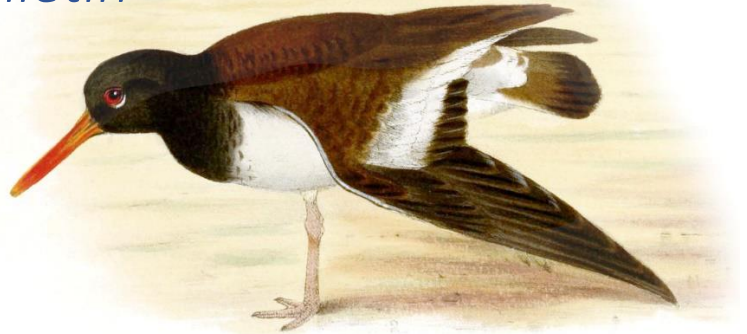


Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

Fall 2022 – Volume 49 number 1

In this issue...

- Membership meetings 2022-23
- Field trips resume 2022-23
- Bird-a-day, Newsletter publication
- Officers for 2022-23
- Newsletter publication resumes 2022-23



Membership meetings (2022-23)

We have monthly meetings from September through May (except December), generally on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm. 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. Recordings of past meetings available at:

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

26 September 2022

Bo Howes - The Birds and Land Management of Brumley North Nature Preserve

Brumley North opened to the public in 2017, it has become one of Orange County's premier birding destinations. Bo will talk about TLC's land management at Brumley North and the fantastic variety of birds observed at the preserve since its opening to the public in 2017.

Bo Howes is the Director of Land Protection and Stewardship, West at Triangle Land Conservancy. After growing up in Chapel Hill, Bo graduated from Denison University then went on to earn a law degree from North Carolina Central University. Since 2008 Bo has worked in a variety of roles at TLC. Bo is a past president of New Hope Audubon and is currently a board member and Co-chair of the Conservation Committee of the NC Botanical Garden Foundation.

24 October 2022

Lindsay Addison - The American Oystercatcher Program

A bird-watching visit to the barrier islands of North Carolina would be incomplete without spotting an American Oystercatcher. With their bright orange-red bill, yellow eyes with red eye rings, black head, and brown and white body, they are striking birds. Their population is in decline, however, and the American Oystercatcher Working Group is assessing the status of Oystercatchers in our state and is studying factors that affect the population.

Lindsay Addison serves on the American Oystercatcher Working Group's Steering Committee and coordinates North Carolina's oystercatcher banding program. Lindsay has been Audubon NC's coastal biologist since 2011, and she and her staff are responsible for monitoring about 40% of the waterbirds that nest on North Carolina's coast. Lindsay earned her undergraduate degree at Stetson University and her M.S. at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she studied Least Terns nesting on natural beaches and rooftops. She has worked in birds and conservation since 2005 in Florida, Massachusetts, and California.



28 November 2022

Dawn Lloyd and Sean Leahy - Birding the 100 Counties of North Carolina During a Pandemic

Annually North Carolina offers a rich diversity of birds from the mountains to the sea. During the pandemic and while working from home, Sean and Dawn set a targeted goal to bird in every county across the state. From hotspots to roadside birding, they will share their visual journey across North Carolina.

The couple met in 2015: Sean likes to say they met on a desert island, while Dawn's version is that they met on a ferry going to Cape Lookout Lighthouse. They were married in 2019 at Cape Lookout in the shadow of the lighthouse and have been birding together ever since. Their dreams include new adventures, giving back and paying it forward, spending time with family and friends, and looking through their binoculars to yet add another bird to their life list.

22 January 2023

Murry Burgess - The Impact of Artificial Light on Barn Swallows

Artificial light at night, or light pollution, is a growing concern across the globe for both wildlife and humans. Murry Burgess conducts a field experiment with Barn Swallow chicks, testing their physical development and metabolic health under light pollution and natural conditions. In this talk, she will describe what light pollution is and where it comes from, how it impacts birds, and share some interesting results and their implications from her research.



Murry Burgess is an Associate Wildlife Biologist®, Urban Ecologist, Environmental Educator, and Children's Author. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Wildlife and Conservation Biology at NC State, researching the impacts of sensory pollutants on songbirds. Murry is also an avid birder and an advocate for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Growing up in suburban Florida and Tennessee, Murry's love of nature came from books, media, zoos, and aquariums but she never saw anyone who looked like her in the natural sciences. Representation matters, and Murry hopes to inspire others through her science communication and environmental education work.

27 February 2023

Alex Nickley - Birding in China's Yunnan Province

Join Alex to hear tales of his four-year adventure traveling and birding in China's most culturally and biologically diverse province. Bordering tropical Southeast Asia to the south, and the frigid Tibetan plateau to the northwest, Yunnan's complex makes it a global biodiversity hotspot. Alex will discuss his varied birding experiences from the green interstices of the urban jungle to remote regions nestled deep in the Eastern Himalayas.

After graduating from Duke with an MA in East Asian Studies in 2015, Alex spent four eventful years working for Middlebury College and CET running global education programs in SW China. He currently holds a day job working as the Assistant Director for Duke's Asian/Pacific Studies Institute.

27 March 2023

Jin Bai and Dr. Madhusudan Katti - The Triangle Bird Count

The Triangle Bird Count (TriBC) is a citizen science project that helps monitor the abundance and diversity of bird species in urban habitats in Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, and other communities around the Research Triangle. It was modeled after several other Urban Bird Counts in North America and uses volunteers to conduct bird counts each spring. Dr. Madhu Katti serves as the Principal Investigator for TriBC, and Jin Bai serves as the project coordinator. Dr. Katti will provide some context for urban bird counts, and Jin will present population trends of different species from the TriBC.

Dr. Katti joined NC State in August 2016. He is an associate professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources and studies animals and plants in cities with the goal of applying understanding toward reconciling biodiversity conservation with human development. His research also focuses on the behavioral effects of humans on other species, such as the effects of urban noise on birdsong.

Jin Bai is a Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Katti in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NC State. He has studied avian homing behavior in different urban landscapes, and his Ph.D. research is focused on urban ecology and how urban landscape features affect avian movement patterns.

23 April 2023

Kate Sutherland - The Fabled Cahow: Saving a Lazarus Species from Extinction

A species that "returns from the dead" is dubbed a Lazarus species. The Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), locally known as the Cahow, was believed to be extirpated by the 1620s. But in 1951, after being presumed extinct for more than 330 years, the Cahow was rediscovered, but barely: just seven pairs, all nesting in one location in Bermuda. Kate Sutherland will share the remarkable story of how a handful of dedicated individuals have turned the Cahow into a conservation success story like no other.

Kate Sutherland moved to Hatteras, NC, in 2001 to work for Seabirding, a company that runs pelagic birding tours in the Gulf Stream and has the enigmatic Black-capped Petrel as their signature species. In 2016 she also began helping Bob Flood lead the Cahow Experience, a tour in Bermuda to see the highly endangered Bermuda Petrel. Her niche is seabirds, so offshore is her habitat. She is currently working on her master's in marine biology at University of North Carolina Wilmington, investigating the foraging ecology of Black-capped Petrels.

(Image from The Crossley ID Guide Eastern Birds—Creative Commons license.)



22 May 2023



David and Judy Smith - Birding Southern India or Birding the Upper Amazon

David and Judy Smith have been traveling the world birding since the 1980's. Their upcoming trips include southern India and the upper Amazon of Brazil, and if the trips go as scheduled, they will talk to us about their experiences birding one of these exciting locations. Southern India has some of Asia's most magnificent national parks. It is home to more than 20 endemic birds and a variety of mammals. Brazil is home to Rio Japura and Rio Tefe - two of the largest rivers in the Amazon basin, yet few people have heard of them - and even fewer have explored the birds and animals that live along and in these rivers.

David and Judy both worked at GlaxoSmithKline, and after retiring in 2010, they have continued to explore the birds of the world with travels abroad. Their popular presentations for our club have included birding in Costa Rica, Bhutan, Namibia, and New Zealand and Tasmania. They have been active members of the Chapel Hill Bird Club for a number of years with David serving as president for seven years and Judy serving as vice-president.

Field trips resume (2022-23)

Chapel Hill Bird field trips have resumed on a limited schedule for fall 2022 through spring 2023. Watch social media and future editions of this bulletin for details.

Bird-a-day Game

This year, for the first (maybe last) time ever, I decided (inspired in part by Maria de Bruyn) to play the Bird A Day game. I don't even know if there are official rules, but I played by 3 rules:

1. Each day you choose one bird species that you observed that day and designate it "bird of the day", and record it on a calendar, or in my case, a spreadsheet.
2. Each bird of the day must be unique. Once a bird has been chosen for a day, it cannot be bird of the day again on any other day.
3. No revising history. Once a day has passed, you can't go back and change the bird of that day to one that would have worked out better.

The game ends when you fail to find a bird of the day.

Starting on New Year's Day, without thinking too hard about it, I supposed that I might stretch the game out maybe until March, 70 days or so, if I were lucky. I'm a bad guesser; the game lasted through June 19, or 170 days.

There's a bit of strategy in the game, although less than I expected. Each day you want to pick the bird that you are least likely to see again soon. But most days, especially early on, all species seem about equal and it's almost arbitrary which one you choose. Of course, some days you see a special bird that is a clear choice. The hard part is when you see two or more special birds on the same day, then which do you pick? The day that I saw Wilson's Warbler I also saw Ruddy Turnstone. Which was least likely to stick around for another day? I went with Ruddy Turnstone and didn't see either again, so Wilson's Warbler never got to be Bird of the Day.

Then there was January 16 when I chose Hairy Woodpecker as Bird of the Day but could just as well have chosen Cooper's Hawk. Then each of the next 5 times I saw Cooper's Hawk, there was always another seemingly better choice for Bird of the Day: Green-winged Teal, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow Warbler. And then the Cooper's Hawk drought began. This is where Rule 3 kicks in; I would have gladly swapped Cooper's Hawk for that Hairy Woodpecker to be used on a later date. But then on the day that I had accepted would be my ending date, sans Cooper's, I saw a Cooper's Hawk.

I had a list of "easy" birds that I kept until the end of the game, to be the last birds, and the next day I again thought I saw the last of the last, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

And then, about 7PM the next day, I got a call from Karen Hogan that two Roseate Spoonbills were at Pinehurst Ponds, and half an hour later, one more time I was looking at my last Birds of the One More Day.

And then, the next day another report of continuing Dickcissel at Guilford County Farm came in, so for the fifth time I drove out there in my quest for the elusive Dickcissel, and finally I was successful. Dickcissel was my actual final Bird of the Day.

With a little chasing, I could have stretched the game out several more days, and with more travel it could have been easy to stretch it out much further, but I was ready to wrap it up and have a no-pressure day. I played the game mostly locally, with just a few trips to coast and mountains within the state.

— *Kent Fiala*

Newsletter production resumes for 2022-23

Your editor, unfortunately, had a series of issues throughout the 2021-22 meeting year that interfered with newsletter production. (I am fine, btw.) I am restarting the whole enterprise with the fall 2022 issue, which summarizes meetings for the entire year. Other issues through the 2022-23 year will cover special topics. Watch the web site and the Facebook page for updates.

— *Patrick Coin*





Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers 2021-22

Elected officers (See next issue for 2022-23 updates.)

- President Jim Capel (jim.capel@mindspring.com)
- Co-Vice President Corinne Hibbard
- Co-Vice President Suzanne Roberts
- Treasurer Patsy Bailey
- Co-Secretary: Nan DeWire
- Co-Secretary Fleeta Wilkinson

Appointed officers

- Bulletin Editor Patrick Coin (patrickcoin1@gmail.com)
- Co-webmasters Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)
Kent Fiala (kent.fiala@gmail.com)
- Bird count supervisor/compiler Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)
- Field Trip Chair Vacant
- Officer-at-Large: Mary Kay Robinson

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

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Chapel Hill Bird Club
 PO Box 51969
 Durham NC 27717
<http://chbc.carolinanature.com/>
<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.

Document updated 9/26/22.



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

