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# The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

**January 2011**

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

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## **Meeting: Monday, Jan. 24, 2011**

**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:** **John I. Connors,**  
**Coordinator of the Naturalist Center**  
**Of the North Carolina Museum of Natural**  
**Sciences,**  
will be speaking about

**What: Chimney Swifts and People:**  
**Past Present and Future**

“In 1682 a swift was found nesting for the first time  
in a chimney at a colonist’s cabin in Maine. This  
event forever changed the relationship between this  
species and people.

From the journals of early explorers through the  
efforts of the largest all-volunteer research project  
to study the migration path of a single species of  
bird, to Jesuit missionaries in a far off land, it’s a  
remarkable story.

And it’s not over. It’s a story whose next chapter  
will be written by us.”

Join us on Monday, January 24, to hear John give  
us a program about this fascinating bird. The  
program was produced in cooperation with the  
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and  
the Wake Audubon Society.



Photo Courtesy of John I. Connors, = NC Museum of Natural  
Sciences

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## Saturday Field Trips

Trips will resume on January 22, 2011, after the break for the Christmas Bird Counts and the Martin Luther King weekend trip to the coast. Trips are 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.

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## Dues Notices to go out this Month

The Chapel Hill Bird Club fiscal year goes from January to December. Folks who have paid their dues through January 2011 will be receiving notices that their Bird Club membership payments are due now.

Your dues support the provision of meeting space for our speakers and the club, assistance with the costs of the annual Christmas Bird Count, and support of other worth-while projects.

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### Summary:

### 2010 Chatham County Fall Bird Count by Will Cook

This year's count held great promise, as the drought created some great shorebird habitat at Falls Lake, but at Jordan Lake the mudflats were just barely beginning to emerge, so the shorebird count was good, but not spectacular. Last year we had extensive mudflats and had an astounding 130 species on the count. This year with high water and hot, dry weather, the birding was just so-so and we ended up with an even hundred species (average 104.5). The lake level was 214.6 feet above sea level, 1.7 feet below average for the count.

Extensive mudflats generally appear when the lake level is around 214 feet. The warm, sunny weather kept land bird activity low. This year's count of 2603 individuals is far below the average of 3684 and less than half of last year's record-breaking total. Observer effort was a little below average, with 62.25 party-hours (average 67.4), yet we still ended up with a near record number of birds per party-hour, 72 (average 54)

One species was new to the count: a Prothonotary Warbler graced the NC 751 causeway over Jordan Lake, seen by Will Cook's party. This is a long-overdue first - they're fairly common in the area during breeding season. Other rarities included 3 Northern Shovelers (4th count record), a Song Sparrow (common in winter, but just the 4th record for the fall count), and an Orchard Oriole, which like Prothonotary is common here in summer, but rare this late (4th count record).

We set just a few record highs: 37 Bald Eagles (average 12), 6 American Kestrels (1.7), 7 Eastern Screech-Owls (2.7), and 45 Red-headed Woodpeckers (20).

No record lows this year, but Canada Geese were in short supply: 15 (average 62).

While shorebirds weren't around in great numbers, we did get 9 species, well above the average of 6. We only managed 16 warbler species, below the average of 18. The 224 warblers counted is far below the average 338. Birds per party-hour was the second-lowest at 41.8 (average 56.1).

Teams with the highest counts: Will Cook's party of six birders, covering the NC 751 area, came in first in both species (64, 25 below last year's count for this area) and individuals (675, less than half last year's count for the area). Doug Shadwick's party, covering the Morgan Creek and western New Hope Creek mudflats from Old Hope Valley Farm Road, came in second with 57 species and 476 individuals.

Effort: 17 counters in 10 parties. 62.25 party hours (50.5 foot, 6.75 car, 5 boat), 99.75 party miles (29.75 foot, 62 car, 8 boat). Owling 3 hours, 25.5 mile. Weather: temp 66-86 F, wind NE 5-10 mph, no precip, clear, lake level 214.6'  
Thanks for your help, counters!

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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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## 2010 TRIANGLE AREA FALL BIRD COUNTS

9/16 9/17 9/18 — Chatham County observer parties —

Species	FL	KL	CC	ovlp	notes	WC	TL	JO	DS	NS	ST	GT	AT	AU	PW
Canada Goose	108	295	15						2						13
Wood Duck	1	2	9						4				5		
Mallard	7		29			3			18			8			
Blue-winged Teal			23			15			8						
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>			3		R							3			
Wild Turkey		11	0												
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>	3	1	0												
Double-crested Cormorant	70	24	41			15			6	2		11	4		3
Great Blue Heron	44	46	60	10		20			26	2		13	5	1	3
Great Egret	48	4	175	100		110			117			36	6		6
Green Heron	1	1	0												
Black Vulture	9	235	59			15	1		6	4	1	7	16	3	6
Turkey Vulture	59	104	111			10	9	3	3	17		8	31	8	22
Osprey	11	7	20			12				2		2	4		
Mississippi Kite	1		0												
Bald Eagle 16 ad., 21 imm.	9	18	37	3	H	9			3	2		9	3		14
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	0												
Cooper's Hawk	3	3	1										1		
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	13	9				2		1		2	1	1	1	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1		1				1								
Red-tailed Hawk	5	3	5			2	1	1							1
American Kestrel	2		6		H									6	
<b>Merlin</b>	1	1	0												
Semipalmated Plover			4						4						
Killdeer	85	43	54			2			29	3				5	15
Greater Yellowlegs	7		2						2						
Lesser Yellowlegs	10		10						10						
Solitary Sandpiper	2	1	2											2	
Spotted Sandpiper	5	1	4						2			1			1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2		0												
Least Sandpiper	30	1	8						8						
Pectoral Sandpiper	76		5						5						
<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>	2		0												
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>			2						2						
Caspian Tern		2	3	1		1			2			1			
Forster's Tern			2	2		2			2						
Rock Pigeon	38	127	0												
Mourning Dove	49	76	76			2	16	3	1		5		8	12	29
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9	6	4				1				1			1	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	1	7		H	1	2								4
Great Horned Owl	2		1						1						
Barred Owl	4	1	5				1				2			1	1
Common Nighthawk	1		0												
Whip-poor-will			5						5						
Chimney Swift	100	44	2							2					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7	12	16				3	2			2			5	4
Belted Kingfisher	11	10	8			4			2				1		1
Red-headed Woodpecker	17	19	45		H	3			27			1	2		12
Red-bellied Woodpecker	31	41	62			11	8	3	7	2	4	2	15	4	6
Downy Woodpecker	29	35	39			16	3	2	5	3	3	1		3	3
Hairy Woodpecker	2	10	4			2	1				1				
Northern Flicker	18	17	18			1	2	1	8	2			3		1
Pileated Woodpecker	10	26	14			2	1	1			3		4	1	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	13	27	10			2		2	1				1	3	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1	0												
Acadian Flycatcher	1	2	0												
Eastern Phoebe	9	15	12			4		1	1	1			1	2	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	1	3					2					1		
Eastern Kingbird		4	0												
White-eyed Vireo	24	50	21			3	5	1					1	9	2
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	6	2					2							
Philadelphia Vireo	1		0												
Red-eyed Vireo	12	18	9			2	2	2	1				2		
Blue Jay	66	78	86			10	12	7	7	5	1		29	12	3
American Crow	148	248	171			10	19	3	32	7	4	15	29	10	42
Fish Crow	17	8	11			3			3			2	3		
Barn Swallow	2		0												
Tree Swallow	2		0												
N Rough-winged Swallow	3		0												
Carolina Chickadee	109	150	156			44	13	14	17	15	7	2	32	6	6
Tufted Titmouse	110	127	163			56	15	10	15	8	6	1	37	9	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	22	31	30			9	2	1	4		5		3	3	3

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9/16 9/17 9/18 — Chatham County observer parties —

Species	FL	KL	CC	ovlp	notes	WC	TL	JO	DS	NS	ST	GT	AT	AU	PW
Brown-headed Nuthatch	39	51	46			11		2	6	8	4		7		8
Carolina Wren	94	103	90			25	6	10	12	6	5	4	14	3	5
House Wren	1	2	2			1				1					
<b>Marsh Wren</b>	1		0												
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11	61	14			4		1	1	4		1	3		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1			1									
Eastern Bluebird	114	90	60			1	3	5	5	7	2		3	11	23
Veery	35		1			1									
<b>Gray-cheeked Thrush</b>	8		0												
Swainson's Thrush	33	3	2							1			1		
Wood Thrush	2	2	0												
American Robin	46	2	4												4
Gray Catbird	16	9	14			1	3	1	2				3	1	3
Northern Mockingbird	43	42	11				1	1	1		1			5	2
Brown Thrasher	13	12	6			2	1	1	1					1	
European Starling	12	61	36			25									11
Tennessee Warbler	1	1	2			1				1					
Northern Parula	8	17	18			8	3			2		1		3	1
Yellow Warbler	2	3	4			2		1		1					
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	2	3			2				1					
Magnolia Warbler	5	6	7			3				3					1
Cape May Warbler		1	0												
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	2	2			1	1								
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	1	0												
Blackburnian Warbler	1	4	3			3									
Yellow-throated Warbler	4	7	2							1					1
Pine Warbler	178	185	91			15	2	3	3	35	5		20	2	6
Prairie Warbler	3		0												
Palm Warbler	15	2	5			3			1		1				
Black-and-white Warbler	7	11	16			5	1		1	6		1	1		1
American Redstart	29	21	24			7				17					
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b>			1		NC	1									
Worm-eating Warbler		1	0												
Ovenbird	1	2	5				2				2		1		
Northern Waterthrush	11	3	14			3			11						
Common Yellowthroat	21	29	27			6	4	1	10	1			3	1	1
Hooded Warbler	2	1	0												
Canada Warbler		1	0												
Yellow-breasted Chat		3	0												
Summer Tanager	14	32	10			4			3	1				1	1
Scarlet Tanager	8	1	6			1		1			1		1	2	
Eastern Towhee	11	13	16			3	4	1					3	3	2
Song Sparrow	2		1		R									1	
Chipping Sparrow	84	45	43				2	3					25	9	4
Field Sparrow	4	22	1						1						
Northern Cardinal	74	113	103			19	16	9	9	8	6		17	12	7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3		2												2
Blue Grosbeak	4	16	38			20	9		6				1		2
Indigo Bunting	5	47	68			40		20	3				1	4	
Bobolink			1						1						
Red-winged Blackbird	33	3	1					1							
Eastern Meadowlark		1	0												
Common Grackle	73	1	50			50									
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	42	0												
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>			1		R								1		
Baltimore Oriole	1	2	0												
House Finch	23	24	7				3	4							
American Goldfinch	86	264	64			5	18	3	2		7		15	6	8
House Sparrow	21	1	0												
<b>TOTAL SPECIES 131</b>	112	100	100			64	39	37	57	34	24	24	46	37	50
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	2705	3377	2603			675	199	129	476	181	80	132	369	171	307

CC = Chatham County fall bird count totals, FL = Falls Lake, KL = Kerr Lake  
 Notes: H = Record High, L = Record Low, NC = New to Count, R = Rare

Start			500		730	630	730	600		700	1040	800	530	500
End			1900		1600	1900	1830	1300		1730	1540	1245	1830	1300
Parties	4	9	10		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Individuals	5	15	17		6	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1

