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Brown-headed Nuthatch by Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

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Next Meeting Monday, May 22, 2017

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.

May 22, 2017 Program

Topic: Pantanal: The Wonderful Wetland of Brazil - Speakers: David and Judy Smith

The Pantanal (the word means "swamp" in Portuguese) is the largest wetland in the world, located mostly in southwestern Brazil. With a water level change of 2-5 meters between wet and dry seasons, the region forces its inhabitants, both human and animal, to adapt, and only the most successful can thrive. The Pantanal is home to about 1000 bird species, including the endangered Hyacinth Macaw, the world's largest macaw, as well as jaguars, Giant Anteaters, and many other mammals. Our own David and Judy Smith have visited the Pantanal twice and will present some of the fabulous birds, animals and scenery of this fascinating region.



Photos by David and Judy Smith

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

President's Message

by David Smith

This month marks a transition in the history of the Chapel Hill Bird Club. At our meeting next week, you will be asked to elect a new President and two new Vice-presidents, and the editor of this newsletter is also stepping down. That change of leadership gives me the opportunity to reflect on the past year, the past seven years (my term as President), and maybe the future.

Every organization that has existed for decades has both continuity and change, and that's certainly true of the Chapel Hill Bird Club. If you've read the club history by the late Maurice Graves (<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/history.html>), you have seen some of both: from its official beginning in 1940, club members have participated in Christmas Bird Counts, field trips, and informative meetings, but we no longer have frequent potlucks as we once did. Birding hotspots and field trip locations appear and disappear over the years, but we always manage to find places to go to enjoy our avian avocation. New communication methods appear (email and social media, replacing paper mail), but we always try to keep our members aware of what's going on.

And we always find willing volunteers to handle the administrative and organizational details of the club. When I took on the job of President in the fall of 2010, I knew that I could count on the help of other current and former officers, many of whom are still active today. And the new officers who are elected next week can count on those of us who are stepping down. But they will need the rest of you as well. Do you have an idea for an interesting program, or do you want to present one yourself? Do you know of a great spot for a field trip? Do you want to share a batch of your famous cookies before a meeting? Do you have a friend who might enjoy our group? Get involved!

Some things will stay the same, and some things will change. We will continue to meet, to learn about birds. We will continue to visit interesting spots, nearby or farther afield, to watch birds. And with your help, we will continue to grow and remain strong, adapting to the changes that the future will bring.



Attracting and Feeding Hummingbirds

by Susan Campbell



Photo by Barbara Driscoll

Attracting Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds have excellent eyesight and have great fidelity to established feeding stops along their migration route. Attracting hummers to your yard will require a bright splash of color. This can be accomplished by selective plantings or by artificial means such as surveyor's ribbon or silk flowers. These methods will attract the hummers to your yard making it easier for them to find your feeders.

Caring for Feeders

Food - Older literature indicates that hummingbirds primarily feed on flowers and your feeders for the sugar water (nectar). However, more recent observational studies strongly suggest they also feed on small soft-bodied insects in much the same manner as flycatchers do. We believe that perhaps one-half of their diet is made up of small arthropods such as fruit flies, gnats, mosquitoes, aphids, spiders, caterpillars and insect eggs. Hummers are capable of living for extended periods without nectar as a component of their diet. They can quickly convert fat reserves and recently ingested arthropods to energy when deprived of nectar. Foraging is done by "hawking" from an exposed perch, gleaning bark and leaves and robbing sapsucker wells. The ratio for your feeder is one part sugar to four parts water. Please NO food coloring. It is not necessary to buy ready-made nectar because the birds get all the vitamins, minerals and proteins they need from the natural nectar and insects they eat. If the hummers are not emptying your feeders, just partially fill them. Definitely, NO honey or artificial sweeteners in the feeders, this may be harmful to the birds.

Cleaning - Flush the feeders every week with hot tap water and clean with a bottle brush, rinse. Do not use soap. At least once a month, clean the feeders thoroughly with a solution of 1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon water, let it set in this solution for about an hour then if necessary clean with a bottle brush. Almost all feeders can be dismantled for easier cleaning. Rinse well with running water and let the feeders air-dry completely before refilling. This can be done at night and refilled the next morning so you don't disrupt the feeding of the birds. When the temperature is over 80°F, change your feeder solution every 3 to 4 days, flushing the feeders with hot tap water and a bottle brush. We recommend clear glass or plastic feeders so you can keep track of the amount of sugar water and its condition.

Meet the CHBC Officer-Nominees for 2017-2018

President

Mary Kay Robinson moved with her husband to the Triangle in 2005, after retiring (for the first time!) from their careers as symphonic musicians. Growing up in East Tennessee and spending time in the Smoky Mountains made her a nature lover and bird feeder from an early age, but it was when they moved to Northern New Jersey when their children were small that she began attending meetings, field trips and bird-banding opportunities available at local nature centers. Eventually she served as treasurer and education chairman of the Bergen County Audubon chapter. Both Mary Kay and her husband went back to work teaching and playing orchestra jobs both here in NC and in their part-time residence in NW Washington state. As they are now contemplating living in NC fulltime and retiring once again, she hopes there will be much more birding in her future.



Co-Vice President

Jim Capel, a semi-retired environmental consultant, lives in Durham with his wife Eileen, their two dogs, and numerous backyard birds. In addition to birding, he enjoys music, art, and sports.



Co-Vice President

Maria de Bruyn is a retired medical anthropologist from The Netherlands who was privileged to travel to many developing countries during the course of her career. She began birding around five years ago at the same time that she took up nature and wildlife photography more seriously. She shares her photos and wildlife observations through a blog entitled "My beautiful world" (<https://mybeautifulworldblog.com>).

Newsletter Editor

Patrick Coin is originally from Oklahoma, where he started birding at an early age. Later, he lived in California. He has lived in the Triangle for almost 30 years and birded around the state a bit, but lately mostly around home. The past few years he has been studying and photographing insects even more than birds. Professionally, he works at Durham Tech, where he teaches and helps administer several programs. He edited the New Hope Audubon newsletter for several years, and looks forward to similar work with the Chapel Hill Bird Club.

Hemipteran Hoppers of North Carolina

In a May 1 post to Carolinabirds, Kyle Kittleberger introduced The Hemipteran Hoppers of North Carolina website which is the latest addition to the biodiversity websites for NC. This site is similar in function to the sites for the butterflies and odonates of North Carolina that have also recently returned to the public server. The hopper site functions not only as an interactive online photographic field guide for the hoppers of NC but also as a database of records for all of the species found in the state. Unlike other insect groups such as butterflies or odonates, there is very little information available regarding many of the hopper species that can occur in North Carolina, let alone how many species may occur in the state. Therefore, one of the core goals of the site is to increase the knowledge of the abundance and distribution of hopper species in the state. This is where the public can play an important role through citizen science and submit records of hoppers that they find, either during the day or at night (especially if you have moth sheets set up), increase the overall knowledge represented in the database on the site.

Kyle designed this website, with Tom Howard, to be as user friendly as possible. From the home page, you can enter records and learn about the process behind submitting and vetting records, as well as about other aspects of the site and how it functions as a database and online guide, as well as about the many hopper species that can be found in North Carolina. Currently there are close to 700 hopper species recorded in North Carolina and that list continues to grow, even as recently as the other day when a treehopper species was recorded for the first time in the state. There is still much to learn about the hoppers in North Carolina and this will be possible through your help with this hopper site, accessible at the following link: <https://auth1.dpr.ncparks.gov/bugs/index.php>

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)

Secretary: Edith Tatum
(edith.tatum@gmail.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
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Webmaster: Will Cook
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