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Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

September 2015

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**Next Meeting: Monday,
September 28th**

When/where: 7:15 pm refreshments;
7:30 pm meeting. Olin T Binkley
Baptist Church, corner of Highway
15-501 Bypass and Willow Drive,
behind University Mall, Chapel Hill.

Some members gather for dinner at
the K&W Cafeteria (University Mall)
at 6 pm before the meeting. Go to
the back room after making your
selection. All are welcome.

May 18 Susan Campbell:

Hummingbirds in North Carolina

Susan Campbell is the recognized
authority on hummingbirds in the
state of North Carolina. She has
traveled statewide to band over
2000 hummingbirds of nine species.
Susan will share recent highlights
from her research into both summer
and winter hummingbirds in our
state. She will also describe the

basics of attracting and feeding
wintering hummingbirds.

Welcome New Members!

Melissa Taylor of Carrboro and
Clarke Finche of Chapel Hill

Saturday Field Trips Resumed!

Rob Rybczynski leads field trips for
the Chapel Hill Bird Club. The trips
are every Saturday - **except in the
summer** - and leave from Glen
Lennox Shopping Center on
Highway 54 in Chapel Hill at 7.30 am.

Visit the CHBC web site for details.

Message from the President David Smith

I hope you've had a great
summer, and I hope you've found
opportunities to watch birds,
either locally or on a trip. (Judy
and I were on a river cruise in

Amazonian Brazil last month.)

It's time to begin another year of activities in the Chapel Hill Bird Club. Our regular Saturday morning field trips, led by Bob Rybczynski, begin on September 5. And our Vice-presidents, Eddie Owens and (newly elected) Anne Dayer, have put together a great schedule of presentations for our monthly meetings. As you'll see elsewhere, the first meeting of the year, on September 28, will feature a talk on NC hummingbirds by Susan Campbell.

Beyond the regular club activities, your officers are looking for some ideas. Occasionally we are invited to set up a table at a public event and speak to folks who are interested in the Chapel Hill Bird Club. We have a sign and a stack of brochures, but that doesn't really attract a crowd. What could we do for an eye-catching display? A photo exhibit of local birds or of club members? A map highlighting local birding hotspots? Give us your suggestions.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on September 28 at Binkley.

Note from the editor: This is my last year as editor of the Bulletin - I've about run out of anything to say! Previous editors managed to recruit other CHBC members to write stories for the Bulletin. Will Cook was my only volunteer. Thank you Will. If you'd like to write a piece for the Bulletin, please just send it to me. The Club will be recruiting a new editor next May.

Heads up aspiring writers!

Future Meetings

Over the summer your Vice Presidents have lined up some stellar speakers. Here is the list.

October 26 Irene liu: *Sex, Lies, and videotaped blackbirds.*

Biologists used to think copulation was the finish line for an animal's reproductive success, but we now know that sperm of different males often compete to fertilize a female's eggs. Advances in DNA sequencing mean we can examine this competition on the genetic level. How does this post-mating competition drive the evolution of a species? Irene Liu studied the behavior and genes of three North American blackbird species to answer this and other questions.

November 23 Kent Fiala: *Birding in Northern Peru.* Including some brand newly discovered birds.

December: No meeting. Happy Holidays!

January 25 Coren Cooper: *Citizen Science and Stewardship: Birds & Beyond.* Birds as indicators of environmental health.

February 22 Lynn Mosely: *Return of the Eagles.* Only 8 nesting pairs in the state in 1994. Mosely documented one pair for 22 years.

March 28 Robbie Fearn: *Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary Preserving Paradise.* The critical balance between a nature center & an IBA

April 25 **Jessie Birkhead:**
***Conserving Breeding Habitat for
Grassland Birds in a Changing
Agricultural Landscape.*** Native
forage improves the delicate
balance.

May 16 **David Smith:** ***Birds of New
Zealand and Tasmania.*** Natural
and unnatural selection have led
to a precarious balance between
fabulous endangered endemics
and horrible misguided introduc-
tions.

Officers of the Chapel Hill Bird Club

Elected Officers

President: David Smith
(davidjudysmith@frontier.com)

Vice Presidents:

Eddie Owens:
(banjoman_57@yahoo.com)

Anne Dayer (email tba)

Treasurer: Patricia Bailey
(pbailey_489@yahoo.com)

Secretaries: Sue & Fred Schroeder
(fschroeder@mindspring.com)

Appointed Officers

Bird Count Supervisor/compiler:

Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Field Trip Chairman: Bob Rybczynski

(squawk510@att.net)

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