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The BULLETIN... Chapel Hill Bird Club

To:

November – December 2010

<http://chbc.carolinanature.com>

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Meeting: Monday, Nov. 25, 2010

When/Where: 7:15 PM/refreshments; 7:30/Meeting
The lounge, Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church, corner
of Hwy. 15-501 bypass and Willow Dr., behind
University Mall, Chapel Hill.

Who: **Rebecca Cope,**
will be speaking about

What: **Yates Mill County Park**

Rebecca Cope, Program Director for the Wake County Division of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, will be speaking on the **Yates Mill County Park**. Yates Mill has been at that location since the 1760's, and in addition to an historic mill, offers a variety of habitat for the birder. There is the pond area and shoreline, and there are trails around the pond, trails with boardwalk across marshy areas, and trails beyond next to NCSU property which houses food plots. Come and hear about the park and opportunities for birding less than 5 miles from downtown Raleigh.

Connecticut Warbler Visits Falls Lake

Many remember the excitement this fall when a Connecticut Warbler was found at Falls Lake by Robert Meehan. This warbler is a little-known, secretive bird that breeds in the boreal forests, favoring shrubs at the edges of woods and bogs from British Columbia to northern Quebec and south to



photo by Harry D. Sell, <http://www.pbase.com/sellbirding>

northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The warbler has an elliptical migration pattern, heading south in the Fall along the Atlantic coast to its wintering grounds in South America. Its Spring migration northward is through the Midwestern flyway.

No rigorous field studies have been done of this species to date and much of its life cycle remains a mystery. "Nest observations are few because the parents walk through thick cover the last 10 to 15 meters (33-50 ft) to conceal the nest location."¹ This is indeed a secretive bird.

Although migrating birds usually stop for just a day or two, this Connecticut Warbler stayed from about Oct.8 until about Oct 20. Many people saw the bird, thanks to postings on Carolinabirds, and many

¹ Boreal Songbird Initiative,
http://www.borealbirds.org/birdguide/bd0639_species.shtml

also had Robert Mehan's assistance in relocating the bird. The Connecticut Warbler was a lifer for many of them.

If birders had gone on the Chapel Hill Bird Club Field Trip on October 16, they would have had a chance to see the bird with Doug Shadwick, Thierry Besançon, and Karen Piplani. The Chapel Hill Bird Club Field Trips are always fun, and you never know what you might see! By Karen Piplani

CarolinaBirds – Resource for Birders

Many people do not realize what a wonderful resource the Carolinabirds list serve is for birders in the Carolinas. Carolinabirds serves as a forum for birders to inquire of fellow birders about things they have seen, to announce the spotting of unusual birds, to muse about bird behavior they have witnessed, or to report bird sighting-related information.

Although people may be tempted to use the postings to complain about peripheral issues, such as the predation of birds by feral cats, general conservation issues, or politics, only postings directly related to birding in the Carolinas are welcomed.

One may subscribe to the listserver to receive posts as they come in, or one may receive a single "digest" version of incoming messages once a day. (The reception of messages as they come in will probably be of more use to people who wish to immediately go to find the reported birds.)

The instructions for use of Carolinabirds are very clear, and it is important to pay attention to directions in order to keep the site running smoothly. Carolinabirds is managed by our own member Will Cook, who also runs the website for the Chapel Hill Bird Club. We are fortunate to have Will's expertise available for these important projects.

It was messages received from Carolinabirds that alerted people to the presence of the unusual Connecticut Warbler recently seen at Falls Lake. In fact, Will Cook posted a very elegant way to direct birders to the site where the bird had been seen. He attached a Google map with the bird's position marked. Although most people found the bird with a verbal description of the place the bird was seen, the map was certainly an elegant improvement.

So to subscribe to Carolinabirds, go to <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/cbirds.html>, follow the directions to subscribe, and be prepared for lots of mail and fun. By Karen Piplani

Saturday Field Trips

Trips led by Doug Shadwick depart from Glen Lennox Shopping Center Parking lot off HWY 54 promptly at 7:30 most Saturday mornings. All skills are welcome. Trips are usually over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. For further details, call Doug at 942-0479.

Field trips will be **suspended** during the counts, until after the holidays.

Note that the **local Christmas Bird Counts** will be starting on
 12/18/2010 - Raleigh Christmas Bird Count
 12/19/2010 - Durham CBC
 12/26/2010 - Chapel Hill CBC
 1/2/2011 - Jordan Lake CBC
 1/4/2011 - Kerr Lake CBC
 1/5/2011 - Falls Lake CBC
 See <http://chbc.carolinanature.com/countsched.html> for further information. Counters are always welcome!

Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers

President: David Smith, davidjudysmith@verizon.net

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Vice Presidents: Judy Smith, davidjudysmith@verizon.net

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Treasurer: Patsy Bailey, (919) 933-5850

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