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The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

April 2010

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

Vol. 38

No. 4

Dues Reminders Sent Out

Meeting: Monday, April 26, 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: **Dan Kaplan & Larry Brockman**
will be speaking on:

“Preservation and Birding at Ellerbe Creek”

Ellerbe Creek is part of the Neuse River basin, and flows through most mostly urban areas of Durham County into Falls Lake. Larry Brockman and Dan Kaplan are two members of the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association. They will describe the work of the ECWA, which is dedicated to restoring and protecting the creek as it flows through Durham and to managing the five nature preserves along it. They will also show photos of some of the plants, birds, and animals that can be found there.

Come and learn the details and future plans for this great urban wildlife resource.

Saturday Field Trips are over til Fall

The last trip of the season, on April 10, was led by Doug Shadwick to Knapp of Reeds and the Butner Gamelands. Saturday Field Trips will resume at the end of August or beginning of September, depending on weather and local lake levels. For further details, call Doug at 942-0479 at the end of the summer.

Reminders to folks whose dues are not current have been sent out. Here is the renewal form for those who need it: 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

2009 Chapel Hill (NC) Christmas Bird Count Summary

The Chapel Hill Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, 27 December 2009, produced 81 species, the lowest count in twelve years (10-year average 90.6). Weather for the count was fine, maybe too fine. This was the first nice day after a period of cold, wet weather and the birds seemed to be resting, enjoying a day off. Most participants remarked that bird activity was

unusually low. In fact, only one counter, Derb Carter, reported having a good count. The total of 11011 individuals (10-year average 16634) is the lowest since 1996. In part this is because the level of participation in the count was far below normal, with the lowest number of counters since 1995 and only 125.5 party-hours compared to an average of 144.7. Even taking into account the low turnout, though, the 91.4 birds per party-hour (average 115) is the lowest since 1997. The birds just weren't very active and no big flocks of blackbirds, robins, or gulls were found.



The highlight of the count was a beautiful Yellow-throated Warbler found by Tom Driscoll at his feeder, only our fourth count record and the first since 1977. Barbara Driscoll got some nice photos of the bird for documentation. This was the only real rarity of the count. Other good finds included two White-crowned Sparrows near Dairyland Road (Derb Carter), and an adult male Baltimore Oriole at a feeder (Julia Shields).



Unusually, even for a poor count, we set no record highs, though one record was tied: 9 Great Horned

Owls ties the high set in 2007. We had our second highest count for two species: Tufted Titmouse, with 441 (average 370) and 764 Canada Goose (average 586).

We set no record lows and there were no big misses, but the count of 224 European Starlings was the lowest since 1968 (average 888) and a bunch of species were the lowest since the mid-late 90s: Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, and Dark-eyed Junco. Winter finches were represented by a lone Purple Finch. One of our best birding areas was not counted because of recent heavy rains: the high water flowing rapidly across the ford at Mason Farm blocked access to one of our most productive areas.

Teams honors: Derb Carter, covering the Dairyland Road area, had by far the highest species count, with 69 (1131 birds). Tom Driscoll's party of four birders counted the most birds, 1346 (46 species).

Most abundant birds: White-throated Sparrow (971), Dark-eyed Junco (767), Canada Goose (764), and Northern Cardinal (533).

Weather: Temperature 29-54 F, wind from the south at 0-5 mph, partly cloudy, no precipitation, water open. Effort: 35 observers in 18 field parties, 125.5 party hours (103 by foot, 22.5 by car) and 276 party miles (69 by foot, 207 by car), 4.25 hours and 2 miles owling, 8 people and 11.5 hours watching feeders.

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

Thanks to all the participants for their efforts, despite many of the birds taking the day off!

-- Will Cook, compiler

- Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers**
President: Amalie Tuffin, amaliel@post.harvard.edu
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Vice Presidents: David & Judy Smith, davidjudysmith@verizon.net
Secretary: Amalie Tuffin, amaliel@post.harvard.edu
Treasurer: Patsy Bailey, (919) 933-5850
Field Trip Coordinator: Doug Shadwick, (919)942-0479 dougshadwick@nc.rr.com
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2009 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

— Chapel Hill Observer Party —

Species	12/19 12/20 1/5 1/3 1/4 12/27																									
	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	
Canada Goose	744	630	581	303	375	764	76	12	60	63		123	76		169		4	50	31	22	60	3	3	3	9	
Mute Swan	6																									
Wood Duck	8	75	7	16	13																					
Gadwall	10	1	49	1	4																					
American Wigeon			6	1	1																					
American Black Duck	9	1	340	4	613	2	2																			
Mallard	164	157	342	231	107	68	2		2			9			1		38	38	6	4	2	4				
Northern Shoveler		1	7	1	15																					
Northern Pintail		1																								
Green-winged Teal	4	5	1																							
Canvasback			194	1																						
Ring-necked Duck	50	47	1	34	3	3	3																			
Greater Scaup		1	1																							
Lesser Scaup	5	2	4																							
Bufflehead	24	3	78	53	34																					
Hooded Merganser	62	74	304	298	278	27	15	6				2									4					
Red-breasted Merganser				3																						
Ruddy Duck	48	35			6	7									7											
Wild Turkey		3	13	1	14	1																		1		
Common Loon			223	5																						
Pied-billed Grebe	16	2	19	106	68	9			3				1		1		2		1	1						
Horned Grebe	1		287	67	4																					
Double-crested Cormorant	17	880	243	2000	189	14															6	8				
Great Blue Heron	33	62	50	75	42	38	3	2	3	2	1	1	1		3		2	2	4	4	7	1		2		
Black Vulture	4	49	230	104	95	61	22		22	1	3		2		1			8						2		
Turkey Vulture	17	151	108	256	142	109	22	1	22	5	5	9	10		3	2		1	7	3	1	3		3	12	
Osprey				1																						
Bald Eagle 2 ad., 3 imm.	3	4	41	29	12	5							1							1		2			1	
Northern Harrier		3	3	1		1	1																			
Sharp-shinned Hawk		5	2	1	1	2	1								1											
Cooper's Hawk	7	3	2	3	1	4	1					1			1					1						
Accipiter sp.						1					1															
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	16	11	21	12	28	4		5	5	2	4	1		2		1		1			1			2	
Red-tailed Hawk	11	39	29	39	19	39	11			2		1			3	1		2	6	5	3				5	
American Kestrel	8	6	7	6	2	1														1						
Merlin		1	1	1																						
American Coot	2			162																						
Killdeer	54	42	76	58	38	65	22				14		6							6	17					
Spotted Sandpiper			1		1																					
Wilson's Snipe		1		2		1	1																			
American Woodcock	2	8	2			11												5		1		4		1		
Bonaparte's Gull		8	437	104	158	2																2				
Ring-billed Gull	636	9353	2132	42000	11690	155	10		3	5	3	28	28		8		1	7	2	6	18	2	3		31	
Herring Gull	2	153	9	67	264																					
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1	3	1	2																					
Great Black-backed Gull		2	1	2	1																					
Rock Pigeon	361	124	59	93	52	223	8		132	22		17						2		3	39					
Mourning Dove	112	126	132	82	74	131	17	6	16	27			5		7	1	12	2	11		12	4		1	10	
Eastern Screech-Owl		1		4	3	3	1																			
Great Horned Owl	1	1	8	2	2	9	3											1		4	1					
Barred Owl	1	1	2	1	4	3												2						1		
Rufous Hummingbird					2																					
Belted Kingfisher	15	13	9	9	24	9	1	1		2	1		1				1	1	1							
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	43	11	19	24	50	2				2		7				1	2	4	10	7	3	7	2	3	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	84	164	88	142	81	190	11	4	11	30	8	7	13		9	7	12	9	16	9	6	9	7	6	16	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	37	67	51	72	36	67	1		3	10	5	3	2	1	1	2	1	8	4	11	4	2	1	2	6	
Downy Woodpecker	66	71	43	73	35	101	2	1	3	17	7	3	6		3	3	9	6	4	13	2	6	6	2	8	
Hairy Woodpecker	11	12	5	12	21	18	1		1	1	1	1					1	3		4	1	1	1	3		
N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	67	113	58	67	53	107	5	4	9	11	1	8	8		4	7	4	15	8	10	7	2	1		3	
Pileated Woodpecker	7	16	15	24	14	21	3	6			1				1			1		6	1	1		1		
Eastern Phoebe	21	37	18	67	20	31	2	1		4	3	1	1		1			5		5	1	2	3	1	1	
Loggerhead Shrike	2		1	1	1																					
Blue-headed Vireo	2	1	3	3	1																					
Blue Jay	85	334	171	257	98	286	19	9	49	10	12	3	10	1	5	8	18	10	20	24	33	15	11	5	24	
American Crow	177	363	364	953	254	393	55	13	45	35	9	18	16	2	15	3	15	11	7	15	34	29	18	3	50	
Fish Crow			9		2																					
Common Raven			2																							
TREE SWALLOW		4																								
Carolina Chickadee	200	261	135	272	169	386	12	14	36	87	25	6	20	1	14	26	11	6	14	29	16	12	10	15	32	
Tufted Titmouse	117	257	132	231	173	441	14	4	64	98	15	12	18		17	29	23	14	22	39	2	14	8	19	29	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				1																						
White-breasted Nuthatch	51	87	38	30	46	89	1		7	14	6	2	3		6	7	2	2	3	18	7	2		3	6	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	22	78	39	164	103	115	2	3	18	15	4	1	13	1	4		2	1	2	7	12	6	7	2	15	
Brown Creeper	11	13	18	16	13	25	1		3	3	4	2	1		1		1	1		3	1		1	1	2	
Carolina Wren	150	285	79	167	111	375	11	3	45	109	9	19	19	3	9	20	11	20	20	18	5	12	14	5	23	
House Wren	1	4		1	8																					
Winter Wren	16	36	13	22	28	41	1	1			6	4					1		10		10	1			7	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	118	200	81	256	128	223	5		38	28	17		5		1	4		5	1	48	27	25	12	1	6	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	98	119	50	163	70	111	4	1	17	12	2	5	5		2	1	2	11	5	26	8	4	3		3	

2009 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

Species	12/19 12/20 1/5 1/3 1/4 12/27						— 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	
Eastern Bluebird	164	234	167	318	176	362	63	10	19	40	7	21	8	1	43	4	1	11	20	16	32	4	8	1	53	
Hermit Thrush	19	39	67	65	54	56	7		1	4		4	2					20	8	2	2	2	2	1	3	
American Robin	279	493	920	453	349	278	4	2	19	56			1	5	2			6	2	3	48	4	3		123	
Gray Catbird	1	2	1		2																					
Northern Mockingbird	50	100	53	85	44	117	11	1	22	4	2	7	4		9	2	4	5	5	4	4		2		31	
Brown Thrasher	28	41	13	11	26	28	2		1	6		1			2	3		3	5	1			1	1	2	
European Starling	517	224	331	371	159	224	70	6	22		1	37	19		1			10	22	2	14		7		13	
American Pipit	388		60		1	90	90																			
Cedar Waxwing	32	59	323	719	65	296	18		53	47		7			18			10	24	4		14		5	96	
Orange-crowned Warbler				1																						
Myrtle Warbler	264	202	271	128	108	384	19	1	46	16	2	36	19	1	44	5	14	9	28	47	4	9	12		72	
YLW-THRTD WARBLER						1						1														
Pine Warbler	36	24	27	86	24	31	1	2	3	4			1		1		1	1	2	1	12				2	
Palm Warbler	2	3	2	4	1																					
Common Yellowthroat		2			1																					
Eastern Towhee	53	226	111	103	124	159	1	1	22	19	2	4	4		9	7	5	15	6	7	16	3	13	3	22	
Chipping Sparrow	40	243	232	259	225	201	35	1	20	36		10							7		59		33			
Field Sparrow	24	71	84	29	45	121	18		39		3	7						25		7	17	5				
Savannah Sparrow	8	17	71		67	29	23		1											3	2					
Fox Sparrow	4	73	47	60	18	47	5	8	7		2				1			14			6	4				
Song Sparrow	298	450	177	287	164	460	34		71	30	1	22	13		5		19	75	27	73	24	37	7	6	16	
Swamp Sparrow	57	94	18	35	44	82	2		9									57		1	3	8			2	
White-throated Sparrow	564	1204	424	546	348	971	49	4	155	118	15	61	23	2	14	38	27	115	42	120	44	42	31	32	39	
White-crowned Sparrow			1		1	2	2																			
Dark-eyed (Slit-col) Junco	441	726	1074	1486	623	767	22	17	93	110	24	4	3	1	52	41	38	32	55	108	54	21	22	17	53	
Northern Cardinal	236	467	119	374	177	533	40	5	68	95	13	15	10	2	8	37	21	20	32	33	31	6	33	14	50	
Red-winged Blackbird	73	251	5738	135	198	113	40		1	12	41										6		12		1	
Eastern Meadowlark	50	37	105	92	59	13	9	1	3																	
Rusty Blackbird		25	20			77														74		3				
Common Grackle	169	118	2177	7	6	79	45			1								13							20	
Brown-headed Cowbird	335		143	17	5	112	110																		2	
Baltimore Oriole	7					1									1											
Purple Finch	1	4		21	7	1	1				cw															
House Finch	83	94	24	79	30	155	4		8	49	5	4	12	2				2	16	2			3	2	46	
Pine Siskin		1			2																					
American Goldfinch	100	141	145	112	103	330	18		6	77	11		13		7	11	9	38	27	19	4	4	10	3	73	
House Sparrow	19	29	21	19	12	25	10			3		5			1										6	
TOTAL SPECIES	115	86	95	97	94	94	81	69	32	48	46	41	43	41	14	44	28	35	49	39	53	52	42	34	30	48
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	8134	20350	20445	55187	19122	11011	1131	151	1306	1346	296	536	415	21	515	278	329	719	573	903	671	355	308	160	1036	
Number of Field Parties			11	24		18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Participants	51	23	20	58	24	35	1	1	1	4	1	1	2		1	2	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	7	
Start Time:						530	530	730	745	655	645	700	710		815	830	730		730	600	730	630	700	700	530	
End Time:						1830	1830	1200	1445	1555	1215	1530	1515		1545	1700	1145		1500	1615	1130	1330	1045	1200	1500	
Party Hours: Total	69	100.25	80.75	138.25	94.75	125.5	12	4.5	7	8	5.25	8	6	0	5.5	5	4.25	7	7	9.75	10	6.5	3.75	5	11	
Party Hours: On Foot			59.5	100.5		103	11	4	5	6	5	6	2.5		2.5	5	4.25	7	6	8.5	7	6.25	1	5	11	
Party Hours: By Car			21.25	37.75		22.5	1	0.5	2	2	0.25	2	3.5		3			1	1.25	3	0.25	2.75				
Party Miles: Total			245	336.5		276	45.5	8	13	29	5.5	35	17	0	23	3.5	4	4	25	11	27	6	10	3.5	6	
Party Miles: On Foot			50	77.6		69	1.5	2	3	5	2.5	5	2		2	3.5	4	4	5	8	7	4	1	3.5	6	
Party Miles: By Car			195	258.9		207	44	6	10	24	3	30	15		21			20	3	20	2	9				
Nocturnal Hours			3.75	4.75		4.25	2				0.25									0.5	1	0.5				
Nocturnal Miles			8	17		2	0												0.5	1	0.5					
Feeder Watchers						8									1										7	
Feeder Hours				6		11.5									2	1.5									8	

CH: Chapel Hill count date: 12/27/09; compiler: Will Cook; 29-54 F; S 0-5 mph; no precip; partly cloudy
Ral: Raleigh count date: 12/19/09; compiler: John Connors
Falls: Falls Lake count date: 1/4/10; compiler: Brian Bockhahn

Kerr: Kerr Lake count date: 1/5/10; compiler: Brian Bockhahn
Dur: Durham count date: 12/20/09; compiler: Mike Schultz
JL: Jordan Lake count date: 1/3/10; compiler: Norm Budnitz

Party Areas 1 1,4 2 2,7 3 3,5, 6 4 8, 13 5 9, 10 6 11, 12 7 14, 17 8 14-yard 9 15, 18 10 16-part 11 19 12 20 13 21	Party Members Derb Carter Perry Haaland Jeff Pippen Tom Driscoll, Colyer Durovich, Bo Howes, Evan Trudeau Norm Budnitz Kent Fiala Betty King, Judy Teague Julia Shields Chuck Byrd Jay and Penny Linke Carol Williamson Will Cook, Ron Rozzelle, Rosa Patton, Robert Meehan Harriet Sato, Bob Winstead	Party 14 15 16 17 18 19	Areas 22 N 22 S 24 N 24 S 25-yard 32	Party Members Brian Bockhahn Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Phil Warren Doug Shadwick Edith Tatum Jane Oliver Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, David Murdock, Sam Baron, Bobbie Hahn, Nancy ?, Joan Redmann Feeder watchers: Lewis & Margaret Miles, Harry & Caroline Pederson, Barbara Roth, Jerrold & Joan Walecka
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