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# The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

## February 2012

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

<http://chbirds.blogspot.com/>

Vol.40

No. 2

### Next Meeting: Monday, 27 February 2012

**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:** **Francis Ferrell**

will speak about

### **What: Monitoring Bald Eagles at Jordan and Falls Lakes**

Mr Ferrell is a conservation biologist with the Army  
Corps of Engineers (Wilmington District) and is  
based at Jordan Lake. He also runs the Eagle Cam  
on the NC State website.

Join us for an evening's exploration of the kind of  
trip we'd all like to take!

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### **Saturday Field Trips**

Trips are led by Doug Shadwick and depart from  
Glen Lennox Shopping Center Parking lot off HWY  
54 promptly at 7:30 Saturday mornings. All skills  
are welcome. Trips are usually over by noon.

Dress for the weather and for walking. Details? call  
Doug at 942-0479. It's useful to call Doug the  
night before in case the field trip is not local and  
leaves from another location.

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### **2011 Chapel Hill Bird Club Spring Bird Count Compiler's Comments**

The Chapel Hill spring count on May 7 was  
a fairly uneventful one, with a low 118 species, well  
below the 10-year average of 124 species. Observer  
effort was also well below average at 128.8 party-  
hours (average 153.1), and so the number of  
individual birds counted was a low 8856 (average  
10994). The number of birds per party hour was  
near normal (68.8, average 71.9). The 13-year  
Periodical Cicadas were out, but not loud enough to  
affect the bird counting.

The one outstanding rarity of the count this  
year was King Rail: Ginger Travis and Marty  
McClelland heard two calling from the rushes at the  
south end of University lake which they covered by  
kyack. This is only our second for the count, with  
the first only in 2008, though they have nested at  
Mason Farm. Will Cook and Catherine Carter found  
a few good birds at the southwest Durham  
wastewater plant, including both Greater and Lesser  
Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, and our only  
Savannah Sparrows of the count. Other goodies  
included a Hermit Thrush (Shelley Theye) and 3  
lingering Pine Siskins (Robert Meehan). Yellow-  
crowned Night-Herons used to be rare on the count,  
but lately they're being found in increasing numbers  
as more are breeding near impoundments on the  
outer fringes of Jordan Lake. This year Betty King's  
party and Chuck Byrd both got 5 at two different  
heronries and Will Cook had a flyby far from water  
in suburban Chapel Hill. Northern Bobwhite is still  
barely clinging on, with this year's count doubling  
last year's one individual.

We set few record highs: the total of 11 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons handily beats the old record of 7 set in 2008, Cliff Swallows are thriving at Jordan Lake (39 this year, 26 in 2001), and Song Sparrows continue to colonize suburban streams (69 this year, 59 in 2007). The totals for Mallard and Green Heron were the highest in 10 years.

There were no big misses, but many low counts. Unusually scarce species included Wood Duck (lowest since 1990), Double-crested Cormorant (1995), Bald Eagle (1997), Eastern Kingbird (1974), House Wren (1996), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1996), Brown Thrasher (1997), Northern Parula (2000), Yellow-rumped Warbler (2000), Yellow-throated Warbler (2001), Prothonotary Warbler (1999), Overnbird (1999), Hooded Warbler (1994), Summer Tanager (1999), Eastern Towhee (1999), Common Grackle (1974). The species with the most precipitous decline was Bald Eagle with 54 in 2009, 37 last year, and just 8 this year.

Team honors: Doug Shadwick and Thierry Besançon, covering the northern reaches of Jordan Lake at New Hope Creek, got the top species count with 81, edging out Will Cook's Mason Farm team with 80. Once again, Tom Driscoll and Bo Howes counted the most individual birds, 1262, followed by Pam Timmons and Perry Haaland at Dairyland Road with 1046.

Weather in brief: low 55° F, high 74° F; wind WSW 5 mph; mostly cloudy with no rain.

Thanks to our dedicated crew of 41 field counters and 7 feeder watchers.

Will Cook  
Chapel Hill Bird Club.

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## New Editor of the CHBC Bulletin

After four years Karen Pipliani has stepped down as editor of this Bulletin. Many kudos and thanks to Karen for doing this wonderful job. Now it's up to me.

Things have changed since Karen started. Most dramatically we have gone on line and the great majority of you now receive your bulletin electronically. This has several implications. First, and most important, it has reduced the cost of the Bulletin. But it also means that we are far less constricted by the length and the black and white format. Don't get me wrong, we won't suddenly go to 20 pages and dozens of photos however

spectacular the birds. But it does allow more freedom.

I hope to be able to include more articles by readers. So many of you take wonderful trips and take photographs of amazing birds. Please share them with us. Send them to me at the address on the top left of this page.

Birding is a big tent and there is room for all kinds of birders and their interests. Articles about remote and exotic birding locations will be as welcome as those about your favorite local birding site, something special at your feeder will be equally welcome. And though this is hardly a peer-reviewed scientific journal, scientific notes of interest to birders will also be welcome.

Taking a cue from Ginger Travis when she edited this Bulletin, I may also solicit all readers for brief articles on specific subjects and include them in the next issue of the bulletin. Examples: what was your WOW-bird – the one that made you become an active birder? Your most exciting rarity chase? The bird you worked the hardest to see? Your best ever photo? You'll suggest more, I'm sure.

Finally, if there is anyone among our readership who could coach me in this kind of desktop publishing in Windows 7, I would be enormously grateful.

Judith Fortney

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## The Next Three Meetings

26 March: Dr Alan Feduccia (UNC) "Birds and Dinosaurs – the Fossil Evidence."

23 April: Dr Margaret Lowman (NCSU) "Canopy Towers and Walkways."

21 May: Tom & Barbara Driscoll "Birding Australia."

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## Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers

*President:* David Smith, davidjudysmith@verizon.net

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2011 TRIANGLE AREA SPRING BIRD COUNT TOTALS

5/1 4/27 4/28 5/8 5/7 — Chapel Hill Observer Party Number —

Species	Dur	FL	KL	JL	CH	1	1a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
GOOSE, Canada	192	95	74	155	304	17		30	2	28	54	49	7	38	2	7	3	18	22	4		6	12	5
DUCK, Wood	35	10	8	16	18											1			8	3				6
MALLARD	21	23	5	66	106	9				27	3	50		1	1		2	3	7	2		1		
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	2																							
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>		1																						
<b>DUCK, Ring-necked</b>				4																				
<b>BUFFLEHEAD</b>			4	1																				
<b>MERGANSER, Red-breasted</b>		1		1																				
<b>MERGANSER, Common</b>				2	0																			
TURKEY, Wild	7	12	10	1	0																			
BOBWHITE, Northern	2	1	3	2	2															2				
LOON, Common		5	1	1	0																			
GREBE, Pied-billed		1	1		0																			
CORMORANT, Double-crested	309	97	178	404	51					1		1						18	3	21		3	4	
<b>BITTERN, American</b>	1				0																			
HERON, Great Blue	80	48	22	126	85	1		3		4	3		1	1	3	3	5	20	8	18		2	10	3
EGRET, Great	1	1		5	0																			
HERON, Green	4	5		5	16	3				1					3		1		1	1		5	1	
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned</b>					11						5			5		1								
VULTURE, Black	87	18	59	53	63	10				5	4	1			4	1		2	5	1	1	7	6	16
Turkey	81	49	57	147	90	17			1	7	2	2	1	2	5	2	8	7	13	3	1		2	17
OSPREY	20	21	10	40	11						1			1		2	2	3		2				
EAGLE, Bald adult: 4 imm: 4	8	14	6	31	8													3	1	4				
HARRIER, Northern	1																							
HAWK, Sharp-shinned		1	1	1	0																			
Cooper's	2	3	2	1	2	2																		
<i>Accipiter</i> sp.				2																				
Red-shouldered	22	7	2	12	42	1		6	1	3	3	6	1	1	3	7		1	2	2			3	2
Broad-winged	1	1			1																		1	
Red-tailed	21	8	2	12	21	2		2				1	1	2	2	1	3		1		1	1	1	3
KESTREL, American	2			1	2													2						
<b>MERLIN</b>			1																					
<b>FALCON, PEREGRINE</b>				1																				
<i>Falco, sp.</i>					1															1				
<b>RAIL, KING</b>				4	2																			2
<b>COOT, American</b>				2																				
KILLDEER	19	21	17	20	36	21		1			4				3	4	3							
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>			1		4												4							
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>				8	1												1							
SANDPIPER, Spotted	2	5	3	44	18					1			1	4	1	6	1			2			2	
Solitary	10	1		9	15	1				1						12		1						
<b>Semipalmated</b>				4	0																			
Least			2	7	10																			
sp.				7													10							
SNIPE, Wilson's				1	0																			
<b>GULL, Bonaparte's</b>				4	0																			
Herring		6			0																			
Ring-billed	110	1995	137	41	0																			
Laughing		15	2		0																			
<b>TERN, Common</b>		1																						
<b>TERN, Caspian</b>				1	0																			
PIGEON, Rock	20	13	25	23	9	2									3			4						
DOVE, Mourning	142	98	95	164	192	26		23	6	4	5	19	10	9	14	4	7	9	13	12	7		3	21
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	18			27	22	5		1	2		1	2				5					1		1	4
OWL, Eastern Screech-		2		1	0																			
Great Horned		3	2	1	1																1			
Barred	16	9	3	5	8				1	1			1			1			2		2			
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW			1	2	0																			
WHIP-POOR-WILL		2	2	2	7																5		2	
SWIFT, Chimney	52	23	7	90	125	8		17	4	4	3	4	6	2	16	5	4	12	10	6			6	18
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated	22	11	4	10	46	10	2	2	1	2		4		1	1	12		1	2	2	2			4
KINGFISHER, Belted	6	11	2	8	10	1		1	1	2							1		2				2	
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	11	14	6	36	15				1	3		1					1	1	6	2				
Red-bellied	101	42	22	97	188	16	1	34	6	6	7	14	13	9	13	10	8	4	10	9	6	8	5	9
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied				1																				
WOODPECKER, Downy	41	20	6	24	55	3	1	9	1	1		5	12	1	1	8	1	1	2	4	3			2
Hairy	7	10	5	9	9	2						1				1				1	1			3
"Yellow-shafted" FLICKER	27	12	7	14	17				1	2	1	1	3				1	1		1	2	1		2
Pileated	12	12	8	19	21	5			2				5			3						2	2	2
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	14	8	2	65	35	1		4	2		1		3		2	1		1	4	3	5	5	2	1
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	18	20	14	9	64	5	1	12	9	2			3		4	6		4	1	11	5			1

### 2011 TRIANGLE AREA SPRING BIRD COUNT TOTALS

5/1 4/27 4/28 5/8 5/7 — Chapel Hill Observer Party Number —

Species	Dur	FL	KL	JL	CH	1	1a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PHOEBE, Eastern	41	17	10	47	57	6		9	3	2	6	8		1	4			1	5	2	2	3	4	1
FLYCATCHER, Great Crested	74	74	43	97	81	9	1	19	2	1	4	5	2		1	2	5		6	10	7		4	3
KINGBIRD, Eastern	27	21	32	66	21	5					2	1		1			1		3			1	6	1
VIREO, White-eyed	35	27	33	21	23	4			1			4			1	5		2	6					
Yellow-throated	9	12	12	13	13	6			2	1						1		1				1		1
Blue-headed	8	8	3	2	3							1							2					
Red-eyed	199	104	141	209	222	35	1	31	27	5	10	17		2	7	26	6		17	9	9	5	6	9
JAY, Blue	87	23	38	107	160	19	1	25	4	4	9	11	5	7	6	14	7	3	7	8	6	8	13	3
CROW, American	170	99	84	261	249	29		25	3	21	21	19	20	8	6	7	6	17	21	8	3	6	6	23
Fish	21	39	22	58	68	9		10	1	3	4	2		5	2	7		2	9	7		5		2
<b>RAVEN, Common</b>	cw																							
<b>LARK, HORNED</b>			1																					
MARTIN, Purple	18		24	37	57					2		1				6	10	15						23
SWALLOW, Tree	13	33	20	38	13														9	4				
N. Rough-winged	33	48	28	55	59	10		3		6	7	3	7	1	3	3	6		3				4	3
Cliff	15	58	29	111	39									1				38						
Barn	62	31	36	140	79	11		5		1	5	2				32	5		9		2	2	3	2
CHICKADEE, Carolina	174	115	38	133	295	31	3	73	7	6	6	17	34	5	13	15	19	3	11	16	7	10	8	11
TITMOUSE, Tufted	197	129	74	297	416	46	2	79	9	9	34	28	63	6	14	22	15	2	21	23	9	13	8	13
NUTHATCH, White-breasted	22	11	6	12	48	3	1	10	1		1	5	12	5	2	1	1	1	2	2				1
Brown-headed	37	46	8	64	83	14		9	4		2	10		2	10	5	1	4	3	6	6	1	2	4
WREN, Carolina	197	58	49	200	391	25	5	101	14	7	35	42	29	8	15	30	17	3	8	15	8	8	6	15
House	11	2		3	15			5			1	6					2							1
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	3			1	0																			
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	197	146	61	132	198	23		39	8	4	2	13			10	29	2	4	20	24	6	5	1	8
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	98	96	91	166	259	52	2	20	3	18	18	12	7	15	8	5	19	21	5	3	4	9	3	35
VEERY	3			1	2										2									
THRUSH, Swainson's	3			2	9										2					6	1			
Hermit	1				1																1			
Wood	27	22	23	19	62	8	1	12	1		3	5	11	1	2	3	1	1		4	4		3	2
ROBIN, American	122	52	65	61	323	8		48	2	10	28	53	91	6	27	6	9	1	3	2	1		2	26
CATBIRD, Gray	82	20	1	22	85	7		25	1	1	4	8	5	1	1	2	3	2	2	3	1	1		18
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	78	40	52	169	221	21		11	1	30	29	19	10	12	4	6	7	6	3	4		3	1	54
THRASHER, Brown	41	17	13	36	59	3	1	8		1	9	7	6	5	4	1	2	1		1	1		1	8
STARLING, European	132	53	95	122	228	46		9	12	48	11	5	30	8	9	19	13	3						15
<b>PIPIT, American</b>				1	0																			
WAXWING, Cedar	82	51	83	366	58	23		2	1							6			11					15
WARBLER, N. Parula	76	39	17	44	72	7		8	7	1	2	2			10	8		4	9	3	5		3	3
Yellow	2	7	2	21	7					1	1	3								1				1
Chestnut-sided				3	1													1						
Magnolia		2	1	3	1							1												
Cape May	cw				1															1				
Black-throated Blue	33	16	3	22	68	10		25	8		1			1	4	5			1	7	6			
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)	23	78	94	23	16	3			1		1				1		3		5	2				
Black-throated Green		1		4	0																			
Blackburnian				1																				
Yellow-throated	22	51	23	37	13	1			1		3					3				3	1		1	
Pine	107	75	39	137	127	17		13	11		3	6		5	11	9	3	6	12	19	6	5	1	
Prairie	35	22	19	60	27	2			3				6				2		2	11	1			
Palm		2			0																			
Blackpoll		1		18	6												2			4				
Black-and-white	18	8	6	15	31			10	1			2			2			2	3		6	1	4	
REDSTART, American	22		2	21	43			6								21	3	1		6		2		4
WARBLER, Prothonotary	22	14	13	32	23					1	3	2				6			1	7			2	1
Worm-eating		1			0																			
OVENBIRD	62	29	58	67	83	12	1	15	5			11			2	6			5	12	9			5
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	15	2	3	2	2			1												1				
Louisiana	5	2		1	9	3		2	1							1					2			
WARBLER, Kentucky	4	1	1	3	7			1												5	1			
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	109	40	30	56	95	11		7	5	2	7	11	1	1	3	13		5	4	13	1	9	1	1
WARBLER, Hooded	23	33	15	25	29	6		5	4			2			1			3		6	1			1
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	32	12	23	50	40	2		2				9				12		2		12	1			
TANAGER, Summer	64	69	48	116	71	11	1	3	8			3	3		5	7	3	2	3	10	4	2	3	3
Scarlet	23	11	18	32	44	11	1	4	6		1				1	4		1	2	4	5		3	1
TOWHEE, Eastern	125	58	33	101	180	8		36	4	2	15	31	10	11	15	6	8	2	6	8	2	2	1	13
SPARROW, Chipping	54	106	104	223	174	40		46	2	1	9	9		3	10	2	10	3	3	2	4	5	1	24
Field	14	15	15	16	10			3				1								5	1			
Savannah	3	18	6	10	2											2								
Grasshopper	4	2	6		0																			
Song	25	4		4	69	1		10		3	3	13	8		2	1	1			1				26
Swamp	6	5	2	1	6	2												1		2				1

## 2011 TRIANGLE AREA SPRING BIRD COUNT TOTALS

5/1 4/27 4/28 5/8 5/7 — Chapel Hill Observer Party Number —

Species	Dur	FL	KL	JL	CH	1	1a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
White-throated	62	43	33		9			3								1	1			4					
<b>White-crowned</b>	4																								
<b>JUNCO, Dark-eyed</b>	20	1			0																				
CARDINAL, Northern	312	184	80	358	688	53	189	12	26	52	69	85	13	25	23	21	9	19	18	11	23	8	32		
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted	2	1		2	0																				
Blue	29	22	24	77	38	12	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	6							
BUNTING, Indigo	209	57	66	225	184	20	12	5	1	10	16			8	31	4	6	16	22	2	28		3		
BOBOLINK		1	1	51	47	47																			
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	31	48	11	98	99	39			1	4	9			6	2			24	2		5	7			
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	54	6	17	35	12	11												1							
GRACKLE, Common	215	44	72	260	134	15	13		17	6	15	1	1		6	17	2	5	11			7	18		
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	79	68	93	97	157	21	22	8	2	6	16	2	2	4	13	2	3	10	18	3		5	20		
ORIOLE, Orchard	23	11	10	55	19	1									2	2	1		1	6		1	5		
Baltimore			1	3	1	1																			
FINCH, House	57	32	24	96	198	17	47	2	11	30	19	10	4	21	10	8		1	1			1	16		
<b>SISKIN, Pine</b>		20			3				3		cw														
GOLDFINCH, American	189	106	58	151	304	34	12	37	7	1	17	16	27	1	6	26	8	2	28	14	12	2	2	52	
SPARROW, House	44	25	4	24	65	7		12		2	2	5	15	13	1									8	
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	156	115	121	111	134	118	78	18	65	59	54	61	65	40	46	63	80	51	62	63	<b>81</b>	55	40	56	60
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	6124	5621	3109	7645	8856	1046	38	<b>1262</b>	255	354	527	741	562	233	406	579	292	315	449	536	199	215	205	642	
Number of Groups	12	8	8		18	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Number of Participants	16	10	12		41	2	0	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	9	
Start					445	600		638	700	640	700	445	630	630	615	730	800	700	700	530	645	630	630	655	
End					1930	1715		1500	1430	1500	1500	1100	1600	1445	1600	1800	1500	1200	1200	1330	1700	1930	1215	1400	
Party Hours: Total	72.5	63.25	41.75	119.33	128.8	9.5	0	8	7.5	9.3	8	10	8.5	6.5	5.5	8	7	5	4.5	7.5	6.5	6.5	4	7	
Party Hours: On Foot	62	55.5	32.5	76	105.8	9		6.5	6	6	4	9	8.3	3	5.5	8	5	4	4.5	7	6.5	6.5		7	
Party Hours: By Car	10.5	7.75	9.25	31.83	19	0.5		1.5	1.5	3.3	4	1	0.2	3.5		2	1		0.5						
Party Hours: By Bicycle					0																				
Party Hours: By Boat				11.5	4																		4		
Party Miles: Total	91.15	104.5	102.1	199.1	196.75	9.5	0	26	9	17	11	16.5	4	23	7	4	28	16	2.5	7	1	4.5	5.75	5	
Party Miles: On Foot	49.25	41.5	21.5	56.3	72.5	4.5		7	2.5	3	2	12.5	2	3	7	4	3	4	2.5	5	1	4.5		5	
Party Miles: By Car	41.9	63	80.6	135.8	118.5	5		19	6.5	14	9	4	2	20		25	12								
Party Miles: By Bicycle					0																				
Party Miles: By Boat				7	5.75																		5.75		
Owling Hours	2.75	2.75	1.25	2.8	2.5							1	0.5							0.5	0.5				
Owling Miles		4	1	16	0.75							0.5	0							0.25	0				
Feeder Hours					19		1																	18	

CH = Chapel Hill count 5/7/11; weather: low 55 F, high 74 F; wind WSW 5 mph; mostly cloudy, no rain

Dur = Durham count 5/1/11

FL = Falls Lake count 4/27/11

KL = Kerr Lake count 4/28/11

JL = Jordan Lake count 5/8/11

\* = seen during count week only (within 3 days before or after the count)

**Party Areas**

- 1 1,2,4,7 Pam Timmons, Perry Haaland
- 1a 4-yard Cynthia Fox
- 2 8,13 Tom Driscoll, Bo Howes
- 3 9,10 Robert Meehan
- 4 11,12 Ken Lundstrom, Darryl Spancake, Deane Paul
- 5 14,17 Betty King, Bev Scalise, Betsy Bogle
- 6 15 Bob Chase, Mary Chase
- 7 16 Jay Linke
- 8 18 Chuck Byrd
- 9 19, 21 Loren Hintz, Carl Hintz
- 10 20, 22N Will Cook, Catherine Carter, Rachel Harden, Chad Schoen
- 11 21 Harriet Sato, Bob Winstead

**Party Areas**

**Party Members**

- 12 22S Anson Cooke, Phil Warren
- 13 23, 25 Amalie Tuffin
- 14 24N-south Doug Shadwick, Thierry Besançon
- 15 25-yard area Shelley Theye
- 16 25-yard Jane Oliver
- 17 27-canoes Ginger Travis, Marty McClelland
- 18 32 Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, David Murdock, Sam Baron, Nancy Hinrichs, Marge Miles, Lynn Ogden, Candace Owens, Dietrich Kessler, Feeders: Harry & Caroline Pederson, Jerrold & Joan Walecka, Joan Redmann, Florence McCachren