

C/o Karen Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
karen.piplani@gmail.com

# The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

## October 2010

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### Meeting: Monday, Oct 25, 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: Karen & Joe Bearden**  
will be speaking on:

### “Birding and Sightseeing in the West Via Train and Rental Car”

Our Raleigh members, **Karen and Joe Bearden**, will share their experiences traveling west on the Amtrak *Empire Builder* train. They made a three-day stop in Glacier National Park before continuing to Portland. From Portland, they traveled via rental car south along the beautiful Oregon and California coasts, and returned on the Amtrak *California Zephyr* through Utah and Colorado. Come and hear about their wonderful trip, magnificent scenery, and find out if they got the life birds they were hoping for.

### Enjoy Fall Saturday Field Trips

Take advantage of these beautiful Fall days, and join us on the free Saturday Field trips led by Doug Shadwick. As Doug has mentioned, the Fall trips have a special quality that

shouldn't be missed. We are usually in open areas, at the shore lines of local lakes, or at the edges of fields. The habitat is open and expansive, and a greater number of people may be comfortably accommodated than on crowded forest trails. And having extra eyes in the group increases the number of birds seen.

Add to that scenery, wonderful sunny days, clear skies, and crisp temperatures, and one has the recipe for an enjoyable break in the work week.

Trips are led by Doug Shadwick and 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.

The site chosen will depend on weather and local lake levels. For further details, call Doug Shadwick at 942-0479.

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### Notes from Susan Campbell

Ladies and gentlemen—it is that time of the year again: winter hummingbird season! This is a very exciting time for birders across the state for sure. Indeed any hummingbird seen in the Piedmont now is unlikely to be a familiar ruby-throated. History has shown that over-

wintering hummers are most likely to be rufous—a wide-spread western species that does make its way to the southeast and has been in their contributions. Travel as well as repair and replacement of older equipment are on the horizon. The last two winters documented across North Carolina from October through March.

Twelve seasons of investigating hummingbirds here in our state has been very exciting. Each year has been different. I have banded some 4000 hummingbirds but the winter individuals have been by far the most interesting. Not only have I banded a number of vagrant species (including black-chinned, calliope, broad-tailed, broad-billed, Allen’s and green-breasted mango) but have also recaptured a number of individuals. These have been not only rufous returning to their wintering feeders (such as the seven year female returnee to Shelby) but other banded birds that chose North Carolina for the winter. Also I have encountered hummers originally banded in Tennessee, South Carolina and Louisiana. And we have had very unexpected scenarios with, in one case, four rufous in one yard and in another, four rufous feeding ‘naturally’ in laurels on Baker’s Mountain in the absence of any feeders in December.

Who knows what we will find this winter. A new species? Or a banded hummer from points unknown?? Only time will tell. I have been very lucky in that so many have followed my work. Thankfully I have received support for my work. Many, such as the Chapel Hill Bird Club have been very faithful have resulted in fewer hummingbirds but this year could be a whole different ballgame. With good reproduction up north, many coastal wintering ruby-throateds may show up. And if westerners had a good summer, we may have numerous reports once temperatures cool down and out-of-town hummers begin to notice feeders.

So-- I would love to hear from one and all this winter. Any support, whether photos, stories, sightings or donations, is appreciated. Feel free to email ([susan@ncaves.com](mailto:susan@ncaves.com)) or phone at (910-949-3207) if you have a hummingbird sighting from now through March any where in North Carolina. Keep at least one feeder clean and filled.

(The Chapel Hill Bird Club has made several donations to assist Susan’s work in banding hummingbirds. Susan will be speaking to the Chapel Hill Bird Club later in the year. K. Piplani)

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**Ruth Comes to the Rescue**

Ruth Roberson has consented to fill the vacant position of Secretary for the Chapel Hill Bird Club. She had done this for several years previously, and after retiring once, has agreed to fill this vacancy again.

Many Thanks, Ruth!

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- Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers**
- President:* David Smith, [davidjudysmith@verizon.net](mailto:davidjudysmith@verizon.net)
- Vice Presidents:* Larry & Sue Wilson, [su1wil2@nc.rr.com](mailto:su1wil2@nc.rr.com)
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- WebMaster:* Will Cook, [cwcook@duke.edu](mailto:cwcook@duke.edu)
- Bulletin Editor:* Karen Piplani, (919) 929-6553, [karen.piplani@gmail.com](mailto:karen.piplani@gmail.com)