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The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

February 2010

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

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Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2010

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: **Brian Bockhahn** will be speaking on:

“Birding Falls Lake”

Brian has been the NC State Park Ranger at Falls
Lake State Recreational Area for 11 years He is an
avid birder, frequent submitter to Carolinabirds,
reliable Christmas Bird Counter, and enthusiastic
educator.

Falls Lake offers a variety of habitats in one easy-to-
reach place. Brian will tell us about the Falls Lake
Recreation Area, what is to be found where, and will
have maps, checklists, and other information about this
near-by resource which we may often overlook. Please
join us.

Saturday Field Trips

Trips led by Doug Shadwick 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 over by noon. Dress
for the weather and for walking. For further details,
call Doug at 942-0479.

Your Favorite Bird/Nature/Wildlife Book, Further Nominations Requested

We asked for nominations last month, and 3 were
received.

We’re looking for your favorite book. It can be one
you remember with affection from your childhood, a
book that suddenly opened up an aspect of the natural
world to you, or a book that made a concept suddenly
clear. Whatever you like, just send us the name and
author, and a few words about what made the book
special.

We’d like to have titles and comments to list in the
April Bulletin. It would be nice to have summer
reading suggestions, or ideas for gifts for special
people. Please send nominations to Karen Piplani at:
krpiplani@nc.rr.com, or at 1502 Halifax Road,
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Brief Summary of Last Meeting’s Talk on “Birding in Borneo”

by Karen Piplani

Folks who were unable to get to the January meeting
missed a great talk on “Birding in Borneo” by David
and Judy Smith. The Smiths, members and Vice-
Presidents of the Chapel Hill Bird Club, went to
Borneo last summer. Borneo was once almost
completely covered with rain forest, and has swampy
coastal areas, mangrove forests and rain forest
mountains in the interior. Only 50 % of the original
rain forest remains, but it contains some of the oldest

undisturbed rain forest in the world. The government has encouraged the development of eco-tourism in order to foster the preservation of the areas that remain.

The Smiths visited Borneo’s northern province of Sabha, governed by Indonesia. They started in **Kota Kinabalu**, and made a circuit that included Sandakar, a stay in a low-land lodge, some boat trips on the Kinabatangan River, the Rain Forest Lodge in the Danun Valley (a really fancy place), and back to Kota. The **Sandakar** area has very tall (~200’) rain forest, a very good canopy walk, and fantastic numbers of bird species. David and Judy saw birds such as the Ashy Tailor Bird, the Black & Yellow Broadbill, the Red-bearded Bee Eater, the Crimson Sun Bird, a nectar feeding bird which has the same ecological niche as our hummingbird. They saw the Gomantong caves, one home to the Edible Nest Swiftlet, whose nest is harvested for bird’s nest soup. (The Black Nest Swiftlet, and the Mossy Nest Swiftlet, with very “dirty” nests, are not so used.) It was the dry season when they stayed at the low-land lodge. (Judy says this means that it does not rain ALL Day, but it still rains every day.) Here they saw 8 species of Horn Bills, Bee Eaters, Stork-billed Kingfishers, Blue-eared Kingfishers, and other birds.

The **Danun Valley Rain Forest Lodge** was a luxurious resort with a helipad, good food, and a wonderful canopy walkway. The variety of birds, other fauna, and flora they saw was astonishing. The animals seen included bearded pigs, the proboscis monkey, Long-tailed macaques, and “the old man of the forest”, Orangutans. Flora included all sorts of fantastic plants, including pitcher plants and the rare blooming Rafflesia, the largest flower in the world. (Beware, I was unable to verify with the Smiths at which location things were seen- I may have put birds or animals in the wrong ecological area!)

Although the accommodations ranged from medium to luxurious, the trip was not without its difficulties. Even though the weather was in the 80’s and the humidity was high, when outside everyone worn long sleeves, pants tucked into boots, and an extra pair of tightly woven socks. This was for protection from the leeches. These creatures stand with one end on the leaves, and the other end extended, waiting for a passing meal. They can attach without notice, lunch on their prey’s blood, and then release and fall off. The spot where they attach becomes red and itchy for

a few days. Few people escaped having at least one, but the protective gear reduces the number greatly. In spite of this, I’d still love to go to Borneo.

I wish you-all had been there for a really great talk.

Join the Chapel Hill Bird Club

For birders who have not yet joined the Chapel Hill Bird Club, and for people who may have let their dues lapse, this is a reminder that we ask people to contribute to the on-going expenses for our meetings, our contributions for the Christmas Bird Counts, the maintenance of our website, and other projects.

Membership benefits include interesting programs, weekly field trips, the newsletter, and camaraderie with local birders at all levels – in a welcoming, inclusive group. Membership dues for one person or family are \$15 per year, or \$10 for a student. Make your check payable to the **Chapel Hill Bird Club**, and please mail 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

- Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers**
- President:* Amalie Tuffin, amaliel@post.harvard.edu
- Vice Presidents:* Larry & Sue Wilson, su1wil2@nc.rr.com
- Vice Presidents:* David & Judy Smith, davidjudysmith@verizon.net
- Secretary:* Amalie Tuffin, amaliel@post.harvard.edu
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