



Brown-headed Nuthatch
by Doug Pratt

Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin

Volume 50, Number 1

Welcome to the Fall 2024 Issue of the Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin!

Welcome to fall y'all! Of all the great things that come with Autumn (cooler temps, migrating songbirds heading south, and the return of our winter birds), one of the things I most look forward to is the return of our monthly meetings. I think I know a good bit about birds, but our expert speakers put me to shame about topics I often didn't even know existed. From Madi Chudzik regaling us with facts and insights about nocturnal flight calls to Dave Gammon examining the aesthetic nature of bird song. The group of speakers our vice presidents have assembled promises to keep us engaged throughout the year.

I would also like to recognize and thank Jim Capel for his years as president of our club. His steady hand led us through the covid years and now he has agreed to help rejuvenate our field trip program. Be sure to check out the article about our field trips and join us for a walk to one of our local hot spots!

Enjoy this newsletter and join us for one of our meetings or field trips.

Bo Howes
CHBC President



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The purpose of the Chapel Hill Bird Club is to provide engagement and educational opportunities for area birders of all experience levels. We offer interesting educational programs, local birding field trips, Christmas and spring bird counts, and connection to other members via a Facebook group. Members have access to like-minded people including experts who can answer your questions. Whether you watch birds in your yard or travel to the ends of the earth to chase rarities, our club offers something for you. We are a friendly group and welcome all to join us, especially new birders! Our members are mostly from the Research Triangle area of North Carolina: Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Cary, Pittsboro, and surrounding towns.

Look out for our next issue in December!



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Membership Meetings

We have monthly meetings from September through May (except December), generally on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm. We don't have a meeting in June, July, August, or December. We are holding hybrid meetings this season—in-person meetings with a Zoom option. In-person meetings are at Binkley Baptist Church, in the Lounge. Binkley is at 1712 Willow Drive in Chapel Hill, at the intersection with 15-501 near University Mall. Visitors welcome! Come at 7:15 for light refreshments. 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.

Fall 2024 Speakers

September 23, 2024

Madison Chudzik—Navigating the Night: Monitoring Nocturnal Flight Calls for Migration Insights and Species Collision Risk

Billions of migratory birds make their way across the Americas each fall and spring under the night sky. Madi Chudzik tracks this phenomenon by recording nocturnal flight calls, vocalizations birds emit while migrating. In this talk, she will give an overview of her work in Chicago, unveiling the migrants that use the city's skyline and how we can use this data to gain insight into species' bird-building collision risk.

Madison Chudzik is a Biology PhD student at Duke University, studying migration through nocturnal flight calls and bird-building collisions. She is an avid birder whose professional interests include understanding the impacts of climate change and increased urbanization on avian migration and the science research-policy interface.



Register to attend the meeting via Zoom with details included in our Facebook event for this meeting. Details will also be emailed to the listserv. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



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Membership Meetings

October 28, 2024

Dave Gammon—Birdsong: Communication or Music



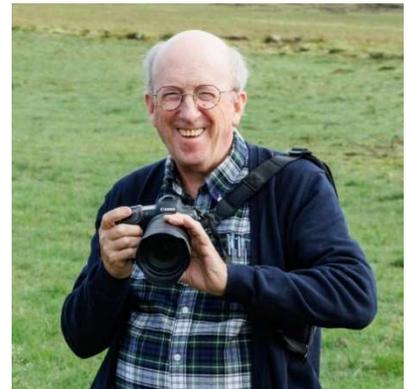
Do birds have an aesthetic sense when they sing? Most scientists, myself included, are hesitant to conclude the answer is 'yes.' On the other hand, it would be arrogant for us humans to assume the answer is 'no.' In this presentation I will describe my ongoing interdisciplinary collaborations with musicians who consider birdsong as music. Even though it remains impossible to understand the subjective thoughts of our feathered friends, I will conclude that studying birdsong as music leads to new insights and fruitful avenues for research.

Dave Gammon is an integrative scientist who builds bridges beyond traditional scientific communities. At Elon University he teaches mostly interdisciplinary science for non-science majors, but also courses that span both scientific and non-scientific disciplines, including one course team-taught with faculty in the Arts & Humanities. For two decades his bird research has focused mostly on the songs of one of the most musical animal species, the northern mockingbird.

November 25, 2024

Ross McKinney—New Zealand: Preserving the Precious

Ross and Holly McKinney took a birding-heavy trip through New Zealand in February 2024. The trip included examples of New Zealand's endemic species, many of which have barely survived the arrivals of the Maori and their accompanying rats and other mammals in 1300-1320. The arrival of Europeans in the 19th century only made the situation worse for New Zealand birds, most of which had evolved to protect themselves from other birds and reptiles, not animals with a sense of smell. In the 1970s, the people of New Zealand began to realize they had an opportunity to preserve and protect their unique birdlife. They developed mammal free islands like Tiri Tiri Matangi and Capiti, and they designed elaborate walling systems able to keep out predators in mainland preserves. Ross McKinney is a retired pediatric infectious diseases physician who practiced at Duke for 37 years. He is an avid photographer, runs a vintage pen web site, and is currently Vice President of the New Hope Bird Alliance.



Visit our website at <https://chbc.carolinanature.com> for information about our 2025 speakers and for a link to our archive of past Zoom meetings.



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FIELD TRIPS

Starting in September 2024, the Chapel Hill Bird Club will lead bird outings/field trips about twice a month during the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month. Our field trips are open to all.

Details of field trips will be emailed to all members via the CHBC listserv, posted on our website at <https://chbc.carolinanature.com/birdwalks/> and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chapelhillbirdclub>. Thank you to the New Hope Bird Alliance for posting information about our outings on their calendar <https://newhopebirdalliance.org/calendar/> too!

Contact Jim Capel at jim.capel@mindspring.com with questions about our field trips or to volunteer to lead a future outing for the Club.

Share Your Field Trip Photos!

If you take photos on our field trips, we'd love to see them and share them in a future newsletter! Submit your photos (up to 5 per field trip) here: <https://forms.gle/zpRue7mjw7C8bGKCA>



Sandy Creek Park
August 18, 2024, led by Bo Howes



Action shot!
Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment
Feb 18, 2024, led by Jim Capel



Fews Ford (Eno River State Park)
April 21, 2024, led by Jim Capel



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Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin eBird/Ask Kent

eBird is a free, online database of bird observations that allows birders to submit and track their sightings which also contributes to scientific research, education, and conservation. The database is a joint project between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon and has over 100,000 active users.

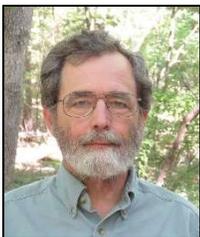


Birders can use eBird to:

- Create checklists of birds they've seen
- Keep track of birds in a specific location
- Count the number of birds of each species
- Note how long they spent birding
- Record how far they traveled
- Add notes, change counts or species, and upload media to checklists

eBird also provides scientists, researchers, and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance. The data is used to create visualizations and tools that describe where bird populations occur and how they change over time. For example, land trusts can use eBird to track the migration timing and abundance of birds on their land. **Find out more about eBird here: <https://ebird.org/about>**

All unusual observations in eBird are evaluated by eBird reviewers - birding experts who volunteer their time to manage filters, review records, and communicate with eBird users. Reviewers are selected for their expert knowledge of local birds and/or eBird, and ability to communicate that knowledge with others.



Kent Fiala

Our local eBird reviewer, Kent Fiala, has graciously agreed to help answer some of your eBird questions! Submit your questions to bohoves@gmail.com before the meeting and Kent will select one or two to address during our Membership Meetings!

The deadline for submission is the day before each program meeting.



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Membership Update



The CHBC Board agreed to raise membership dues from \$15 to \$25 a year to cover increasing costs including items such as meeting room rental, our Zoom license, and modest dinners or gift cards for speakers. This is the first increase in dues in almost 20 years. Annual dues for student members will remain at \$10.

The CHBC's policy is that dues will cover annual membership based on the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31st). Dues received during any part of the year will only be credited for that calendar year. **We will email a reminder in early January 2025** with a link for members to renew their dues. We are working to update the website links for renewals, new, and gift memberships. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact CHBC Treasurer, Do Hodgson at dolohodgson@gmail.com.



Do Hodgson
CHBC Treasurer



CHBC Field Trip at Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment
May 18, 2024, led by Jim Capel



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Chapel Hill Bird Club Bulletin 2024/2025 Officers

Elected Officers

President: Bo Howes (bohowes@gmail.com)

Vice-presidents: Carolyn McAllaster, Donna Wilder

Treasurer: Dorothy (Do) Hodgson

Co-Secretaries: Mia Burroughs, Roger Shaw



Bo Howes



Carolyn McAllaster



Donna Wilder



Do Hodgson



Mia Burroughs



Roger Shaw

Appointed Officers

Bird Count Supervisor/Compiler: Will Cook

Field Trip Chairman: Jim Capel

Bulletin Managing Editor: Kelly Mieszkalski (kellymieszkalski@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Will Cook



Will Cook



Jim Capel



Kelly Mieszkalski