

Editor, Mary George
500 Sharon Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
mcgeorge44@gmail.com
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>



Brown-headed Nuthatch by Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

November, 2016

Volume 46 No. 8

Next Meeting Monday, November 28, 2016

Time and location: 7:15 pm refreshments; 7:30 pm meeting. Olin T Binkley Baptist Church, corner of Highway 15-501 Bypass and Willow Drive, behind University Mall, Chapel Hill, NC

Members and guests are welcome to gather for dinner at the K & W Cafeteria (University Mall) at 6 pm before the meeting. Go to the back room of the cafeteria to join the group after making your dinner selection.

November 28, 2016 Program
There Are Mountains Beyond Mountains
Speaker: John Gerwin
Research Curator, Ornithology
Treasurer, Wake Audubon
NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Join us for this month's "mountain theme" meeting. John Gerwin will discuss some of the various "mountain birds" projects he's been involved with over the past 20 years. He will present highlights and natural history for the following mountain locations/birds: Haiti (Black-capped Petrel), Nicaragua (Golder-winged Warbler, coffee, migrants), Southern Appalachians of North Carolina (Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush), and the Uwharrie Mountains (Black-throated Green Warbler). He will forgo discussions about the mountains of

paperwork he does as a government employee.

About the Speaker: John is Research Curator of Ornithology for the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences. He began birding at age 7 with his oldest sister. He was fortunate to be able to join a "Junior Zoologists Club" at age 11, and be in that group through his formative teenage years. He has a B.S in Biology from the Univ. of Minnesota, and a Master's in Zoology from Louisiana State University. In addition to his research projects, he enjoys giving public programs to groups of all ages and types, across the state, and he co-leads public field trips to local, national, and international destinations. He enjoys playing any one of his 8 acoustic guitars, and does a lot of native-plant gardening; John has documented approximately 40 species of butterflies in his west Raleigh yard since plantings began in 2005. He is the Treasurer for Wake Audubon Society and serves on the steering committee for the Greater Uwharries Conservation Partnership. He co-founded WildWest, a garden club in west Raleigh created to promote native plants for wildlife in an urban setting. He enjoys all that life has to offer, including 3 heart surgeries and a stage 4 cancer since 2007. He likes to remind folks that "Hope Is the Thing With Feathers.....".

Review of Nikon P600

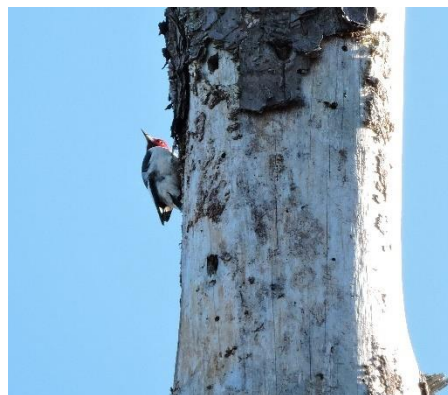
by Roger Moyer

Editor's note: when Roger posted his request for recommendations to the Carolina Birds listserv, I asked him if he would share his findings. Thanks, Roger!

Back in February, 2016, I decided to purchase a camera for photographing birds during my birding trips. I have been birding over 40 years and decided to branch out with something new. Over the years optics have become cheaper and better, making it easier to take good long range photos. Making it possible to purchase a camera with a long lens at a reasonable price.

I started my decision-making process by doing research on the specifications of different camera makes and models. I also made a request for recommendations on three different birding listservs and got numerous recommendations. I then put together a comprehensive spreadsheet to compare the number of recommendations for each camera by make and model. Mary George saw my request for the recommendations on the Carolina Bird Club web page. She asked me to do a write-up about the camera, including what influenced my decision, the spreadsheet I put together and a few photos I have taken with the camera.

I was influenced by two types of recommendations I received. One group of respondents only mentioned a make and model and a sentence or two along with photos to show image quality. However, the ones that influenced me the most were a couple of responders who wrote at length about what features to consider when looking for the camera. Price was also a primary consideration for the purchase. I set myself a spending limit of \$500. After looking at the spreadsheet I narrowed the choice down to five different cameras. They were the Canon SX50 HS, SX60 HS, Nikon P600, P610 and P900. In the end the price carried the day. I purchased a used Nikon P600 online.



Review of Nikon P600 continued



According to the manufacturer, it has a 60x zoom. The camera has a couple of modes which I have used a lot. The first is a Birdwatching mode. This mode seems to focus on moving rather than still objects. This helps eliminate a problem I have encountered with the Autofocus mode. Autofocus will focus on different items in the frame. This can cause the bird to be out of focus since it isn't the item being focused on. With the birdwatching mode the bird is much easier to focus on.



The speed of the Autofocus can be a bit disappointing. It can take 1.5-2 seconds to focus. This may not seem like much time, but it is when you are trying to photograph a moving bird. I have lost numerous shots because of this issue. The Manual Focus mode allows the camera to focus on infinity. Thus, eliminating the lag time for the autofocus to work. It makes it easier to get the camera into action more quickly. I haven't used this mode very much so I can't say how well it works.



The camera also has a very nice macro focus mode. It will focus as close as $\frac{3}{4}$ " so one can get close up pictures such as flowers and insects with fine detail.



Weight is another consideration on purchasing this type of camera. These cameras are classified as bridge cameras. Meaning it is a compromise between the point and shoot camera and DSLRs with interchangeable lenses. It is a nice balance between the two. The Nikon P600 and P610 are about 1.25lbs, the Canon SX 50/60 is a bit heavier at 1.43 lbs., and the Nikon P900 is about 2lbs. Making them considerably lighter than a DSLR with interchangeable lenses. Making it more desirable to take wherever you go.

Review of Nikon P600 continued

In conclusion, I would say the camera overall is very good. It has good optics and a good long range telephoto lens. Which makes it a good camera to use to learn birding photography. The Birdwatching and Macro modes are my two favorite modes. The Birdwatching mode makes it easier to get good bird photos. While the Macro Mode allow one to get good quality close up pictures.

I have included the spreadsheet I created and some of the photos I have taken. The spreadsheet gives a good idea on what other people think about the different cameras. The pictures show the image quality one can achieve using this camera.



CAMERA MODEL	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS
Canon SX50HS	30
Canon SX60HS	12
Canon SX700HS	1
Canon SX 260	1
Canon SR50	2
Canon SX65HS	1
Panasonic Luminox ZS40	2
Panasonic FZ200	5
Panasonic FZ70	2
Panasonic ZF150	1
Panasonic ZF300	3
Nikon P510	1
Nikon P600/610	4
Nikon P900	6
Sony DSC HX400	2
Sony HX300	1
Sony DSC HX90V	1
Sony DSCRX100M2/B	1
Canon HS70	2



Birding with the kids

by Maria de Bruyn; <https://mybeautifulworldblog.com/>

Anyone who's gone out on organized birding walks has undoubtedly noticed that most participants are of a certain (older) age. Retirement, self-employment or flexible working hours, as well as a growing appreciation for nature as we age, all undoubtedly contribute to this phenomenon, and we should be grateful that people who may have more time on their hands become enthusiastic supporters of nature and nature reserves. But it would be very nice to see more young people -- and young and middle-aged adults -- in our outings and have more experienced nature observers helping them learn to identify all those pretty and interesting avian individuals flitting about our fields and forests.



Non-profit organizations, like the Triangle Land Conservancy and New Hope Audubon Society, are working to engage families in nature outings. This past summer, I was able to organize birding workshops for children of refugee families in a summer camp at the Translating Traditions Community Farm and youngsters of lower income groups at the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Center in Chapel Hill with fellow birders Mary George, Vern Bothwell and Jim Capel.

Perhaps you, too, would like to do more to get your kids and/or grandkids interested in birding? There are many resources available to do so in a more active way; a simple introduction can be seen here: http://www.birdwatching.com/tips/kids_birding.html.



One activity that proved very popular in our workshops was having children (and even adult mentors) color and fly bird gliders (available from Walmart or [Ebate](#)). Letting the children see real bird feathers spurred interest and pointing out the real birds flying by outside provides an opportunity to give some information.

Birding with the kids continued



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website has multiple resources available through their [Bird Sleuth](#) pages – many of which are free of charge and downloadable. One activity that we used was a “quiz” where children walk around outdoors and look for elements of the environment that contribute to a good habitat for birds (water, etc.).

Children love to color and many sites offer free downloadable pictures (e.g., <http://www.coloring.ws/birds.htm>). Girls and boys also enjoy helping construct and mount bird nesting boxes.



Birding with the kids continued



Making pine-cone feeders is another activity that kids have enjoyed at workshops and presentations at public libraries.

To generate youthful enthusiasm for nature, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation runs a [Junior Rangers](#) program for children aged 6-12. They also have a Junior Ranger guide with activities that can be downloaded from their website. You can use these at any nature park with children you know.



If you have time and energy, eBird has a toolkit to help you start a [young birders club](#). You can also contact Mary George, co-chair of the Education Committee at the New Hope Audubon Society, to find out about opportunities to help with activities geared toward children and their families. And bring kids on bird walks when you can!

Welcome New Member

Karen Hogan of Chapel Hill

There is a listing of all the CBCs in the Carolinas on the Carolina Bird Club website (thanks to Kent Fiala):

<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/christmas>

Butterflies of North Carolina is now back online. The URL is <http://dpr.ncparks.gov/nbnc/index.html>

Though the PDF for the 177 species accounts has been available since March 2016, this will be the first time that viewers will see the species account pages with new county records from 2015, and updated text from a year ago.

Future Meetings

Over the summer our Vice Presidents Eddie Owens and Anne Dayer have lined up some stellar speakers for the coming year. The following is a list of speakers and their topics:

December, No Meeting

January 23, 2017, Ted Simmons

- **Topic:** The American Oystercatcher

February 27, 2017, Kent Fiala

- **Topic:** eBirding 101

March 27, 2017, Ashley Dayer

- **Topic:** Why Conservation Needs Social Science: Understanding Human Behavior

April 24, 2017, Dustin Foote

- **Topic:** Falconry: An Ancient Art in Modern Times

May 22, 2017, David and Judy Smith

- **Topic:** Pantanal: The Wonderful Wetland of Brazil

Officers of the Chapel Hill Bird Club

Elected Officers

President: David Smith
(davidjudysmith@frontier.com)

Co-Vice President: Eddie Owens
(banjoman_57@yahoo.com)

Co-Vice President: Anne Dayer
(annedayer@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Patricia Bailey
(pbailey_489@yahoo.com)

Secretaries: Sue and Fred Schroeder
(fschroed@mindspring.com)

Appointed Officers

Bird Count Supervisor/compiler:
Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Field Trip Chairman: Bob Rybczynski
(rob.rybczy@gmail.com)

Bulletin Editor: Mary George
(mcgeorge44@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Will Cook
(cwcook@duke.edu)

Chapel Hill Bird Club
PO Box 51969
Durham NC 27717

Saturday Field Trips

Bob Rybczynski leads field trips for the Chapel Hill Bird Club. The trips are every Saturday, except during the summer, and leave at 7:30 a.m. from the Glen Lennox Shopping Center on Highway 54 in Chapel Hill