



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

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A Special Time with Warblers in Blowing Rock

The charming town of Blowing Rock provided a wonderful location for our Spring 2016 Carolina Bird Club meeting weekend. In this beautiful mountain setting, more than 170 registered participants enjoyed fine birding and fellowship amongst a backdrop of spectacular scenery and historic attractions. In addition to great birding, many enjoyed unique downtown experiences including local craft shops and fine dining at cafes and restaurants. Our meeting was headquartered at the Green Park Inn, a well-preserved hotel first opened in 1891. The Inn gave us a perfect cultural setting and good access to the Blue Ridge Parkway and other premier mountain birding sites. /Continued P..8.

Fall Meeting on the South Carolina Coast—Steve McInnis

Picturesque Beaufort, SC offers some of the best birding along the South Carolina coast. The 2011 Beaufort fall meeting tallied 203 species, which is a close second to the Outer Banks (204 species). Then, think of the field trips to Bear Island... Donnelley... Savannah NWR... Botany Bay WMA... These sites are hallowed ground to Lowcountry birders, and we will visit them all and more during the upcoming Carolina Bird Club 2016 Fall Meeting! Field trips will be offered on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1.

New field trip locations will include Caw Caw Interpretive Center with 6 miles of trails and 1,435 feet of elevated boardwalk within its 654 acres. At Caw Caw, enslaved Africans carved a series of rice fields out of the cypress swamps. A new trip to National Audubon's Francis Beidler Forest will also be offered. You will see 1,800 acres of old-growth swamp forest and walk the new 1.75-mile-long boardwalk, in Four Holes Swamp.

While on a field trip, one of your leaders might be Saturday night's speaker, Ted Floyd. Ted is the editor of "Birding" magazine, which is the flagship publication of American Birding Association. Ted is a frequent instructor at ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology and was the keynote speaker at ABA's 2015 Birding Rally in Spearfish, South Dakota. Ted has written more than 125 published articles on birds and ecological topics. In addition to speaking, Ted will assist with leading several field trips.

Our Friday night speaker will be Sharon Richardson, the new Executive Director for Audubon South Carolina. Last year, Sharon was hired to replace Norman Brunswig, upon his retirement after 41 years of service. Sharon will be speaking about the many things Audubon does in South Carolina, in-

cluding managing the Francis Beidler Forest and Silver Bluff Sanctuary. Our headquarters for the meeting is the Quality Inn at Town Center, located at 2001 Boundary Street in downtown Beaufort.



Scenic and Historic Beaufort, SC

The Quality Inn will host our registration, meetings and Saturday night buffet. The excellent CBC rates for rooms are \$52.99 (double beds) for the nights of Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. Due to the Marines adding a second graduating platoon on Thursday, Sept. 29, that night's rate will become \$109, once the 40 room allotment is reached. All rooms and rates include a microwave, fridge, complimentary Wi-Fi connection and a free hot breakfast. The complimentary hot breakfast is open 6 am till 9 am., early enough for all field trip departure times. There is a 24-hour notice cancellation policy on individual reservations. Check-in time is 3pm and check-out time is 12 noon. Cut-off date for making reservations under the group block is September 8, 2016. Any reservations made after that date are subject to hotel availability and available rates. Contact the Quality Inn at 843-524-2144 to make your reservations. Be sure to mention the Carolina Bird Club in order to receive the group rates. The Quality Inn's sales manager is Allyson Dykeman. /Continued P. 2

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Fall Meeting on the South Carolina Coast

A second option for lodging is one mile away from the Quality Inn at Town Center, which is the Hampton Inn, located at 2342 Boundary Street. The Carolina Bird Club rate for rooms is \$102 nightly, Sept. 29 (Thursday) through the morning of Oct. 2 (Sunday). (All prices are before taxes.) This rate is good for rooms with 2 Queen beds or a King bed. Hampton Inn offers a complimentary hot breakfast, which opens at 6 am. The cancellation policy is 24- hour notice. Check-in time is 3pm and check-out time is 11 am. Cut-off date for making reservations under the group block is September 8, 2016. Any reservations made after that date are subject to hotel availability and available rates. Contact the Hampton Inn at 843-986-0600 and mention the Carolina Bird Club to get our special rates!

The Saturday night buffet will be prepared by Holmes Catering of St. Helena, SC. The buffet will include roast beef, baked chicken, vegetable lasagna, mashed potatoes, green beans, steamed veggies, tossed salad, rolls, and ice tea. Dessert will be cake and assorted cheesecake. The cost will be \$31 per person.

Register for the buffet at the same time you register for the meeting. Online registration opens on Saturday, August 20 at 2pm. Online registration will close September 24 at 8 am. CBC refund cut-off date is Sept. 16.

In summary, I think you will find Beaufort to be a historic and beautiful area for the fall CBC meeting. You will meet interesting speakers from Audubon S.C. and American Birding Association. Lots of field trips are offered with many new additions. Finally, and best of all, you will bird a very birdy part of South Carolina!

Beaufort Field Trip Description

Friday, Sep 30

Half-day Morning

<u>Trip #1</u>	Hunting Island—7:15 AM
<u>Trip #2</u>	Harbor Island—7:15 AM
<u>Trip #3</u>	Combahee Unit—7:45 AM
<u>Trip #4</u>	Savannah NWR—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #5</u>	Beaufort & Vicinity—7:45 AM
<u>Trip #6</u>	Fripp Island—6:45 AM
<u>Trip #7</u>	Caw Caw—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #8</u>	Bear Island—6:30 AM

Half-day Afternoon

<u>Trip #9</u>	Savannah NWR—12:30 PM
<u>Trip #10</u>	Bear Island—12:30 PM
<u>Trip #11</u>	Hunting Island—12:45 PM
<u>Trip #12</u>	Harbor Island—12:45 PM
<u>Trip #13</u>	Beaufort & Vicinity —1:00 PM
<u>Trip #14</u>	Combahee Unit—1:00 PM

All-day

<u>Trip #15</u>	Bear Island & Bennett's Point Rd.—6:45 AM
<u>Trip #16</u>	Francis Beidler Forest—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #17</u>	Pinckney Island & Hilton Head—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #18</u>	Savannah NWR—7:30 AM

Saturday, Oct 1

Half-day Morning

<u>Trip #19</u>	Hunting Island—7:15 AM
<u>Trip #20</u>	Harbor Island—7:15 AM
<u>Trip #21</u>	Combahee Unit—7:45 AM
<u>Trip #22</u>	Savannah NWR—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #23</u>	Beaufort & Vicinity —7:45 AM
<u>Trip #24</u>	Fripp Island—6:45 AM
<u>Trip #25</u>	Caw Caw—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #26</u>	Donnelley WMA—6:45 AM

Half-day Afternoon

<u>Trip #27</u>	Savannah NWR—12:30 PM
<u>Trip #28</u>	Donnelley WMA—12:30 PM
<u>Trip #29</u>	Hunting Island—12:45 PM
<u>Trip #30</u>	Harbor Island—12:45 PM
<u>Trip #31</u>	Beaufort & Vicinity —1:00 PM
<u>Trip #32</u>	Combahee Unit—1:00 PM

All-day

<u>Trip #33</u>	Francis Beidler Forest—7:00 AM
<u>Trip #34</u>	Pinckney Island & Hilton Head—7:30 AM
<u>Trip #35</u>	Savannah NWR—7:30 AM

Important Notes for Your Trip

In order to give you a place to obtain additional information about the trip sites, each site that can be found in [CBC website](#), [Jeff Mollenhauer's F guide](#) (A Falcon Guide) or [Robin Carter's guide](#) are marked in the trip descriptions as follows: CBC website, JM, RC.

- Just in case, bring your warm weather gear (sun screen, hats, light clothing, etc.) as it can be warm in Beaufort this time of year.
- Be sure to pack a lunch and snacks for the all-day trips and due to the tight schedules, you might want to pack a lunch for the half-day trips also. Each trip is noted as to availability of public restrooms.
- All field trips have a participation limit of 16. The Francis Beidler trip has a minimum requirement of five.
- All trips will leave from the hotel. If the trip leader is to meet you at the site, one person will be assigned as the guide to get you to the site. Site directions will be available at registration. If you plan to meet your trip at the site, be sure to let your trip leader know in advance.

Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 11, 19 & 29 - Hunting Island State Park: [CBC website](#), JM, RC

This island is over four miles of beach, thousands of acres of marsh, tidal creeks and maritime forest, a saltwater lagoon and ocean inlet. There is a long fishing pier on the south end of the island. The Hunting Island Lighthouse stands 132.5 feet tall, giving breathtaking views of the Lowcountry marshland, the slash pine/cabbage palmetto/live oak forest, and the Atlantic Ocean. Admission is \$5/adult, \$3.25 for SC seniors. Bring your state park pass if you have one. Some of the target birds are Painted Buntings, Piping Plovers, rails, tanagers, orioles, pelicans, oystercatchers, skimmers, terns, herons, and egrets.

Approximate travel time: 30 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available, at several locations.

Access conditions: This trip will involve light to moderate walking.

Trips 2, 12, 20, & 30 - Harbor Island:

Nestled between St. Helena and Hunting Islands in Beaufort County, Harbor Island is a 1,400-acre private community on the Harbor River & Johnson Creek. Three small ponds on the island provide a roost for egrets and herons and there is a rather large rookery in the spring. The south side of the island is good for shore birds. Some of the target birds are plovers, oystercatchers, skimmers, wading birds, and terns.

Approximate travel time: 25-30 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to light walking.

Trips 3, 14, 21, & 32 - Combahee Unit, ACE Basin NWR:

Over 2 miles of walking trails through wetlands, old rice fields, canals and estuaries. ACE is an acronym for Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers. The Combahee (pronounced Come-bee) will provide Wood Duck, Mallard, heron, ibis, Osprey, Wood Stork and Bald Eagles.

Approximate travel time: 35 minutes

Facilities: No restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve light to moderate walking, on uneven surfaces.

Trips 4, 9, 22, & 27 - Savannah NWR: [CBC website](#), JM, RC (Restroom available at the main parking)

Half Day Trips—Savannah NWR consists of over 29,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal rivers and creeks and bottomland hardwoods. The refuge provides nesting areas for Wood Ducks, Great Horned Owls, Bald Eagles, Osprey and Swallow-tailed Kites among others. The kites and storks will probably be gone by the end of September. As many as 13 species of duck either live in or migrate through this refuge. Other bird types found here include coots, moorhens, Purple Gallinules, Soras, egrets, herons, and shore-birds along with other migrating bird species. This trip basically covers the 5 mile driving tour (Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive) with multiple stops.

Approximate travel time: 50 minutes

Facilities: No restrooms on Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Restrooms are only available at the Visitor Center, which is 4 miles away.

Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to light walking.

/Continued P. 4

Field Trip Descriptions (Continued)

Trips 18 & 35 - Savannah NWR: [CBC website](#), JM, RC

Full Day Trips—This is the same trip as the above half-day trips except you will have time to take in some of the walking trails. This will allow a chance to get more of those migrants passing through.

Approximate travel time: 50 minutes

Facilities: No restrooms on Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Restrooms are only available at the Visitor Center, which is 4 miles away.

Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate to heavy walking.

Trips 5, 13, 23, & 31 - Beaufort & Vicinity:

Port Royal Boardwalk Park ([CBC website](#), JM), Broad River (JM), Chechessee River Estuaries (RC) and Cypress Wetlands. Port Royal Boardwalk is 0.2 miles long. It runs through salt-marsh and mud flats and has a tall observation platform. West of Beaufort there is a series of broad tidal estuaries interspersed with salt marshes. Two of these, the Broad and Chechessee Rivers are easily birded from dry land. Some of the target birds are ducks, rails, ibis, gulls, terns, shore birds, herons, egrets, and migrants.

Approximate travel time: 10 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 26 & 28 - Donnelley WMA: [CBC website](#), JM

Donnelley WMA is 8,000 acres of unique property which is a cross section of the Lowcountry and encompasses a diversity of wetland and upland habitats including: managed rice fields, forested wetland, tidal marsh, agricultural lands and a variety of upland types, including a natural stand of longleaf pine. Some of the target birds here are Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Anhinga, coot, Purple Gallinule, Sora, herons & egrets. Insect repellent is advisable. This is the only day during this meeting that Donnelley is open to birding.

Approximate travel time: 40 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 17 & 34 - Pinckney Island NWR & Hilton Head: [CBC website](#), JM, RC

Pinckney Island NWR is a 4,000 acre refuge that was once an early 19th century plantation. The island consists of salt marsh, forestland, brushland, fallow field and freshwater ponds. The great diversity of habitat makes for some great birding. Some of the target birds are waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, migrants and large concentrations of White Ibis, herons, and egrets. Fish Haul Creek Park is a good place to find shorebirds and terns. The target birds for the 0.3 mile boardwalk are Clapper Rail and Seaside Sparrow.

Approximate travel time: 45-50 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate walking.

Trip 8 & 10 - Bear Island: [CBC website](#), JM, RC

Bear Island is a combination of old rice fields and marsh and provides some of the best birding in South Carolina. Some of the target birds are Bald Eagle, Mottled Duck, King Rail, herons, egrets, and shorebirds. If the water levels are low the shorebirds can be in large numbers. This is the only day during this meeting that Bear Island is open to birding.

Approximate travel time: 50 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: \$5/person to enter the County Park. This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Field Trip Descriptions (Continued)

Trips 15 - Bear Island & road to Bennett's Point: CBC website, JM, RC

Bear Island is a combination of old rice fields and marsh and provides some of the best birding in South Carolina. Some of the target birds are Bald Eagle, Mottled Duck, King Rail, herons, egrets, and shorebirds. If the water levels are low the shorebirds can be in large numbers. On the drive to Bennett's Point, look for Clapper Rails, Gull-billed, Least and Royal Terns plus Black Skimmers.

Approximate travel time: 50 minutes

Facilities: No Restrooms.

Access conditions: This trip will involve moderate walking.

Trips 6 & 24 – Fripp Island:

Fripp Island is a gated island and is adjacent to Hunting Island. Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Storks, herons, egrets, ibis, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, Caspian & Common Terns, Black Skimmers, and eight warbler species have been seen late September and early October. This is the first time the club has been granted access to Fripp.

Approximate travel time: 45 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available.

Access conditions: A guard and gate at the island entrance.

Trips 7 & 25 - Caw Caw Nature and History Interpretive Center:

Located near Ravenel, this Charleston County Park is situated on land that was once historic rice plantations. The park consists of 1,000 acres of diverse coastal habitats including cypress/ tupelo swamps, a tidal saltmarsh, freshwater and brackish water impoundments, and upland and bottomland forests. The property is accessed by six miles of trails and offers easy and quality birding. Over 250 species of birds have been documented in the park, and we hope to find marsh wading birds, rails, owls, vireos, wrens, migrant warblers, and others.

Approximate travel time: 60 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available.

Access conditions: \$5/person fee to enter the County Park. This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trips 16 & 33 - The Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest

This Audubon sanctuary contains a portion of what is considered the largest remaining old-growth cypress-tupelo swamp in the world, known as Four Holes Swamp. Participants will experience the majestic wonder of this swampland along the NEW 1.75-mile boardwalk. Birds we hope to find include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and other wading birds including Wood Stork, a variety of woodpeckers, and migrating songbirds.

Approximate Travel Time: 90 minutes

Facilities: Restrooms available.

Access conditions: \$10/person fee, with 5 people as the required minimum. This trip involves easy walking on a wooden boardwalk. Participants should be prepared for possible mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and bringing insect repellent.

Registration Form on Page 11.

Carolina Bird Club Online Store

Check out the array of CBC merchandise including:

- Men's and Women's Shirts
- Men's and Women's Sweatshirts and Outerwear
- Stainless Steel Water Bottles and Stainless Steel Mugs
- Tote bags
- Caps

Visit—<http://www.cafepress.com/carolinabirdclub>



Blue Ridge Parkway Field Trip—Steve Shultz

September 17-18, 2016

Join us as we seek out and enjoy roving flocks of fall migrants on the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway.

Are you a fan of warblers? Then this trip is for you. Mid to late September is the peak of fall migration for warblers in the Carolinas.



America's Favorite Drive—the Blue Ridge Parkway from motorhome.com.

This is the time when a variety of warblers abandon their breeding season stratification and join together with vireos, tanagers, cuckoos, grosbeaks and more to feast on the little buggy things that power their southward migration. These flocks frequently follow the crests of the Appalachian ranges, and we hope to encounter a variety of species as we travel the scenic Parkway. While not as common in the lowlands, up here on the Blue Ridge, Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers often take center stage, with many others playing supporting roles.

Sound like fun? Act quickly as space on this Bonus Trip is limited to 10 participants. This smaller group makes individualized interaction with the trip leaders easier and allows us to help you with identifying any of those “confusing fall warblers”.

Logistics:

This trip visits the Blue Ridge Parkway in northern North Carolina and southern Virginia on September 17 and 18th. We will depart from Sparta, NC at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday with a full day of birding on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Registration cost is \$30. You must be a member of the Carolina Bird Club to attend, but you may join at the same time as you register if you are currently not a member. Participants are responsible for lodging, meals, and transportation. All levels of birding experience are welcome.

Parking alongside the Parkway can be limited. Please plan to carpool as we will endeavor to combine into as few vehicles as possible. Environmental hazards are few, and annoying insects are not usually problematic, but bring a rain jacket and sweater in case of showers or cool weather.



Blue Ridge Parkway through North Carolina and northern Virginia from motorhome.com.

To Register:

Contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or by phone at **919-608-2069** for a reserved slot and a registration form. If your plans should change after registration, refunds are available through August 29th. After August 29th refunds are available if we can fill your slot.

Welcome New Members!

Lyle Armstrong
Ventura, CA

Megan Brogan
John Kraljevich
Riley Leeper
Andrew Deal
Fort Mill, SC

Jane Brown
Efland, NC

Kay Creighton
Peggy Myles
Bryson City, NC

Nan Dewire
Chapel Hill, NC

Diane & Rich Duloft
Wild Birds Unlimited
Surfside Beach, SC

Matthew & Laura Eison - **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**
Greenville, SC

Jim Gates
Raleigh, NC

Robert Gould
New Bern, NC

Jane & Stan Hurt
Greenville, SC

Stephen Irwin
Wake Forest, NC

Nicholas Johnson
Mount Pleasant, SC

Dennis Kent
Matthews, NC

Jeannie Kraus
Morehead City, NC

Lauren Lampley
Boone, NC

Robert & Catherine LeBlond
Piedmont, SC

Horace Loftin
Greenville, NC

Selena Mack
Columbia, SC

Paulette Playce
Carolina Beach, NC

Ellen Powers
Raleigh, NC

Margie Pulliam
Newton, NC

Barbara Riley
Youngsville, NC

Elisa Rosenberg
Pleasanton, CA

Beverly Saltonstall
Deep Gap, NC

Leah Sommons
Charleston, SC

Maria Steve
Charleston, SC

Susan Todd
Loris, SC

Loretta VanHaasteren
Raleigh, NC

Ray Woody
Cary, NC

Christina, Eddie & Isabel Walter
Gastonia, NC

Katherine & George Wimmer
Rock Hill, SC

Winter Birding In Northern Minnesota—Steve Compton



Richard Hayes (right) and others in sub-zero gear.

Why visit the coldest place in the Lower 48 in the dead of Winter? How about Great Gray Owls, Boreal Chickadees, Bohemian Waxwings, Snow Buntings, and more?

But with low temps reaching as low as 45 below, how is this possible for a Southern person from South Carolina? The answer is the annual Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival, held every February in tiny Meadowlands, Minnesota, about 45 miles Northwest of Duluth.

So my friend Richard Hayes and I talked about this trip for three years. Richard has lived in Ohio and Colorado, and was reluctant to revisit very cold temps again. But I am nuts and like to test myself in extreme conditions, so we investigated how we could take this journey without the consequence of death or dismemberment. It turns out the friendly folks of Meadowland

have made it easy: you travel the northlands in either a school bus or a chartered coach, you have expert local guides, and you are never exposed to extremes of wind and cold for very long.

So with my LL Bean Baxter State Parka and Bean Pac-boots, both rated to -45, we made ready for the trip. With some time on the first day Richard and I visited Duluth's Canal Park, right downtown for gulls and ducks, then took a quick trip over to the Duluth Grain elevators hoping for Gyrfalcon recently reported there. Fortune smiled as we ran into a small group led by Sax-Zim guide John Richardson, who pointed out the Gyr as he made sallies toward a large flock of Rock Pigeons. A life bird for both of us!



Common Goldeneye at Duluth's Canal Park. One of the few waterfowl who can survive in the extreme cold.

We stayed in Grand Rapids, Minnesota: childhood home of Judy Garland and near the headwaters of the Mississippi. We decided to take the pre-festival bog trip, repeating the same route the next day. The bog itself is a large rectangle of Black Spruce-Tamarack wetlands, so wet and rough that it was no good for foresting or farming by the hardy Finnish immigrants who settled this area. It represents the most southerly edge of the great northern forest, "le gran bois du nord", that covers much of Canada in the eastern provinces. It is so wild that it harbors a long-established population of Timber Wolves and has year-round Moose. Our first trip through the bog yielded a glimpse of Snow Bunting along the railroad tracks, and the reliable Boreal Chickadee at the Admiral Road feeders, placed along the road in remote woods to attract the normally shy birds.



Seed tray at Ely: from left, Common Redpoll, lighter Hoary Redpoll, Female Pine Grosbeak, C. Redpoll.

We got great looks and photos there, along with Gray Jay and Black-capped Chickadee. Along the way we visited feeders at the Visitor's Center and private feeders by friendly and gracious folks like Mary Lou Ysen-Freyholtz, who maintains dozens of feeders in her yard. There we saw Common Redpolls and Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. But the #1 target of our trip, the elusive Great Gray Owl, eluded us the first day. On our second trip around the bog the next day, however, we finally got distant looks at the owl, bigger than a Great Horned in appearance but surprisingly hard to see as he sat mid-range in the trees. We also picked out a few Hoary Redpolls among the hundreds of Commons at the feeders.

Our third day we took the Lake County trip to towns even further north along the great Mesabi Iron Range, the largest iron deposit in the 48 states. In Ely, we looked for and found Bohemian Waxwings in the little mining town, and as snow began to fall we spotted a Snowshoe Hare. Our final trip the next day took us back to the docks and grain elevators, where we found a reliable Snowy Owl at the FedEx terminal in Superior, Wisconsin.

So five life birds for me and at least 15 for Richard, temps ranging from 26 to -26, and a beautiful snowfall the last day. And I never felt uncomfortably cold!



Our Great Gray Owl in the snow, coming in for a landing showing his enormous squared-off wing.

Perhaps the most magic moment of the trip occurred on the last evening as I drove along the isolated country road from meadowlands to Grand Rapids. Snow was falling hard and the road was white when Richard yelled "Stop! Stop! Stop!" So I did, leaving us in the middle of a snow-covered road. There in the dusk, right beside the road, was the Great Gray Owl, the closest look we had. We carefully approached and took a few photos. Terrific stuff!

So if you want a comfortable, and safe way to see the birds of the very far north and get to know a lot of "Minnesota nice" people: Go to www.saxzim.org.

A Special Time with Warblers in Blowing Rock/Continued

All birders visiting the southern Blue Ridge Mountains in spring quickly find themselves immersed in the wonderful world of wood warblers. Being true to this, our program theme was wood warblers, as highlighted by our guest speakers, Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, noted authors of The Warbler Guide and the associated Warbler Guide App. Their evening presentations, after a delicious dinner at the Inn, were excellent and focused on enhanced identification skills using their special brand of visual and audio techniques. To the delight of participants, Tom and Scott also joined us in the field, providing "hands-on" lessons in wood warbler identification.

Birds in the field did not disappoint, with field trip participants tallying 142 total species, including an impressive 30 species of wood warblers. Trips were led by skilled volunteer experts to such iconic locations as Grandfather Mountain and Linville Gorge as well as other birding "hotspots" including Rich Mountain, Elk Knob, Valle Crucis Community Park among others. Our outings were further enhanced by specially designed wood warbler workshops and trips developed to engage new birders, providing birding skills and trips led by some of our young birders. Our Friday evening "owl prowls" received much interest though windy conditions, unfortunately, dampened their success. Maybe next time!

Some of our weekend highlights included a "derby" of Kentucky Warblers, a close encounter with Golden-winged Warblers and Swainson's Warblers as well as such favorites as Blue-winged Warblers, the seasonally scarce Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warblers, Bay-breasted Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Canada Warblers and many others. The increasingly scarce Cerulean Warbler proved to be difficult to find, although some lucky folks were treated to decent views. Aside from the exciting mix of wood warblers, reported highlights also included Ruffed Grouse, calling Black-billed Cuckoos, Peregrine Falcons, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Bobolinks, just to name a few.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this meeting a success and special thanks to our field trip leaders and guest speakers Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. On behalf of the entire executive committee, we thank all CBC members for their participation and support and we hope to see you again soon at an upcoming meeting.

Irvin Pitts

Birder's Book Review—Steve Shultz

Waterfowl of North America, Europe & Asia

Sébastien Reeber

ISBN 978-0-691-16266-9, 656 pages, hardcover

2016, Princeton University Press, \$45.00

Field guides provide birders with a (usually) portable, all-in-one method of identifying birds during outings, standing at the window watching the bird feeder, or while humming along the interstate (but please, not if you are the driver!) But most folks who are bitten by the birding bug end up wanting more. And the very nature of field guides means that limited space can be given to text, thus rendering more than a broad overview out of scope.

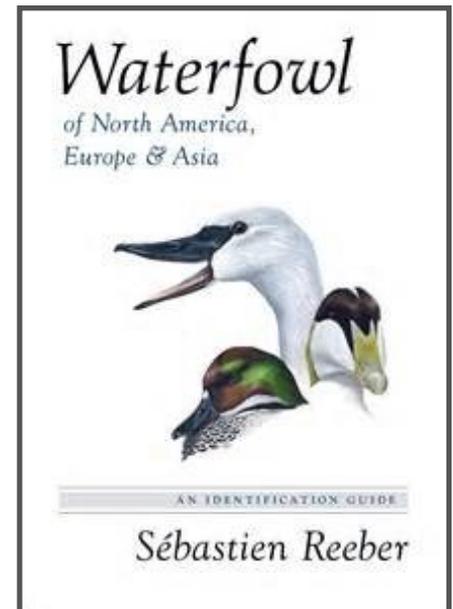
Enter books designed to take a “deep dive” into bird identification, plumage characteristics, taxonomy, range, habitats, and habits. Most volumes focus on specific families of birds, and for those interested in swans, ducks, and geese, the newly published *Waterfowl of North America, Europe & Asia* ends the wait for a comprehensive look at the waterfowl of North America and Eurasia. Offering more than 920 excellent drawings and over 650 photographs, the illustrative value alone is worth the cost of admission. Want to see examples of how much yellow can be found on the bill of a Tundra Swan versus a Bewick's Swan? Then this offering is for you!

Covering 84 species and, most interestingly 100+ hybrids, 72 plates precede over 500 pages of text and photographs. The discussion of each species includes taxonomy, identification (in all plumages), geographic variation, measurements and size, voice, molt, hybridization, habitat and life-cycle, range and population, and presence in captivity.

The book approaches waterfowl taxonomy from a European perspective, so some birds considered by the AOU/ABA to be subspecies are handled as full species in the book. Examples include Mexican Duck, Eurasian Teal, and the “white-winged” scoters, which are represented by three species. I find this approach helpful as it identifies potential future AOU splits and draws attention to field-separable forms. A discussion of taxonomy precedes each species account, further delving into familial relationships and potential splits and lumps.

Discussions on hybridization and presence in captivity are especially interesting. Birders who find potentially out-of-range vagrants often need to exclude hybrids and especially consider the likelihood of the bird being an escapee from captivity versus arriving via natural occurrence. For example, knowing that Tufted Duck breeds easily in captivity, is available inexpensively to fanciers, and is common in captivity, while Smew are considerably more difficult to breed and thus quite a bit more expensive (and rare outside of major collections) may help guide discussion on the provenance of a particular report.

Other than its hefty weight, I see little to stop birders from adding this volume to their collection as a worthwhile inclusion. (And it's never too early to think about winter holiday shopping!)



Beginning 8/20 @ 2pm. Register Online
At www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Beaufort, SC Registration Form

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Day Phone (____) ____-____ Evening Phone (____) ____-____
 Email _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____ x \$25 = \$ ____

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1 st /2 nd Choice	P.M. 1 st /2 nd Choice	All-day 1 st /2 nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) ____ x \$30 = \$ ____

Buffet Dinner ____ x \$31 = \$ ____

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the Boxes to the right. Meeting registration at the door costs \$35.

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send it to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled.

Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded in received by Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens. Register online for the best availability of field trips.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option, check here: ____ # persons ____



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2016 - Beaufort, SC

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC

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pittsjam@windstream.net

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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