record of 405 Turkey Vultures (surpassed only by 407 in 1977). The amazing count of 506 Chipping Sparrows (381

in 2004) is 3.67 times the average count. Field Sparrows were also well above normal (highest since 1995), though not near a record. Pine Siskins made a major push into the area this winter and the count of 154 is the highest since 1980.

No record lows were set, but quite a few species were the lowest in more than a decade: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, and House Sparrow. Because of the rainy and windy conditions, we missed all the owls for the first time since 1989.

Teams honors: Derb Carter, covering the Dairyland Road area, had the highest species count, with 57 (1438 birds). Jeff Phippen's party, covering the Orange County landfill area, counted the most birds, 1510 (51 species).

Most abundant birds: White-throated Sparrow (1175), Dark-eyed Junco (961), Ring-billed Gull (814), Northern Cardinal (532), and Canada Goose (511).

Weather: Temperature 42-59 F, wind from the west at 5-20 mph, overcast-partly cloudy, heavy rain in am, water open. Effort: 39 observers in 21 field parties, 134 party hours (99 by foot, 35 by car) and 344.25 party miles (82.25 by foot, 262 by car), 3.3 hours and 2.75 miles owling, 9 people and 12 hours watching feeders.

Full count results are available on the Christmas Bird Count web site.

Thanks to the participants for counting through the miserable weather!

-- Will Cook, compiler

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers

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2008 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

Species	12/20						— Chapel Hill Observer Party —																									
	Ral	Dur	Kerr	JL	Falls	CH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Baltimore Oriole	5					1									1																	
Purple Finch	14	22	1	58	14	25						20						3								2						
House Finch	199	190	89	76	78	163	22	2	11		42	5		2	1	12	4	5	10	19		2						1			25	
Pine Siskin		24	69	598	250	154	5		25	2		1				12		5		1						20				83		
American Goldfinch	337	529	274	568	451	446	38	6	45	34	26	10	12	5		10	5	14	20	21	10	19	3	2	29	16	1	35		85		
House Sparrow	40	100	10	35	11	32	5				6		7				2											12				
TOTAL SPECIES 122	92	92	90	97	93	86	57	37	51	17	44	36	41	43	13	41	34	24	52	41	51	50	46	39	38	19	35	32	20	40		
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	10204	23596	12509	46878	26626	13019	1438	351	1510	73	723	397	376	381	20	1044	208	145	1361	629	406	634	482	372	515	100	467	334	288	765		
Number of Field Parties			10	23	18	21	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		
Number of Participants	53	37	15	51	31	39	1	2	3	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	5		
Start Time:						500	600	755	915		720	630	830	710		730	1030	1230	715	730	900	700	630	500	730	700	835	700	730	600		
End Time:						1800	1700	1700	1615		1255	1600	1500	1540		1800	1530	1530	1745	1330	1730	1300	1300	1430	1200	830	1710	1300	1715	1630		
Party Hours: Total	81	112.75	72.25	128	101.75	134	7.5	6.75	6	0	7	6	6.5	7.5	0	10	5	3	7	6	6.5	6.5	6	6	4.5	0	5.75	6	5.5	9		
Party Hours: On Foot			53.5	85	83.5	99	6.5	5.25	5		1.5	5	5.5	2.5		4.5	4.5	3	7	2	5.5	6	5.5	4.5	4.5		5.25	2	4.5	9		
Party Hours: By Car			18.75	43	18.25	35	1	1.5	1		5.5	1	1	5		5.5	0.5			4	1	0.5	0.5	1.5			0.5	4	1			
Party Miles: Total			229.5	332	242.7	344.25	39	18.5	21	0	23.5	7.5	30	21	0	31	9.5	3	5	23	11	18	6	11.5	1.75	0	10	44	5.5	4.5		
Party Miles: On Foot			37.25	65	69.7	82.25	2	3.5	4		3.5	2.5	5	1		7	4.5	3	5	2	6	8	4	1.5	1.75		8	2	3.5	4.5		
Party Miles: By Car			192.25	267	173	262	37	15	17		20	5	25	20		24	5			21	5	10	2	10			2	42	2			
Nocturnal Hours			5	3.5	3.75	3.3	0.5					0.5						0.5	0.3					0.5						1		
Nocturnal Miles			32.35	9	1.25	2.75	2					0						0.25						0						0.5		
Feeder Watchers					2	9				1					1											1				6		
Feeder Hours					7	12				1.5					1											2.5				7		

CH: Chapel Hill count date: 12/21/08; compiler: Will Cook; 42-59 F; W 5-20 mph; rain in am; overcast-partly cloudy
Ral: Raleigh count date: 12/20/08; compiler: John Connors; weather: 55-65 F, cloudy, no rain
Falls: Falls Lake count date: 1/5/09; compiler: Brian Bockhahn; 44-54 F, overcast, wind 5-10

Kerr: Kerr Lake count date: 1/2/09; compiler: Brian Bockhahn;
Dur: Durham count date: 12/14/08; compiler: Mike Schultz; temp 27-52 F, partly cloudy-cloudy, no precip
JL: Jordan Lake count date: 1/4/09; compiler: Norm Budnitz; temp 45-52 F, cloudy, rain in am, calm.

Party Areas

- 1 1,4
- 2 2,7
- 3 3,5, 6
- 4 4-yard
- 5 8, 13
- 6 9, 10
- 7 11, 12
- 8 14, 17
- 9 14-yard
- 10 15, 18
- 11 16-part
- 12 16-part
- 13 20
- 14 21

Party Members

- Derb Carter
- Pam Timmons, Perry Haaland
- Jeff Phippen, Toni Rexrode, Jacob Socolar
- Cynthia Fox
- Tom Driscoll, Bo Howes
- Norm Budnitz
- Kent Fiala
- Betty King, Judy Teague
- Julia Shields
- Eric Scholz, Michelle Smith
- Ginger Travis
- Jay Linke
- Will Cook, Jack & Pam Stewart, David Edsall
- Harriet Sato, Bob Winstead

Party

- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

Areas

- 22 N
- 22 S
- 24 N
- 24 S
- 23, 25
- 25-yard
- 26
- 27, 28
- 29
- 32

Party Members

- Brian Bockhahn
- Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Phil Warren
- Doug Shadwick
- Edith Tatum
- Amalie Tuffin
- Shelley Theye
- Jane Brinkley
- David Curtin
- Pat Cummins, Tom Biek
- Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Bobbie Hahn, David Murdock, Lynn Ogden
- Feeder watchers: Candace Owens, Harry & Caroline Pederson, Joan Redmann, Jerrold & Joan Walecka