

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

Fall 2019–Volume 47 number 1

In this issue...

- Upcoming membership meetings 2019-20
- Field trips 2019-20
- Upcoming Triangle bird counts (2019-20)
- Officers for 2019-20

Upcoming meetings (2019-20)

Chapel Hill Bird Club membership meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, September through May. (No meeting in December; May 2020 meeting on third Monday.) Refreshments are available at **7:15 pm**, meetings start at **7:30 pm**. **Location** is the Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church, corner of Highway 15-501 Bypass and Willow Drive, behind University Mall. **Address:** 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Members and guests are welcome to gather for dinner at the K & W Cafeteria (University Mall) at 6:00 pm before the meeting. Go to the back room of the cafeteria to join the group after making your dinner selection.



9/23/19

Keith Kennedy—Birding the Western Cape and the Southern Kalahari of South Africa

Two unique areas of South Africa offer chances to see a number of endemic bird species as well as seldom-seen mammals. The Western Cape includes coastal bird species of both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, many endemic species such as sunbirds, sugarbirds (masthead), rock jumpers, and the endemic African penguins at the Cape of Good Hope. Visitors to the southern Kalahari have opportunities to see not only 240 species of birds, mammals such as the roan and sable antelope, Hartmann's mountain zebra, and the desert black rhino, but also unusual small carnivores such as aardwolf, armadillo, honey badger, meerkats, and the endangered pangolin. Photos and videos will be presented.

Keith is a recently retired entomologist who has been pursuing bird and insect photography for over 10 years. Keith's wife Sharon, whose degree is in food and nutrition, has been an avid birder for the last 20 years. They met at Cornell University while grad students. They recently relocated to Raleigh from Wisconsin where they lived for 30 years.



10/28/19

David and Judy Smith—Bhutan: Birds and Culture

Bhutan – that small country in the Himalayas that calls itself “Land of the Thunder Dragon” – is a place of beautiful scenery and rich traditions. It's also a place with many wonderful birds. Join long-time Bird Club members David and Judy Smith for a slide show of the birds and culture of Bhutan that they enjoyed on a trip in April of 2017.

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11/25/19

David and Judy Smith—Bhutan (continued)

David and Judy Smith have been birding around the world since the early 1980s. Since retiring from careers at GlaxoSmithKline in 2010, they have since devoted more of their time to bird travel. Having birded in about 50 countries, they have accumulated lots of photos and stories which they are always happy to share. In between trips, David managed to be our president for seven years, Judy served as vice president, and they both remain active and involved with the bird club.

Tom Driscoll—Birds of New Guinea and New Caledonia

In July 2019, Tom traveled to New Guinea with Simon Thompson of Ventures Tours of Asheville, NC. On the way, they spent time in Brisbane, Australia and New Britain (an island off the coast of northern New Guinea). Then, they flew to Port Moresby, New Guinea to begin a two-week stay. Afterwards, they flew back to Brisbane for a day of birding before heading off for a week in New Caledonia. They saw nearly 350 bird species in those three countries.

Tom retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he wrote regulations and policy regarding measurement of air contaminants. He worked at EPA for 27 years. Prior to the EPA, he worked at the State of Texas EPA in air pollution for 11 years. He has been birdwatching since the early 1980s.



1/27/20

Derb Carter—My North Carolina Big Year

In 2008, Derb Carter scoured the state of North Carolina from Murphy to Manteo to observe 351 species of birds. Join us, as Derb recounts the rarities, the serendipitous, the long days, the pelagics, the mountainous jaunts, and the ones that got away as he went about establishing a big year record for the state.

Many know of Mr. Carter as a longtime environmental attorney and director of the Southern Environmental Law Center's Chapel Hill office. But Derb is also an expert birder and all-round naturalist.

2/24/20

Deja Perkins— Blind Spots, Hot Spots and Green Spots: The Challenges of Urban Birding

Deja Perkins is a graduate student at North Carolina State University studying wildlife conservation biology. She coordinates the Triangle Bird Count Project, an annual citizen science project based in Raleigh and the surrounding cities, whose goal is to document the bird distribution and abundance in urban settings. In this talk, Deja will share the preliminary findings of the project, discuss birding blind spots, and why the community is essential in citizen science projects outside of ebird.



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Deja Perkins— Blind Spots (continued)

Originally from Chicago, IL, Deja is an alumna of Tuskegee University, but made her home in Raleigh NC. She is passionate about understanding socio-ecological interactions in urban areas; improving urban green spaces for the mutual benefit of both people and wildlife; and connecting people to nature.

3/23/20



Curtis Smalling—Golden-winged Warbler: Summary of Current Research and Findings

Audubon NC has been involved in Golden-winged Warbler research for almost 20 years now and have conducted primary research on distribution, demographics, basic biology, migratory connectivity, and wintering grounds habitat use. This presentation will summarize what we know about the species and how Audubon NC is using that information to inform conservation on public and private lands in North Carolina and abroad.

A life-long birder, Smalling is the Director of Conservation for Audubon North Carolina. His role now oversees the Working Lands, Bird Friendly Communities and Coastal Sanctuaries programs for the state office. He received his undergrad and graduate degrees from Appalachian State University and grew up in and resides in Boone.

4/27/20



Allen Hurlbert—Birds, Big Data, and Citizen Science: Understanding the Impacts of Global Change

Dr. Hurlbert will discuss the many ways in which citizen scientist observations of birds and bugs can help us understand the drivers of avian diversity and population. The data can be applied to large spatial scales that would otherwise be impossible to investigate.

A biology professor at UNC since 2008, Dr Hurlbert has conducted extensive research into many things, including bird migratory patterns, revelations in bird counts, the effects of climate change on animal behavior, analysis of breeding bird surveys, and running speed in ants. He is also the creator of the international citizen science project “Caterpillars Count.”

5/18/20



Kent Fiala—Getting the most out of eBird, Part 2

This talk is a follow-up to Kent’s Dec 5 talk for New Hope Audubon. The presentation will introduce some of the nuts and bolts of eBird, will describe the value you can get out of eBird data online, and will reveal the hidden world of the eBird reviewer. Kent will also discuss how to make checklists that are more valuable for scientific purposes.

Kent has been birding for 59 years. He's a past president and vice-president of the Chapel Hill Bird Club, and also leads field trips for New Hope Audubon. He manages the Carolina Bird Club website and is the eBird reviewer for the Piedmont of North Carolina.

Field trips (2019-20)

The Chapel Hill Bird Club conducts regular field trips during fall, winter, and spring, usually on Saturdays. The general schedule for field trips can be found at:

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

Specifics for any given trip will be posted on the Carolinabirds e-mail list and the Chapel Hill Bird Club Facebook page one or two days beforehand. Specifics will include the destination, meeting details, need for special gear, lunch, etc. Most trips are to areas within 25 miles of Chapel Hill and finish by noon, but they may range further afield and return later. The field trip chair is open to suggestions for new locations. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on field trips.



Triangle Area (NC) 2019 Bird Count Schedule and Contacts

Chapel Hill

Christmas - Sunday, 22 December 2019

Contact: Will Cook, cwcook@duke.edu, (919)949-3678

Durham

Christmas - Sunday, 15 December 2019

Contacts: Jeff Phippen, jeffhippen9@gmail.com , Jacob Socolar, jacob.socolar@gmail.com

Falls Lake

Christmas - Friday, 3 January 2020

Contact: Brian Bockhahn, birdranger248@gmail.com, (919)676-1027

Jordan Lake

Christmas - Sunday, 5 January 2020

Contact: Norm Budnitz, nbudnitz@gmail.com, 919-383-0553

Kerr Lake

Christmas - Thursday, 2 January 2020

Contact: Brian Bockhahn, birdranger248@gmail.com, (919)676-1027

Raleigh/Wake County

Christmas - Saturday, 14 December 2019

Contact: John Connors,
jconnorsbird@gmail.com, 919-755-0253 (h)



Chapel Hill Bird Club Officers 2019-20

Elected officers

President	Mary Kay Robinson marykayrobinson47@gmail.com
Co-Vice President	Jim Capel jim.capel@mindspring.com
Co-Vice President	Elizabeth Keating ekeating7@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patsy Bailey pbailey_489@yahoo.com
Secretary	Karen Hogan karenhogan@gmail.com
<i>Appointed officers</i>	
Bulletin Editor	Patrick Coin patrickcoin1@gmail.com
Webmaster Bird count supervisor/compiler	Will Cook cwcook@duke.edu
Field Trip Chair	Bob Rybczynski rob.rybczy@gmail.com



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Editorial notes

Artwork in this issue is in the public domain—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.

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