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The Bulletin Chapel Hill Bird Club April 2013

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Next Meeting: Monday, 22 April

When/where: 7:15 pm refreshments; 7.30 pm meeting. The lounge, Olin T Binkley Baptist Church, corner of Highway 15-501 Bypass and Willow Drive, behind University Mall, Chapel Hill.

19 April 2013:

David Smith. President of the Chapel Hill Bird Club.

Birds (and wildlife) in Kenya.

Kenya has long been known as a destination for wildlife-watchers on safari. The elephants, zebras and lions in the many game parks are easy to see and photograph. But Kenya is also a wonderful place for birding, with several dozen endemic and near-endemic birds, and the comfortable safari lodges are as welcoming to birders. Join president and vice-president of the Chapel Hill Bird Club, David and Judy Smith, on their photographic tour of the birds (and mammals) of Kenya

Welcome New Members

Olivia Bergner Anne and Paul Dayer Kay Edgar Sue and Fred Schroeder Carol Tuskey

Future Meetings

20 May 2013: **Norm Budnitz**, science teacher par excellence. *Birding islands in the Bering Sea*

This will be the last meeting until September. There are no meetings (or Bulletins) in June, July, August and December.

Saturday Field Trips

Trips are led by **Doug Shadwick** and depart from Glen Lennox Shopping Center parking lot off Highway 54 promptly at 7.30 every Saturday morning. All skills are welcome. Trips are usually over by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. Details? Call Doug at 919 942 0479. It's useful to call Doug the night before in case the field trip is not local and leaves from another location.

2012 Chapel Hill Christmas Bird Count Summary

by Will Cook, count compiler

The 83rd Chapel Hill Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, 23 December 2012, was well above average, with the total number of species, 92, and number of individual birds, 16985, above the 10-year average numbers (88.5 and 14930). Party-hours were only slightly higher than normal, so on a birds per party-hour basis it was a great count, with 121 much higher than the average 109.

The best bird was a Virginia Rail, new to the count, which Jacob Socolar and Scott Winton heard aruntina at the Little Creek waterfowl impoundment on NC 54. Not completely unexpected, since they're found most years at Lake Wheeler on the Raleigh CBC, they may be here every go undetected winter. but probably because most people don't get out and beat the marshes like Jacob and Scott did. Jacob and Scott also had a flyover calling flock of crossbills, which, after much study, they decided were Red Crossbills, only our fourth record and the first since 1973.



Red Crossbill photo by Jeff Catlin (not one of the ones on our count)

Several other outstanding rarites were found: 3 Tundra Swans were seen high over Jordan Lake by Reed Bowman, an avian ecologist visiting from Florida. These are only our third for the count and a record high. A Common Loon, our first since 1995, was heard calling at Jordan Lake at sunrise by Reed and his teammates Rouse Wilson and Phil Warren. An immature Broadwinged Hawk, only our third record, first since 1972, was seen by the team of Pam Timmons, Perry Haaland, and Chris Hitt. Derb Carter found a Merlin at Maple View Farm, only our fourth and first since 1999. The day before the count Derb found two Fish Crows in downtown Chapel Hill; Pam Timmons followed up on the report on count day and heard one, only our second. A possible Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported, but the observer wasn't sure enough for what would be a first count record.

Other nice finds on count day included Least Sandpiper (Brian Bockhahn and Kyle Kittelberger), good numbers of Wilson's Snipe (4 parties), an adult male Baltimore Oriole (at Julia Shields's feeder), and a count week Evening Grosbeak.

We set a couple of dramatic record highs this year: Bonaparte's Gull, with 357 tripling the old high of 120 set in 2001, and Red-shouldered Hawk, with

the 57 reported blowing away the old high of 38 set just last year. Other highs include Great Horned Owl (11, 9 in 2009), Pileated Woodpecker (27, 24 in 2006), Winter Wren (57, 45 in 2005), Rusty Blackbird (1085, 816 in 2007), and Pine Siskin (558, 357 in 2010). We found a good number of Redbreasted Nuthatches (48 is our second highest, behind 81 in 1980). Several other species were not records, but more than doubled their average counts: Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl. Red-headed Woodpecker, Swamp Sparrow, **Purple** Red-winged Blackbird, Finch.

We set no record lows and there were no big misses, but a few common species were recorded at less than half of their average numbers: Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant (they were just a little further south this year, inside the Jordan Lake count circle, where they set a high), Rock Pigeon, and Common Grackle. Pine Warblers rebounded from their odd scarcity last winter and were found in good numbers (3.5 times as many this year as last).

Team honors: Once again Derb Carter, covering the Dairyland Road area, had the highest species count, with 68 species (1223 individuals). Thanks in part to a big flock of Rusty Blackbirds at Mason Farm, Will Cook and Katherine Gura tallied the most individual birds, with 2505 (57 species).

Weather: Temperature 24-55 F, wind from the southwest at 0-10 mph, partly cloudy, no precipitation, water open. Effort: 47 observers in 21 field parties, 140 party hours (122 by foot, 18 by car) and 306 party miles (79.2 by foot, 226.8 by car), 3.25 hours and 7.25 miles owling, 6 people and 14.5 hours watching feeders.

Thanks to all the participants for another great count!

See pages 4-6 of this issue of *The Bulletin* for the full count tally.

Officers of the Chapel Hill Bird Club

Elected Officers
President: David Smith

(davidjudysmith@gmail.com)

Vice President (Durham area): Judy Smith (davidjudysmith@gmail.com) Vice President (Chapel Hill area): Kent Fiala (kent.fiala@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Patrica Bailey (pbailey_489@yahoo.com) **Secretary:** Edith Tatum (etatum@nc.rr.com)

Appointed Officers
Bird Count Supervisor/compiler:

Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Field Trip Chairman: Doug Shadwick

(dougshadwick@nc.rr.com) **Bulletin Editor:** Judith Fortney

(jafortney1@aol.com)
Webmaster: Will Cook
(cwcook@duke.edu)

2012 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

	12/15	12/16	12/30	1/3	1/4	12/23											— CI	hapel	Hill C	bser	ver P	arty –	_									
Species					Falls	СН	ovlp	1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	•				16		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Canada Goose	690	900	170				•	27	19		26		30	2	42	62	128		3					6			12	6				2
Snow Goose		2		1																												
Mute Swan	6	12																														
Tundra Swan				17		3																3										
Wood Duck	22	113		12		42		2									11		1		28											
Gadwall	78			22																												
American Wigeon	3	12		cw																												
American Black Duck	7			153	11																											
Mallard	339	101	40			46			7				2		2	9		2	6	12		5							1			
Northern Shoveler	47			9																												
Northern Pintail				cw	1																											
Green-winged Teal	83	17																														
Canvasback				14																												
Redhead				5																												
Ring-necked Duck	153	93	47														1															
Greater Scaup	1			20																												-
Lesser Scaup	5	4	25	136																												
White-winged Scoter				10																												
Bufflehead	46	1	84	127																												
Common Goldeneye	1		<u> </u>	cw																												-
Hooded Merganser	143	71	144	205	28	32	7	8					6				3				3	7			12							
Red-breasted Merganser	10			11				-									Ŭ				Ŭ											-
Ruddy Duck	156		3	14		13											13															-
Wild Turkey	100	18		10																										1		
Red-throated Loon		10		1	Ĭ																											
Common Loon			15	168	15	1																1										
Pied-billed Grebe	63	15		103					1							2	3			1		•	4		4							
Horned Grebe	- 00	10	2	171	32																				-							
Red-necked Grebe				cw	1																											_
Double-crested Cormorant	301	510	3000			32	4															7	4		25							
Great Blue Heron	60							2	2				1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	8			26	1				2			_
Great Egret	- 00	3		- 00	0,	- 00		_	_												Ū	10			•							
Black Vulture	12			147	79	221		7	8		25		2	8		7	60		6	9	4		1	6	42		2		8			26
Turkey Vulture	41	95		73		234		30 12				4 2	22	3	8	6	21							Ū	3	1		10		1	2	19
Bald Eagle 3 ad., 6 imm.	2	12				9		00 12		Ū		- '			Ŭ	1		_	1		_	3		1	1	•	Ū	.0	- 00			2
Northern Harrier	_		1	5		·					1					•						- 0		•	•							
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	6	3		2					-		1				1															
Cooper's Hawk	9				2			1					1			1				1									1			-
Accipiter sp.	Ť	Ŭ	2		_	1		· ·						1																		
Red-shouldered Hawk	50	27		11	23	57		3 1	5		3	1 .	10	7	2		6	2	1	2	1	1	2				2	2	2	2		2
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	"		- 02	· · ·		1		<u> </u>	1			•						_		_	•						_			_		
Red-tailed Hawk	16	14	44	16	25	33		8			2		2		1	1	2		2	3	3	3	1						4			1
American Kestrel	7	6		10				Ŭ			1		-		•				_		1	Ū	- 1						- 1			
Merlin	† ′	l "	l	1 .0	1	1		1					-+		-						- '											-
VIRGINIA RAIL					· '	1										1																
American Coot	2	1	460	45									-			- 1																
SANDHILL CRANE		· '	400	43	9																											
Killdeer	72	41	105	36	_		52	3						3		6			1		52	1		68					13			
Spotted Sandpiper	12	71	103	1	30	33	32	3					-	J		U					32	-		00					10			
Greater Yellowlegs	1	2	1	 	 	1							-+		-+																	-
Lesser Yellowlegs		1																														
Least Sandpiper	23		 	 	-	1				1			-+		-+						1											-
Wilson's Snipe	35		1	4	<u> </u>	37	16	2					-+		-+	1					34			16								-
American Woodcock	2		 '	6		13			-	1			+		2	- 1		-	4	 	2			5								
LAUGHING GULL	-	·	1	1	'	13													4					J								
Bonaparte's Gull		57	331	180	200	357	61														20	355	2	33								
Ring-billed Gull	1194		40000		10622		01	1					+	21	+		4		215	67		120		84								12
Herring Gull	1194					/5/		- 1					+	۲۱	+		4		343	67	75	120	20	04								-12
Lesser Black-backed Gull	14	1	324	6	2331	1				1			+		-																	-
Great Black-backed Gull	1	 '	-	 '	2	1				1			+		-																	-
GIEGE DIACK-DACKEG GUII	1	ı	1 '	1	. '	1			1	1	1				1			1	1	1	1											

2012 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

	12/15	12/16	12/30	1/3	1/4	12/23												— Cł	napel	Hill Ob	serve	r Pai	rty —										
Species					Falls		ovlp	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	•				-	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Rock Pigeon	266	49		48		61		27		3		14		8			2	5										2					
Mourning Dove	204	284	95	439	80	134		17	2	13	1	7		10	4	9	15	8	4	6	4	3		4		2	4			7	14		
Eastern Screech-Owl		2	1	2	2	6		3										1					2										
Great Horned Owl	4	5		10		11		4									1			1		2	3										
Barred Owl	5	10	9	3	3	14		2		1				2			1			4		2									2		
LONG-EARED OWL				1																													
Belted Kingfisher	21	17	23	7				1		1					2	1	4			3		2	2	3									
Red-headed Woodpecker	10	57	34	27		61									1	1	14	2		20	3	7	1	3	3	3							3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	138	170		82		220		13	5	11	2		3	26	7	5	23	15			16	7	5	8	8	2	2	8		7	3	2	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	60	60	49	30		79		9		3	1	2		7	3		6	9	_	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2			9		2	3
Downy Woodpecker	101	105	69	40		124		5		9	2	4	4	17	7	3	10		6	9	3	6	5	2	4	2	2	5		6	3		10
Hairy Woodpecker	12	27	9	9		30		3	5	2	1					1	1	8		1					2		1			2	2	1	
N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	47	185	73	72		123		7		4	1	1		2	3		13	11	1	19	6	4	9	8	4	5	2	2		15		2	4
Pileated Woodpecker	12	16	12	30		27		2	4	3				2	3		1			2		2	2	2		1	1			1			1
Eastern Phoebe	39	59	50	14	28	44		5		4							2	3		5	2	4	4	1	2	2		2	1	5	1		1
Loggerhead Shrike	5		1																														
Blue-headed Vireo	2	1	3		1																												
Blue Jay	180	269	160	204		262		32	3	14		22		10	6	3	12	19		17	10	7	20	16	11	13	2	18	3	8			6
American Crow	309	569	877	314		571		94	4	22	10	55	8	32	28	15	13	19	18	12	24	9	40	42	16	17	3	5	6	12	8	9	50
Fish Crow	2			10		1				1																							
Common Raven					1																												
HORNED LARK				1																													
TREE SWALLOW	3																																
Carolina Chickadee	328	337	355	121	294	492		14	10	27	1	41	18	64	20	5	34	27				11	25	9	9	6	7	11	1	29	16	21	16
Tufted Titmouse	225	357	363	150		464		26	11	21	3	13	20	59	26	2	34	22		22	16	12	15	19	17	7	8	18		11	14	17	19
Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	34	8	49		48		7	11	5	1			8	3			2									3	3			4		
White-breasted Nuthatch	91	53	50	31	56	112		14		8	1	3	5	11	3	1	10	16		3	3	5	3	2	4	2	4			2	5	3	1
Brown-headed Nuthatch	86	100	99	53		162		16	4	13	1	6	10	30	7		12	19		2	6		10	4	3	3	1		1	8		1	4
Brown Creeper	22	17	19	14		29		2			1		1	5	2		3	2	1	1	1	3	2			1					3		1
Carolina Wren	225	289	185	109		448		28	10	20	1	24	17	61	11	19	27	19	17	45	20	4	10	9	12	3	6	16	6	27	5	16	15
House Wren	3	3	1	1	3	1											1																
Winter Wren	28	55		8		57		1		3		2	2	6	2	2	3	3		11		8	1	6	3	2				1			1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	255	409		101	277	218		16		1		11	16	27	15	2	12	4		14		19	20	22	24			1	2	9			3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	159	196	124	51	109	119		10	3	3		4		6	4	2	9	8	8	16	7	7	10	6	3	2	3	2		6			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1																																
Eastern Bluebird	221	309	333	163	205	381		75	5	39	3		4	17	10	1	23	14			20	5	10	11	2	4	2	2		35	5	6	27
Hermit Thrush	42	52	37	36		90		14		2		1	1	2	2	1	10	8		9		10	6		7	2	2			6	1		1
American Robin	864	361	886	758	840	558		9	2	54	1	7	6	61	1	20	35	8	65	7	70	3	12	7	4	6		5		11		2	162
Gray Catbird	2	1	1		1	1		1																									
Northern Mockingbird	100	92	73	58		162		21		7		14		10	5	5	8	7		10	8	1			1	3		18		8		4	25
Brown Thrasher	23	28	11	11		40		2		3				3	1		2	1		5	2	2	4	1	3			3		2			
European Starling	471	514	165	468		572		23		18		5	2	77	12	17	18	79	12	52	13	58				20		149		11			6
American Pipit	59	102	50	220		97		95																	2								
Cedar Waxwing	472	386	222	383	47	456		16		19				13	3	15	222	66	31	15						6							50
Black-and-white Warbler	CW																																
Orange-crowned Warbler		1																															
Common Yellowthroat		4			1																												
Palm Warbler	5		31		1																												
Pine Warbler	41	26	97	3	35			4		3	2		3	3	1		3				9	3	3	3		4	1			2	3	2	
Myrtle Warbler	358	149		50		382		11	2	23	1	6	3	28		5	18	62		6		13	25	38	10	2		14	2	2		42	28
Eastern Towhee	90	232	100	95		133		3	2	9		12	2	9	3	5	10		5		5	3	7	12	8			3		6		3	6
Chipping Sparrow	108	454		300		314		79	5	12			3	12	5		15	40			12		22	6		4		21	8			1	
Field Sparrow	83	141	132	42		103		11				18	3	5	1	5	8	10		16			8			3				14			1
Savannah Sparrow	20	54	33	41	8			5				14																					
Fox Sparrow	17	42			25			1					3		12	2	4	8		9			1		1					3			
Song Sparrow	625	885	406	143		669		44	2	5		61	9	4			106	28			22	18		11	8	4		4		138		1	21
Swamp Sparrow	122	191	88	19				4				2		1	2	2	40	10		27		2	15	2	5	3				33			4
White-throated Sparrow	1144	1384		511	474	1033		82	13	32		47	28	95	38	48	76	65	48	175	51	3	45	11	26	30	5	10	Ī	71		5	29
White-crowned Sparrow	5	10		1		6		6																									
Dark-eyed (Slt-col) Junco	348	467	884	927	607	898		88	22	76	7	43	29	26	67	7	127	34	22	30	12	8	10	3	15	13	9	35	6	57	42	47	63

2012 Triangle Area Christmas Bird Counts

	12/15	12/16	12/30	1/3	1/4	12/23												— c	hape	Hill O	bser	er P	arty –	_									
Species	Ral	Dur	JL	Kerr	Falls	СН	ovlp	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Northern Cardinal	307	425	220			491		34	7	33	3	25	7	62	10	7	25	30	35	29	26	7	12	13	6	6	2	32	1	26	6	20	27
DICKCISSEL	1																																
Red-winged Blackbird	564	1451	678	554	295	1092		3		7			5	21	38	3	295	150)	195	27	25	60		16	60				170			17
Eastern Meadowlark	29	29	70	152	39	15		1				9											5										
Rusty Blackbird	71	347		4		1085											81			1000				4									
Common Grackle	75	44	2	6	5	25							2			20	1	2															
Brown-headed Cowbird	202	59			2	18		17						1																			
Baltimore Oriole	8					1								1																			
Purple Finch	14		35			46		6	5	3							5	8	;			1								2	16		
House Finch	198	134	83	58	55	292		27	4	32	1	5		22	6	2	28	43	14	4	17				2			19		14	10	7	35
WHITE-W CROSSBILL		12																															
Red Crossbill						20											20																
crossbill sp.			50																														
Pine Siskin	376	560		165				57	60	2	24		3	41	41	3	57			20	6	24		1	3					20	22		100
American Goldfinch	473	403	280	162	201	565		27	8	24	4	33	8	51	14	6	38	51	19	34	15	34	13	25	9	12	3	5		43	14		75
Evening Grosbeak					1	cw														cw													
House Sparrow	104	47	7	20	27	46		4		10				2			5	18	3		2							3		2			
TOTAL SPECIES 132	99							68	27	52	24	40		54	48		64					54				42			14		25		42
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	14194	19302	55031	12643	19229	16985	161	1223	222	655	76	593	230	1037	495	316	1744	1273	485	2505	591	590	1028	381	500	345	76	438	55	982	203	216	887
Number of Field Parties	18	17	23	10	14	21		1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Number of Participants	63							1	0	2	0	1	1	6	4	1	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	1	1	2	Ŭ		0		·		5
																											Ü		Ŭ	_			
Start Time:	530	600		500		500		500	800	710	700		745		615	700	715		700			530	600		630	715		745		730		705	630
End Time:	1600	1700	1800	1830	1830	1745		1700	1430	1645	830		1045	1559	1430	1600	1630	1515	1655	1745	1530	1215	1300	1230	1145	1140		1445		1640		1120	1300
Party Hours: Total	88.5	113	129.3	72.5	94.75	140		11	0	8	0	4	3	8.5	8.5	8.5	7	8.3	5.3	8	7.5	6.3	6	4.5	4.8	4.5		5.5	0	10	0	3.5	8
Party Hours: On Foot	79			52.5		122		9		7.5		3	3	7	8		6			8			5.25		4.5	1		5.5		8	_	3.5	7
Party Hours: By Car	8.5	14		20				1.5		0.5		1		1.5	0.5		1	1.3			1		0.75		0.3	3.5				2			1
Party Hours: By Boat	1													- 110																			
Party Miles: Total	151.5	215	261.8	139.5	189.5	306		48	0	7.5	0	13	2	15	5.5	37	18	38	5.5	4	24	7	24	1.5	5	16	0	5	0	25	0	2	5
Party Miles: On Foot	58.5		76.75	26				2.5		3.5		3	2	7.5	2.5		3		5.5	4	4	5		1.5	_	1		5		4.5		2	3
Party Miles: By Car	92.5	140		_				45		4		10		7	3		15				20	2	18		2	15				20			2
Party Miles: By Boat	0.5	1.0		1.0.0											Ŭ																		
																															$\perp \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \! \!$		
Nocturnal Hours	3	·	5.25	1.75		3.25		1.5							0.5		0.3					0.5											0.5
Nocturnal Miles	1.5	0	6	0.5	5.25	7.25		6							0		0.3					1											0
Feeder Watchers	1 2	1	0		2	6			1		- 1			1				-	1								-		1		1	\rightarrow	
	2	0	V		11.5						1.5								-								1		1		1	\rightarrow	
Feeder Hours	1 2	U	0	2./5	11.5	14.5		I	3		1.5			2				l	1	l							3		1		4		

CH: Chapel Hill count date: 12/23/12; compiler: Will Cook; 24-55 F; SW 0-10 mph; partly-mostly cloudy, no precip, water open Ral: Raleigh count date: 12/15/12; compiler: John Connors

13 20 Will Cook, Katherine Gura

Falls: Falls Lake count date: 1/4/13; compiler: Brian Bockhahn

Party Areas	Party Members	Party	Areas	Party Members
1 1,4	Derb Carter	15	22 N	Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger
2 1-yard	Charlie Kernick	16	22 S	Phil Warren, Rouse Wilson, Reed Bowman
3 2,7	Pam Timmons, Perry Haaland	17	23,25	Amalie Tuffin
4 4-yard	Cynthia Fox	18	24 N	Doug Shadwick
5 3,5	Nate Swick	19	24 S	Edith Tatum, Peggy Maslow
6 6	Mike Riley	20	25-yard	Shelley Theye
7 8, 13	Tom & Barbara Driscoll, Bo Howes, Jill Paul, Don McCormick,	21	27	Ben Riegel
	Maria de Bruyn	22	28-yard	Amy Denham
8 9, 10	Norm Budnitz, Gene Kingsley, Julia Storm, Laurie Degernes	23	30	Jane Oliver, Mark Kosiewski
9 11, 12	Kent Fiala	24	30-yard	Jill Froning
10 14, 17	Scott Winton, Jacob Socolar	25	31	Pat Cummins and Tom Biek
11 15,18	Chuck Byrd, Mike Tove, Eddie Owens	26	32	Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, David Murdock, Bobbie Hahn, Sam Baron
12 16, 29	David Smith, Judy Hinderliter Smith			

Kerr: Kerr Lake count date: 1/3/13; compiler: Brian Bockhahn

JL: Jordan Lake count date: 12/30/12; compiler: Norm Budnitz

Dur: Durham count date: 12/16/12; compiler: Mike Schultz and Jacob Socolar