



The Bulletin

May 2026
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American Redstart, Photo courtesy of Bo Howes

May is Migration Time

Spring migration is in full swing; I was very pleased to see Blackburnian and Magnolia Warblers this week at Brumley North. I was even more pleased to hear a Northern Bobwhite calling on the same walk. With the rate at which their habitat is disappearing, I always get excited when I hear or see one.

On another interesting note, a colleague of mine saw what she believes to be a pair of Anhinga on a nest in Johnston County this week. The nest is on private land, so people cannot go to look for the birds. Hopefully, I can get confirmation of this sighting as I believe the furthest inland they are known to nest is in Weldon.

The May meeting marks the close of the Chapel Hill Bird Club year. We have had such wonderful programs this year and our bird walks have been exceptional.

The May meeting will also include the election of new officers for the coming year. Several of us hope to continue in our current roles (pending reelection), while a couple of other long-time officers are allowing others to take on their responsibilities. Carolyn McAllaster has admirably served as Co-Vice-President. Among other duties, the Vice-President's are responsible for recruiting our speakers and coordinating their presentations. Carolyn has filled this role with gusto and has been indispensable in recruiting the fine variety of speakers we have enjoyed. Likewise, Mia Burroughs has served as Co-Secretary, making sure that we all have nametags and that our meeting is updated on Facebook. When you see Mia and Carolyn please thank them for their service to the Chapel Hill Bird Club.

I hope to see you at the meeting or on one of our bird walks!

Cheers,
Bo Howes



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Photo by Jan Hansen

May Program: *Jan Hansen— Birding Sinaloa & Nayarit: Endemic Birds in the Shadow of the Cartels*

When: Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7:15pm (light refreshments served at 7:15, program to start at 7:30)

Where: [Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#) or on [Zoom](#).

RSVP: Let us know you are coming by responding to our [Facebook event](#). To attend by Zoom, register [here](#).

Jan has been leading birding tours to northwest Mexico for 23 years and most recently has been living in Mazatlán on Sinaloa's coast. This presentation will be an attempt to show northwest Mexico in a different light and try to dispel some of the misconceptions and fears people have about travel in Mexico due to distorted and sensationalist media coverage in the U.S. It will also focus heavily on the incredible avian diversity in northwest Mexico where it is possible to see 35-40 endemic birds. Jan recently retired as a birding tour guide, but over his career he led tours to 20+ countries. Today he's only guiding individuals and small groups in Mexico. Jan is also a former member of the North Carolina records committee.



Tufted Jay, Photo courtesy of Jan Hansen



2026-2027 Slate of Officers

At the May meeting, members will vote on next year's officers listed below. Thank you to our returning, exiting, and new officers.

President: Bo Howes

Vice President: Roger Shaw, Jenny Deview

Treasurer: Do Hodgson

Secretary: Holly McKinney, Trish Kalivoda



Recent CHBC field trip at Flat River. Photo courtesy of Jim Capel

Field Trips

[Jim Capel](#) will lead our **next field trip on Saturday, May 16th at 8am at Whippoorwill Park**. The park is located at [1632 Rowemont Drive](#) in Durham. It features an easy walk over paved trails and a wide boardwalk. Rain will force cancellation. Check our [bird walk schedule](#) for more information.

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.

See you in September!