

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

Fall/Winter 2020-21 – Volume 48 number 1

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Membership meetings (2020-21)

Chapel Hill Bird Club membership meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, September through May. (No meeting in December; May 2021 meeting on third Monday.)

We anticipate that all meetings will take place on Zoom this season. As the night of the meeting approaches, please look for an announcement with the Zoom meeting link on the Chapel Hill Bird Club email list and Facebook page, Carolinabirds, New Hope Audubon Meetup, and the New Hope Audubon website calendar. Normal meeting time will be 7:30 p.m. Calendar shows past meetings as well—recordings available at:

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/zooms.html>

28 September 2020

Clyde Sorenson—Birds and Bugs: Ancient Relationships

Without insects, there are no birds (or plants or people). Dr Sorenson will discuss the important nexus of birds and bugs. Among his topics will be species-specific bird diet preferences, methods birds use to catch insects, how insects determine habitats that attract certain bird species, and other interesting factoids.

An expert birder, Dr Sorenson has been an entomology professor at NC State since 1996, earning the title of Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor. In addition to extensive teaching responsibilities, Dr. Sorenson conducts considerable research into the effects of insects on agricultural crops, pine savanna ecosystems, and several endangered species of plants. He has also studied the reproductive ecology of the Venus flytrap in coastal NC.

26 October 2020

Curtis Smalling—Golden-winged Warbler: Current Research and Findings

Audubon NC has been involved in Golden-winged Warbler research for almost 20 years now and has conducted primary research on distribution, demographics, basic biology, migratory connectivity, and wintering grounds habitat use. This presentation will summarize what we know about the species and how Audubon NC is using that information to inform conservation on public and private lands.



A life-long birder, Smalling is the Director of Conservation for Audubon North Carolina and has worked with Audubon since 2000. He oversees the Working Lands, Bird Friendly Communities and Coastal Sanctuaries programs for the state office. He received his undergrad and graduate degrees from Appalachian State University and grew up in and resides in Boone.

23 November 2020

David and Judy Smith—Birding the Edges of Costa Rica

Costa Rica, with its wealth of tropical birds, its comfortable and convenient lodges, and its friendly people, is one of the world's great birding destinations. Judy and David Smith recently returned from their fourth birding trip to Costa Rica which, unlike other trips, concentrated on areas near the Panamanian and Nicaraguan borders. Join them for a visit to the Southern and Northern edges of Costa Rica.



David and Judy Smith have been birding around the world since the early 1980s. Since retiring from careers at GlaxoSmithKline in 2010, they have devoted more of their time to bird travel. Having birded in roughly 50 countries, they have accumulated lots of photos and stories which they enjoy sharing. In between trips, David managed to be our president for seven years, Judy served as vice president, and they both remain active and involved with the bird club.

25 January 2021

Kindra Mammonne—Bird and mammal rescue and rehabilitation

Kindra is Executive Director of CLAWS, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and speaking for North Carolina Wildlife, through educating the public as well as rescuing and rehabilitating those animals in need. See: <https://www.nc-claws.org/>

Kindra was nominated and made Animal Planet's 20 national semi-finalists for Hero of the Year in both 2007 and 2008! She has also received many local awards, such as Home Town Heroes, for the work she does with CLAWS. Kindra has spent a lifetime working with wild and exotic species as well as horses and other domestic animals. Thanks mostly to her father and grandfather, she spent the majority of her life living with raccoons, skunks and other native species as pets. She has over 20 years of experience rehabilitating wildlife and has worked with several exotic animal rescues and sanctuaries, working in fundraising and direct animal care.

22 February 2021

Courtney Rousseau—All About the Purple Martin: Biology, Attraction, Conservation, and Management Techniques

Courtney Rousseau was born and raised in Greenville, NC. She attended NC State University and received a degree in Animal Science. She started the NC Purple Martin Society with fellow martineer Tim Francis in 2010 with the goal of uniting and educating martin caretakers across the state, and is now the President of the society.



Courtney has worked on martin projects with Wake Audubon Society as well as the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, boy scout groups, and other local nonprofits and parks. She currently resides in Holly Springs with her husband and two children. Her interests include martins and other birds, horticulture, horses, and fishing.

22 March 2021



Allen Hurlbert—Birds, Big Data, and Citizen Science: Understanding the Impacts of Global Change

Citizen scientist observations of birds and arthropods can help us understand the drivers of avian diversity and population. The data can be applied to large spatial scales that would otherwise be impossible to investigate.

A biology professor at UNC since 2008, Dr Hurlbert has conducted extensive research into many topics, including bird migratory patterns, revelations in bird counts, the effects of climate change on animal behavior, analysis of breeding bird surveys, hummingbird foraging, trends in fish populations, and running speed in ants. He is also the creator of the international citizen science project, *Caterpillars Count!*

26 April 2021

Maria de Bruyn—Photography as a Learning Tool - Just What are Those Birds Doing?

Many area birders are familiar with Maria de Bruyn's impressive and prolific photography of birds, insects, and other wildlife which she presents on social media and on her blog <https://mybeautifulworldblog.com/>. In recent years, Maria has gone beyond the avocation of bird photography and identification. She has patiently used her observations and photography to learn and document unique bird behavior. Join us as she recounts some of what she's learned.

After two decades working as an editor, copy-editor, proofreader and translator, Maria de Bruyn specialized in medical anthropology at the Free University of Amsterdam and University of Amsterdam. She then worked on sexual and reproductive health and rights in developing countries. During extensive work-related travel, she began visiting nature reserves and photographing wildlife. Approaching retirement, Maria continued photographing wildlife and learned more about animal species worldwide through Project Noah, an online wildlife photography learning project.

24 May 2021



John A. Gerwin—To Trap, Tag, and Track a Bird

John James Audubon first banded a phoebe in 1803. Today, biologists continue to use banding, but they also employ other techniques such as satellite transmitters and carbon isotope analysis. Our speaker will showcase results from studies conducted on a variety of bird species, such as Black-capped Petrel, Turkey Vulture, Hermit Thrush. Gerwin will discuss the ways in which such data are collected, analyzed, and used for bird conservation and habitat management.

John is a Research Curator and Educator, Ornithology, at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. He conducts research on the life cycles of migratory birds, working on projects at two sites in North Carolina. He also serves on the Board of the Wake Audubon Society; and the Greater Uwharries Conservation Partnership steering and Research/Monitoring committees.

Field trips on hiatus (2020-21)

Normally, the Chapel Hill Bird Club conducts regular field trips during fall, winter, and spring. These are on hiatus for the 2020-21 year due to the Covid-19 epidemic. We all hope they can resume in the future.

Welcome new members

Richard Atkins (Durham)
Gene Dotson (Apex)
Kay Edgar (Chapel Hill)
Marty McClelland (Durham)
Debbie Reilly (Durham)



Triangle Kirtland's Warbler

A Kirtland's Warbler was discovered along the tailrace below Jordan Dam on 27 September 2020. I was first found by Doc Ellen, but it's not clear whether she knew immediately what it was. Reportedly she sent photos to a contact at the Museum of Natural Sciences for confirmation, but in the meantime she showed it to Mark Montazer who posted photos to Facebook, wondering if it was a Prairie Warbler. He was quickly set straight, and birders began descending on the site.



Much like the Kirtland's Warbler that many saw at Ridge Junction two years ago, this Kirtland's was most cooperative for birders, remaining almost continually visible within a small area for four days, through September 30. During those 4 days, 132 different people submitted eBird checklists for the bird, and no doubt there were many other observers who were not eBirders. This is what happens when a highly desired bird is easily observable for a long time near a large population of birders!

The bird was observed feeding on caterpillars in small trees along the rip-rap, on the rocks, and elsewhere around the picnic area, all the while pumping its tail as Kirtland's will do.

It seemed to be in quite worn, ragged, plumage, which is odd because they are said to molt before migration. The bird appeared to be a female, and the worn plumage makes me think it was an adult, but it could have been an immature.

-Kent Fiala (photo by Patrick Coin)

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers 2020-21

Elected officers

President Mary Kay Robinson
marykayrobinson47@gmail.com

Co-Vice President Jim Capel
jim.capel@mindspring.com

Co-Vice President Elizabeth Keating
ekeating7@gmail.com

Treasurer Patsy Bailey
pbailey_489@yahoo.com

Secretary Karen Hogan
karenhogan@gmail.com

Appointed officers

Bulletin Editor Patrick Coin
patrickcoin1@gmail.com

Webmaster Will Cook
cwcook@duke.edu

Bird count supervisor/compiler
Field Trip Chair Bob Rybczynski
rob.rybczy@gmail.com



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Chapel Hill Bird Club
PO Box 51969
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chapelhillbirdclub>

Editor

Patrick Coin
Durham NC
patrickcoin1@gmail.com

Editorial notes

Artwork in this issue is in the public domain or used with permission—details available from editor for any particular work.

Newsletter will now be published quarterly (fall, winter, spring, summer). A new volume will start each fall, and individual issues will be numbered 1-4, starting each fall. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, volume 47 spring and summer issues were not published for 2020. The sequence of newsletters is restarting with a fall 2020/winter 2021 issue, volume 48, number 1.

Document updated 1/25/21.



Chapel Hill Bird Club Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) ____ - _____ (h)

E-mail address: _____

One year:

Two years:

Individual/Family (\$15)

Individual/Family (\$30)

Student (\$10)

Student (\$20)

Make check payable to "Chapel Hill Bird Club" and mail to:

Patsy Bailey

277 Mint Springs Rd.

Pittsboro, NC 27312

