

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

Fall 2023—Volume 50, number 1

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Membership meetings (2023-24)

We have monthly meetings from September through May (except December), generally on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm (3rd Monday, 20 November for 2023). We are exploring holding hybrid meetings this season—in-person meetings with a Zoom option. 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>

25 September 2023

Keith Sockman—Asynchronous Hatching Among Nestmates: Causes and Consequences

In most birds, eggs in a clutch hatch over a period of hours or days rather than simultaneously. Hatching asynchrony, as this phenomenon is known, has implications for family planning, parental favoritism, sibling competition, and epigenetic variation in fitness. Keith Sockman will discuss his nearly two decades of field and laboratory research on hatching asynchrony in Lincoln's sparrows, including his first confirmation of David Lack's more than 70-year-old hypothesis for the cause of hatching asynchrony and for its consequences on offspring growth and future reproduction.

Keith Sockman earned a PhD at Washington State University in Pullman and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University. Since 2004, he has been on the faculty at UNC Chapel Hill, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Biology and where he studies the causes and consequences of reproductive decisions in birds. (Photo by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren— Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic)

Access via [Zoom](#).

23 October 2023

Michelle Nowlin—Protecting birds through legal advocacy.

This will be an overview of the legal strategies used to protect birding habitat. She will talk about current examples of advocacy, including the ongoing South Carolina litigation which works to protect the habitat of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Michelle Nowlin is the co-director of the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic. Nowlin also currently serves as chair of the board of advisors for the Duke Campus Farm and as a faculty advisor for the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum.



20 November 2023



Kent Fiala—eBird 202

Note date—third Monday of November. This will be a talk about eBird for eBirders, going into topics beyond the beginner level, on how to use eBird more effectively and make your observations more valuable.

Kent Fiala is a life-long birder known to many of us through his work as an eBird reviewer through which he has developed a deep knowledge of eBird. He leads bird walks for New Hope Audubon and is also the editor of the Carolina Bird Club website and the New Hope Audubon website. He is the author of several publications. See his website:

<https://www.faintlake.com/>

22 January 2024



Steve Shultz—Birding the Galapagos Islands

Steve Shultz will lead a presentation that explores the birdlife of a spot on many bucket lists, the Galapagos Islands. We will explore how the birds of the Galapagos arrived on the islands, what types can be seen during a visit, discuss how the archipelago is a hotbed of speciation, recall the pioneering works of Darwin and Wallace, and link all of this to birdlife right here in the Carolinas.

Steve has been leading birding trips professionally and on a volunteer basis for more than 15 years. You may have met him on a local, national, or international Carolina Bird Club trip, during the annual *Wings Over Water* festival in eastern North Carolina. He has been editor of the *Carolina Bird Club Newsletter* and is currently editor of *The Chat*, the ornithological journal of the Carolinas.

26 February 2024



Bill Majoros—How to Improve Your Bird Photography

Photographing birds in the field involves many challenges. In this talk, Bill Majoros will describe strategies related to the use of photographic equipment, field techniques, and artistic considerations, as well as some postprocessing tips.

Bill Majoros is an assistant professor of biostatistics at Duke University in the Center for Statistical Genetics. Bill has been photographing birds for 17 years. His photos and instructional writings have been published by the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Sierra Club, *Popular Photography* magazine, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among others. He is the maintainer of several popular birding web sites, including DigitalBirdPhotography.com and MageeMarsh.org. His new e-book, *The Birds of Magee Marsh* has been downloaded many thousands of times since its release two years ago. (One of his photos from Magee Marsh is at left.)



25 March 2024

Tom Driscoll—Birds of Colombia

Tom Driscoll was among a group from the New Hope Audubon Society that spent almost three weeks birdwatching in the Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and Riohacha areas in northern Colombia and in the central Andes regions in and north of Bogota. Colombia boasts the most bird species of any country on earth.



Tom has been birding for 35 years. He is retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He is past president of the New Hope Audubon Society and a past board member for the Eno River Association. (Photo of White-bellied Woodstar by Tom Driscoll via Instagram.)

22 April 2024

Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal—The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds

The speakers will highlight their new book, *A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds*. This is the story of what's being done to save birds in the midst of dramatic downturns in North American populations. Their presentation draws on their 25,000 miles of travel across the hemisphere researching the book, interviews with 300 people in every station in the world of birds, and scores of photos of the birds featured in these pages. (These birds include the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow—photo at left from USFWS.)



Anders and Beverly are veteran journalists who've worked for decades as reporters and editors. As their work slowed down, they started following birds and photographing and writing about them for magazines and newspapers around the country. They also publish a photo-rich website, FlyingLessons.US: What We're Learning from the Birds.

20 May 2024

David and Judy Smith—Birding Adventures (birding location TBD)

David and Judy have been traveling the world birding since the 1980s. They have several upcoming trips and watch this spot (or social media) to learn which trip will be the focus of their talk in May.



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, India, and New Zealand and Tasmania. They have been active members of the Chapel Hill Bird Club for *quite* a few years, with David serving as president for seven years and Judy serving as Vice-president.

Field trips resume (2023-24)

Chapel Hill Bird field trips have resumed on a limited schedule for fall 2023 through spring 2024. Watch social media and future editions of this bulletin for details.

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers 2023-24

Elected officers

- President Jim Capel (jim.capel@mindspring.com)
- Co-Vice President Carolyn McAllaster
- Co-Vice President Suzanne Roberts
- Treasurer Patsy Bailey
- Co-Secretary: Mia Burroughs
- Co-Secretary Roger Shaw

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



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Publisher

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Editorial notes

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

Newsletters will now be published quarterly (fall, winter, spring, summer) depending on the need for updated material.

Document updated 9/25/23.



Chapel Hill Bird Club Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) ____ - ____ (h)

E-mail address: _____

One year:

Individual/Family (\$15)

Student (\$10)

Two years:

Individual/Family (\$30)

Student (\$20)

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

Patsy Bailey

277 Mint Springs Rd.

Pittsboro, NC 27312

For payment by credit card via Paypal, use the button on the [website](#) to pay then email your membership details to Patsy Bailey at chbirdclub@gmail.com

Donations are also welcome!

