



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 60

April 2014

Number 2



CBC Spring Meeting - May 2-3 in Hendersonville, NC

Jesse Pope and Karyl Gabriel

Very few places in the Carolinas offer a better birding destination in spring than the mountains of North Carolina! Join us in May as we celebrate a new season and the return of our spring migrant birds. With trips visiting well-known and productive birding locations including Jackson Park, Mt. Mitchell, Chimney Rock Park, Sandy Mush Gamelands, and the Blue Ridge Parkway, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Western North Carolina's diverse landscape provides a wide array of habitat for breeding birds that will be returning or have already returned by the time our meeting arrives. Early May in the mountains is a magical time when migration, a variety of birdsong, and other ephemeral wonders of spring, including the brilliant array of wildflowers, take place.

Hendersonville, just 20 miles south of Asheville, offers easy access to a variety of historical and cultural attractions for the birder and non-birding partner alike. These include the world famous Biltmore House, America's largest private residence, as well as the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, the Flat Rock Playhouse, and more.

The area offers a rich diversity of habitats from spruce-fir forests at high elevations down to cove hardwood forests in valley floors. The area is a great transitional zone between northern and southern boundaries of flora and fauna. The mountaintops of-

fer boreal ecosystems similar to what we see in Canada and are home to breeding Pine Siskins, Common Ravens, Red Crossbills and many more. The lower elevations in Western North Carolina can be equally productive for more southern species such as Swainson's Warbler and others.

When we last gathered in Hendersonville in the spring of 2007 we finished the weekend with 168 species, including 34 warblers. Red-letter birds included Black-billed Cuckoo, Pacific Loon, Baird's Sandpiper, Red Crossbill, Dickcissel, Sedge Wren and Lincoln's and Grasshopper Sparrows. While there is no guarantee on what will make an appearance this time, you can see that the possibilities are impressive!

Our host hotel will be the Best Western Hendersonville Inn, located at 105 Sugarloaf Road. This is just off Exit 49A on I-26. The hotel hosts the El Paso Mexican Restaurant on-site, with roughly 15 other dining establishments within a short drive. If you don't find what you are looking for nearby, Asheville is just 25 minutes away. A deluxe continental breakfast is included with your room, and will be served daily from 6-10. The breakfast menu includes biscuits and gravy, eggs, a variety of hot and cold cereals, fruit, pastries, coffee and orange juice. To make your room reservations, call 828-692-0521, extension 266. The CBC rate of \$79.99 plus tax is good for rooms

(Continued on page 5)

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), April 2014, Volume 60, Number 2. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.



Hunting the Gray Ghost

Mike Tove



From my perch at the leading edge of a gentle knoll, I settled in to gaze across an unobstructed view of the forested valley a hundred feet below. To my right, I could see the houses of a town not yet ready to rise to a sunny, crisp fall morning. To my left lay broad woodlands broken only by a small, elongated meadow and power line cuts. A gentle northwest breeze rustled the leaves in the trees behind me, but not much more. Adjusting my seat on a large flat rock, I settled in and peered through my binoculars, searching for movement.

Nearly an hour passed when I spotted a brownish hawk gliding low over the far edge of the field. I shifted my position, gazing at the bird as it drifted closer. Looking not unlike a Red-shouldered Hawk, it glided on wide, tapered wings. Hugging the meadow's edge, it gave a couple quick flaps and began to rise, circling on an imperceptible column of air. As it turned into profile, I could see a very long tail. Then it drifted back toward the north from whence it came and was gone. This was no Red-shouldered Hawk. It was a Northern Goshawk, the object of my visit. But it was a young bird, brown and streaked. I wanted an adult. I wanted to see a Gray Ghost.

Few raptors, few birds of any kind for that matter, are more impressive and mythic than the Northern Goshawk. Long considered a bird of royalty, it's one of the toughest species to see. Masters of stealth, they have the uncanny ability to fly swiftly through impenetrable forests without making a sound – with deadly results to anything hapless enough to be regarded as food or foe. Notoriously aggressive, nesting Goshawks have literally forced the closure of public campgrounds by attacking not only people but their cars for daring to enter their territory. Few birders, especially those of us living south of the boreal forest belt, have ever experienced this. Rather, we go years or even a lifetime with barely a fleeting look at best. For us, it becomes a question of whether the bird is real or some mythic legend like Sasquatch or Nessie. "Gray Ghost" is not just appropriate for their coloration. It describes everything.

Settling in to watch, I located other raptors winging

their way south. Good birds too: A couple of Rough-legged Hawks and a Golden Eagle, and more young Goshawks. Then suddenly, there it was, circling directly in front of me below eye-level. But as it rose to eye-level, I could plainly see the silvery belly with snow-white under-tail coverts, black mask and crown, bold white eye-stripe and glowing red eye: adult Northern Goshawk. The bird dived down and raced past over the edge of the field. A few minutes later, there was another, flying the same trajectory. Over the course of a single day, I saw twelve Goshawks including three adults.

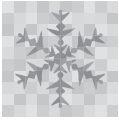
Was this a miracle day of some sort? Believe it or not, nope. In fact, it was a below average day for the species considering that I was at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minnesota, arguably the Goshawk capital of the world. In the interest of full disclosure, I technically wasn't *at* the official lookout per se, but a known-to-locals alternate site known as the Summit Ledge.

Hawk Ridge is among the top hawk migration spots in the country. Situated on opposite sides of a road, it is one of the easiest to access. After a five to ten minute drive from town, you park and exit the car and start hawk-watching.

In a typical year, the official counters at Hawk Ridge tally anywhere from 200 to 400 Northern Goshawks, an equal or greater number of Rough-legged Hawks and a couple hundred Golden Eagles. Bald Eagles occur too, in the thousands every year and the lookout has recorded more Gyrfalcons than any other hawk watch in North America.

Sanctioned by the local Audubon Chapter, it is funded in part, by donations and merchandise sales at the lookout. In addition to the counters, there is an active banding operation and, when hawks are caught, which is almost daily, they are brought out for everyone to admire – and for one lucky person to adopt (for a contribution). The adopter gets to release the bird back into the wild and if the bird is ever recaptured, receive notification of the details. Goshawks, which are caught with significant regularity, fetch \$100 each.

(Continued on page 6)



CBC Winter Meeting Report

Steve Shultz



Cold enough for you? While this phrase has likely never garnered more than a groan since its first utterance, it was appropriate for use at the 2014 CBC Winter Meeting in Wilmington, NC. With a temperature that bottomed out at 14 degrees, it was certainly “cold enough”. But after all, this is winter, and while we have been spoiled with a number of mild years, the meeting provided an opportunity to brush off the cold weather gear and enjoy the southeastern North Carolina coast.

Participants reported 162 species from habitats spanning ocean to sound to pine forest. Highlights were many, and included Mottled Duck, Common Goldeneye, White-winged Scoter, Pacific Loon, Razorbill, Parasitic Jaeger, American Avocet, American White Pelican, Western Kingbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Waterfowl are often a focus of winter birding in the Carolinas, and did not disappoint. One of the very few Mottled Ducks reported from NC spent the weekend in a small and easily accessible pond near the Ft. Fisher Aquarium, pairing nicely with a female Common Goldeneye. Many field trips that included ocean watching recorded all three American scoter species, and while it is usually the least common, White-winged Scoter made an impressive showing, with numbers of birds up and down the coast. Not to be outdone, Long-tailed Ducks were reported from several locations, allowing attendees to enjoy this regal, but uncommon species.

Ocean watching often produces some of the most exciting sightings at coastal meetings, and Pacific Loon, Razorbill, and Parasitic Jaeger appeared for lucky birders at Wrightsville Beach and Ft. Fisher. Also at Ft. Fisher, a locally rare American Avocet could be found frequenting The Rocks at Federal Point. Locally quite uncommon, American White Pelicans thrilled birders on several trips, and the lingering Western Kingbird at the old grass runway at Ft. Fisher played hide and seek along with a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Southport.

A morning rail trip found the four expected wintering

species, King, Clapper, Virginia, and Sora, with three of the four seen. Possibly the most unusual sighting from that trip was of a Clapper Rail running across the ice in an attempt to take off and occupy a nearby patch of marsh that was not quite as crowded with birders. Yes, even the saltmarsh froze it was so cold!

Among the most amazing sights were the massive flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings at Ft. Fisher and near Southport. Long-time Carolina birders compared the clouds of wintering warblers and waxwings to the legendary flocks that graced the Outer Banks thirty to forty years ago.

When the sun set, attendees gathered at the host hotel, the Blockade Runner at Wrightsville Beach, for evenings of fellowship and entertainment. Friday and Saturday evening’s well-attended programs continue the trend of offering talks on diverse subjects of interest to birders. Birders had an opportunity to learn more about nesting waterbirds along the North Carolina coast and how to improve property to be more bird-friendly. The Saturday evening reception and buffet dinner provided calories to replace those burned in an attempt to keep warm throughout the day, and did so in tasty and fulfilling fashion.

So while it was cold, the sun shone, the rain (or snow!) stayed away, and the birds put on a show. Now we can look forward to a spring meeting in the North Carolina mountains where, I am willing to wager, the temperatures will be a touch warmer!

Piephoff Assumes Chair of NCBRC

Taylor Piephoff was confirmed as the Chair of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee at the recent winter meeting. Taylor takes the reins from Dr. Michael Tove. The remainder of the committee consists of: Keith Camburn, Harry LeGrand Jr., Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Doug Pratt, Steve Shultz, Nathan Swick and Dr. Michael Tove.



CBC Colombia Trip Report

Scott Winton



Twelve brave souls ventured out of the Carolinas and across the Caribbean Sea to embark on a week-long birding tour of Colombia's northern coast led by conservation biologist, Natalia Ocampo-Penuela and Carolina Birder, Scott Winton (the author). We collectively observed more than 285 species including about 30 endemics or near-endemics and more than 40 Neotropical migrants. Lifers were added constantly, and some participants added more than 200 to their lists! Our trip started and ended at the beautiful, historic city of Cartagena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While the birdlife here is outshone by the city's ramparts and colonial architecture, the Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown-throated Parakeets, ever-present overhead, set the tropical tone.

The first major birding stop was made for a boat ride through the mangroves of Salamanca National Park. While being poled through creeks and pools, we spotted a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, American Pygmy Kingfishers, Golden-green Woodpecker, and the near-threatened Bicolored Conebill.

After a night in Santa Marta we headed up the side of the Sierra Nevada toward El Dorado, a lodge and reserve set high in the cloud forest. The road up the mountain was very rough, but led us to exciting and easy birding right from the lodge. The hummingbird and banana feeders were abuzz with Green Violetears, Purple-crowned Woodnymphs, Blue-naped Chlorophonias and Black-capped Tanagers. Occasional visits by the endemic White-tailed Starfrontlet and endemic Black-backed Thornbill were thrilling. The lodge's compost pile attracted both endemic Brush-Finch species (Santa Marta and Sierra Nevada) and a flock of 13 of the endemic Black-fronted Wood-Quail. The yet-to-be-described Santa Marta Screech-Owl could be viewed roosting two minutes away from the dining room.

Our first morning at El Dorado we set off an hour before dawn along another very bumpy road to 2,500 meters elevation. We were rewarded immediately by endemic Santa Marta Parakeets at dawn, endemic Yellow-crowned Whitestarts singing away, and spectacular views and even photos of the elusive, difficult endemic Santa Marta Warbler, a frequently missed

species. We also enjoyed scope views of the endemic Santa Marta Toucanet and the endemic White-tipped Quetzal, which was for many the bird of the trip. After ticking a couple endemic spinetails, Buff-breasted and Santa Marta Mountain-Tanagers and failing to scare a Rufous Antpitta or Brown-rumped Tapaculo into view, we made our way back downslope during the afternoon lull. Our knowledgeable local guide, Lorenzo, had us stop midway at a spot known for having Golden-breasted Fruiteater. We heard it calling quickly enough, but then it went silent and I could see that Lorenzo was worried. The looming figure of a Black-and-Chestnut Eagle (listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN) swooping overhead proved to be the issue! After some patience the fruit-eater began to vocalize again and I somehow I caught a glimpse of it as it landed in the canopy where it cooperatively sat for 15 minutes so all could view it in the scope. Lorenzo said that many birders leave thinking they've seen the fruiteater when they were just looking at a leaf—not us! That evening we enjoyed spectacular views of several Band-tailed and Sickie-winged Guans feeding on flower buds in some trees hanging over deck outside the lodge dining room.

As anticipated, the birds at El Dorado were the trip highlights, not to mention the views of the Caribbean Sea in one direction and Colombia's highest snow-capped peaks in the other. I think we all wanted to stay and bird the reserve more, but after two nights it was time to bump our way back downhill. Birding stops on the trip down yielded Barred Forest-Falcon, Keel-billed Toucan, fantastic views of the Santa Marta subspecies of Red-billed Parrot, a Mourning Warbler, and the endemic Santa Marta Antbird. We stayed a night in the foothill town of Minca at a hotel by the same name. Its hummingbird feeders hosted a new array of species, such as White-vented Plumlet-eer, Red-billed Emerald and Rufous-breasted Hermit.

The next morning we birded the road up from Minca, with some of the crowd favorites being Golden-winged Sparrow, Swallow Tanager, Scaled Piculet and White-bearded Manakin. After lunch we said goodbye to Lorenzo, who had been our faithful guide for three days, and resumed our journey northward

Colombia

along the coast.

After rough roads and cold early mornings up in the Sierra Nevada, the idyllic beachfront splendor of El Matuy resort is just what the group needed. While the setting demanded relaxation, that didn't stop us from birding! It was well worth the early wake-up in order to get to our desert birding spot early. We immediately found one of the key targets here in a very cooperative male Vermilion Cardinal. Other exciting finds were Caribbean Pale-legged Hornero, White-whiskered Spinetail, Chestnut Piculet and Orinoco Saltator.

By the time we got to the lagoon at Los Flamencos it was midday and blazing hot with namesake flamingoes nowhere in sight. We decided taking a boat out under the sun for two hours would be a bad idea. The flamingos were not worth heat stroke, and we had already seen three in a roadside pond anyway. While scoping the lagoon from shore we noticed a black-backed, white-headed gull looming over a large flock of Royal, Common and Sandwich Terns. I told the group it was a Great Black-backed Gull, but later realized I had been looking at a Belcher's Gull, not quite as rare a bird for Colombia, but way out of range on the Caribbean Coast. This was probably the most unusual bird we observed on the trip and I managed to misidentify it—a classic gringo mistake.

The evening after Los Flamencos I came down with a nasty stomach bug that put me out of commission for the next 24 hours. I expected somebody to get sick on the trip I just didn't think it would be me! I think I may have had better birding luck sitting at the van than walking the road on our final morning, picking up a flyover Pearl Kite and a couple Golden-fronted Greenlets. Fortunately one of the latter stuck around for everybody else to see when they returned. In an effort to spend down our budget surplus we dined at the fanciest of Cartagena's restaurants, Don Juan, for our final trip dinner. While we couldn't manage to break the bank (even the best food in Cartagena is reasonably priced) it was an excellent spot to celebrate all the lifers and reminisce over a fantastic week of birding.

Hendersonville

(Continued from page 1)

with two doubles or one king bed. Be sure to mention "CBC" to get the special rate.

Interesting programs are planned for both nights of the spring meeting. Appalachian University graduate student and current NC Audubon employee John Jones will give a presentation on Friday evening titled: *Golden-winged Warblers of the Southern Appalachians: A Behavioral Approach to a Conservation Priority*. Golden-winged Warblers are one of the most critically threatened, non-endangered, vertebrate species in eastern North America. With drastic population declines occurring throughout their breeding range (-76% since 1966), the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group has developed conservation protocols in an attempt to restore populations throughout their breeding range. Golden-winged Warblers often engage in physical confrontations with the morphologically similar and comparatively abundant Chestnut-sided Warbler. Jones's research at Appalachian State focuses on the behavioral ecology of Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers and interactions between these two species. He will discuss his project as well as his field plans for 2014.

Saturday night we are delighted to welcome back world renowned birder, co-owner of Asheville's Wild Birds Unlimited, and owner of Ventures Birding and Nature Tours, Simon Thompson, for another wonderful presentation titled: *Warblers, Tanagers and Woodcreepers: How "Our" Birds Fit Into a Tropical Landscape*. From the rich Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina to the epiphyte-laden forests of South America, join Simon as we explore the connection between the Cerulean Warblers that breed in Western North Carolina and winter in Colombia and learn how many of our migrants behave as they spend the winter in the tropics.

Registration is open now! Sign up early to ensure the best selection of field trips, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Goshawk

(Continued from page 2)

It's a great show all around, and with scores of ardent watchers organized by volunteer identification gurus, it's a must-do for any hawk enthusiast.

But, less than half a mile up the road is a trail that leads onto the ridge. After a mostly easy hike, one reaches a place known as the Summit Ledge. Where the view from the official lookout is slightly obstructed to the front and to the west by trees, Summit Ledge has no such limitation. From there, not only can one see every bird counted at the official lookout, but a lot more that would be missed. With low-flying birds such as Goshawks, a *lot* more; literally two to three times as many. Considering that the record daily flights of Goshawks have numbered more than 1,000 birds, a lucky Summit Ledge observer on such a miracle day might have seen upwards of 3,000 Northern Goshawks in a single day! Put in perspective, my top one-day counts of twelve in 2013 and sixteen in 2012 are a drop in the bucket.

Here in the Carolinas, any Goshawk sighting is a rare occurrence worthy of great celebration. Some of the

region's most prominent birders went decades before being treated to a few second glimpse or very distant view of one. It's exciting beyond description, even with the poorest of looks with no time to drink in the experience of watching one soar around for ten minutes (yes like a Red-tail), or dogfighting with a Common Raven. Such experiences are the stuff legend is made of, but during late October on the ridge west of Duluth, it is a near daily occurrence. For those who feel northern Minnesota is too far and too remote, be advised: the Northern Goshawk is one of those spectacular birds that must be seen well to be fully appreciated.

Did You Know?

Iceland Gulls rarely breed in Iceland, appearing mainly as migrants and winter visitors. This gull might be better named "Greenland Gull" as it is much more common there as a breeder than in Iceland.

The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website. The most recent editions of each are only accessible to CBC members. To access the "members only" content, you must first create a login and password. This can be done at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/register.html>. Once you have your login and password established, you can login at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/login.html>.

Welcome New Members!

	Alan Waters Conover, NC	Susan Jones Winston-Salem, NC	Natalia Ocampo-Penuela Durham, NC	Aaron Given Seabrook Island, SC
The CBC welcomes the following new members.	Adria Olmi Columbia, SC	Jo Jeffers & Billy O'Dell Florence, SC	Keith McCullough Charleston, SC	Mike Turner Raleigh, NC
Richard Pearce Charlotte, NC	Olivia Bergner Pittsboro, NC	Jill Hindman Florence, SC	Rosemary & Anthony D'Andrea Morehead City, NC	Selby McCash & Claire Curcio Fredericksburg, VA
Gwenael Faillard & Family Taylors, SC	Susan & Craig Williams Six Mile, SC	Robert Buchanan Durham, NC	Pat O'Leary & Jim Harper Raleigh, NC	Steve Niezgoda & Catherine Dentinger Hillsborough, NC
Bobby Koch Kill Devil Hills, NC	Louise Gomez Richfield Springs, NY	Jenifer Haggard Oriental, NC	Chet, Debbie & Ravyn Whiting Mooresville, NC	
	Robert Glaess Fairport, NY	Harriett & Ben Tillett Roxboro, NC		

CBC Hendersonville Meeting Schedule

Friday, May 2

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 1: Chimney Rock Park/Lake Lure - 7:00
- Trip 2: Sandy Mush Gamelands - 7:00
- Trip 3: Warrior Mountain - 7:10
- Trip 4: Big Hungry River - 7:10
- Trip 5: Fletcher Park/Lake Julian - 7:15
- Trip 6: Jackson Park - 7:15
- Trip 7: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary - 7:30

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

- Trip 8: Charles D. Owen Park/Swannanoa R. - 1:00
- Trip 9: Pearson's Falls - 1:00
- Trip 10: Fletcher Park/Lake Julian - 1:10
- Trip 11: F.E.N.C.E - 1:10
- Trip 12: Mt. Pisgah/Davidson River - 1:15
- Trip 13: Jackson Park - 1:20
- Trip 14: Birding Basics for Beginners
(Jackson Park) - 1:20

All-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 15: Mt. Mitchell/Curtis Creek - 6:45
- Trip 16: Blue Wall Preserve - 6:45
- Trip 17: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 7:00
- Trip 18: Henderson County Hotspots - 7:00
- Trip 19: Davidson R. area/Pink Beds/Hwy 276 - 7:15

Saturday, May 3

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 20: Charles D. Owen Park/Swannanoa - 7:00
- Trip 21: Chimney Rock Park/Lake Lure - 7:00
- Trip 22: Fletcher Park/Lake Julian - 7:10
- Trip 23: Warrior Mountain - 7:10
- Trip 24: Big Hungry River - 7:15
- Trip 25: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary - 7:15
- Trip 26: Jackson Park - 7:20

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

- Trip 27: Charles D. Owen Park Swannanoa - 1:00
- Trip 28: Fletcher Park/Lake Julian - 1:00
- Trip 29: Mt. Pisgah/Davidson River - 1:10
- Trip 30: Sandy Mush Gamelands - 1:10
- Trip 31: Bat Cave Nature Preserve - 1:15
- Trip 32: Jackson Park - 1:20
- Trip 33: Pearson's Falls - 1:20

All-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 34: Mt. Mitchell/Curtis Creek - 6:45
- Trip 35: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 7:00
- Trip 36: Henderson County Hotspots - 7:00
- Trip 37: Davidson R. area/Pink Beds/Hwy 276 - 7:10
- Trip 38: Max Patch/Lake Junaluska - 7:10

The times listed above are when the cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists, or show up at the meeting place and tell someone.

All trips depart from hotel in the parking lot. Look for the placard with your trip number. There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips e-mailed to you in advance. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down, and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the trip site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.

Food for purchase during field trips may be somewhat limited. Accordingly, plan to take snacks and beverages with you, and be sure to pack a lunch for the all day trips.

We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips in order to save fuel, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling, and if you would like to drive and have room for new or old friends, please let your trip leader know when you arrive for your outing.

Please note that the traditional Saturday evening buffet will not be offered in Hendersonville due to lack of catering facilities. A wide variety of dining options from fast/casual to fine dining are available within a short distance from the host hotel.



**Register online at:
www.carolinabirdclub.org**

Hendersonville Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 21: Chimney Rock Park/Lake Lure

Chimney Rock, a 1,000-acre park purchased by the state in 2007, features several trails through mixed hardwood forests and rhododendron thickets. It is a great place for Worm-eating and Swainson's Warblers and many other species, including Peregrine Falcon. Be aware that the trails feature some elevation change. Entrance to the park requires admission (not included in the meeting registration fee), however we do have a discounted group rate. Due to a landslide on one trail, the reduced rate is \$10 unless the slide is cleared by May, then the price will be \$12 each. Please have exact change or use a credit card. This park, at low elevation, will definitely be one of the best trips of the weekend in terms of quantity and quality of migrants. Restrooms available.

Trips 2, 30: Sandy Mush Gamelands

This is 2,600 acres of low-elevation mountain habitat. Through prescribed burns, native grasses and early successional habitat are created for such species as Northern Bobwhite, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Kingbird, Field Sparrow, and possibly Blue-winged Warbler. Also included are mixed hardwoods and pines, along with floodplain forest. Along Sandy Mush Creek, deciduous woods can hold Scarlet Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Louisiana Waterthrush and Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos.

Trips 3, 23: Warrior Mountain

The Norman Wilder Forest consists of 185 protected acres of mature third-growth, mixed-hardwood forest located on the steep slopes of Little Warrior Mountain. Trails provide hikers with a leafy canopy of shade trees and stunning views of sheer rock walls. Bridges and steps on trails make this a most enjoyable, moderate hike. The trip will start at another site with very good birding, walking a mile round trip along an unpaved road. Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers nest along the road, and you see many birds at almost eye level. Wildflowers are also abundant. Walking: easy/ moderate. Restrooms: no. Round trip drive: approx. 40 miles.

Trips 4, 24: Big Hungry River

Owned by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission

and a dedicated State Nature Preserve, this deep tributary to the Green River gorge offers White Pine, Carolina Hemlock, and oak/heath habitats. Birding will be along the roads. Cove forest birds are to be expected. Walking: easy. Restrooms: no. Round trip drive: approx. 20 miles.

Trips 5, 10, 22, 28: Fletcher Park/Lake Julian

Fletcher Park is a wonderful, small city park that lies in the French Broad River Valley. Several good birds have been reported here including Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. A small wetland features breeding Willow Flycatchers, and several other water-loving species may also be seen. Lake Julian, a Duke Energy reservoir, is heated throughout the year, which helps bring migrating water birds. Linger waterfowl could include loons, ducks, geese, cormorants, terns, and gulls. Restrooms available. Walking: level.

Trips 6, 13, 26, 32: Jackson Park

Located next to downtown Hendersonville, this 212-acre city park has a statewide reputation as a birding mecca and features a mix of hardwoods and pines, riparian woodlands, wetlands, streams and fields. As a known migrant trap, 20-25 species of warblers in a day are possible in the fall, and spring birding can approach that number. Add Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a variety of thrushes and flycatchers and you'll know why this park draws in the birders. Easy walking with no hills. Restrooms: yes.

Trips 7, 25: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary

This 10-acre tract is managed by the Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society. It consists of mixed hardwoods and pine, along with early successional habitat, and also includes a wetland that abuts Beaver Lake. We'll check the lake for an assortment of swallows such as Northern Rough-winged, Tree and Barn, as well as Chimney Swift. There could also be some lingering waterfowl, along with nesting Green Heron. While walking the boardwalk loop and lake trail, species such as Yellow Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Baltimore and Orchard Oriole, American Redstart and Eastern Kingbird should be seen.

Hendersonville Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 8, 20, 27: Charles D. Owen Park/ Swannanoa River

The Swannanoa River flows through this county park well-known to locals as a great birding spot. Both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles and Yellow-throated Vireo nest along the river. After an easy walk around a tree-lined lake, we'll follow the river along the fields of Warren Wilson College. Migrant Blue-winged Warblers have been seen in the past, along with typical farmland birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Bobwhite, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Walking: easy. Restrooms: yes. Round trip drive: approx. 60 miles.

Trips 9, 33: Pearson's Falls

Comprising 268 acres of rich diverse cove forest with Carolina Hemlock, spring fed streams, and a 90 foot waterfall, Pearson's Falls is owned and operated by the Tryon Garden Club. Admission is \$3.00. There are over 200 species of ferns, flowering plants, and mosses in the wildflower preserve. Although birds will be seen, this is primarily a wildflower trip. Walking: easy. Round trip drive: approx. 28 miles.

Trip 11: F.E.N.C.E.

The Foothills Equestrian Nature Center is a nonprofit nature education and recreation center with 390 acres of open meadows, marsh, and woodland, plus a nature pond with an observation boardwalk and covered picnic shelter. The pond is great for dragonflies, and butterflies and birds are also numerous in the area. This is primarily a dragonfly and butterfly trip. Walking: easy. Restrooms: yes. Round trip drive: approx. 52 miles.

Trips 12, 29: Mt. Pisgah/Davidson River

This trip going south on the Blue Ridge Parkway provides a nice mix of breeding woodland songbirds found at various elevations. Beginning at the French Broad River Parkway access point, common species include Black-and-white, Worm-eating, and Hooded Warblers, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, three vireo species, Wood Thrush, and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Continuing along the Parkway towards Mt. Pisgah, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers, Veery, Blue-headed Vireo, and Rose-

breasted Grosbeak become more common. This trip will continue on to Wagon Road Gap down NC 276, stopping at key spots along the way to add Louisiana Waterthrush and Northern Parula, along with a very short side trip up NC 275A to add Swainson's Warbler, and another stop farther down 276 to add Yellow-throated Warbler to the list. Many migratory species such as Cape May, Blackpoll, and Magnolia Warblers are also quite possible anywhere along the way.

Trip 14: Birding Techniques for Beginners at Jackson Park

This trip will dedicate a large amount of time to teaching various birding techniques including: locating birds, basic vocal and visual identification tips, group birder etiquette, and other useful birding tips. This trip is designed for any beginning to intermediate birder looking to enhance their birding skills in the setting of Jackson Park, a mountain birding hot spot in spring and fall. Beyond the development of these basic birding techniques and skills, participants will also be able to hone these skills while in the field looking at live birds. This trip will take a slower approach, with time spent focusing on techniques and field marks rather than a complete species inventory of everything at the park.

Trips 15, 34: Mt. Mitchell SP/Curtis Creek

For a great list of many of the breeding woodland species of the Southern Appalachians, this is the trip. Starting at Craven Gap, we will drive north on the Parkway looking for Cerulean, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Worm-eating, Hooded, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Chestnut-sided Warblers as well as Ovenbird, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireos, and Eastern Wood-Pewee. In the spruce/fir zone of the Black Mountains/Mt. Mitchell, species such as Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Least Flycatcher, and possibly Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill could be added. Time permitting, we will continue down Curtis Creek Rd. to search for Louisi-

(Continued on page 10)

Hendersonville Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 9)

ana Waterthrush and Swainson's Warbler. Several other migrating species could also be found passing through the area.

Trip 16: Blue Wall Preserve

This Nature Conservancy site on Hogback Mountain contains a variety of habitats: hemlock-rhododendron, ponds, old field (Virginia) pines, rushing streams, and 100-year old cove hardwood, and oak-hickory forest. You may see a variety of birds: Wood Duck, woodpeckers, nuthatches, flycatchers, thrushes, abundant warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting and maybe a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Ruffed Grouse is possible, as is raven. A segment of SC's Palmetto Trail, the preserve also offers wildflowers and blooming shrubs. Round trip hike is about 5.5 miles. Walking: easy/moderate. Restrooms: no. Round trip drive: approx. 62 miles.

Trips 17, 35: Blue Ridge Parkway South

This trip will stop at overlooks for migrants, such as Canada, Black-throated Blue, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, as well as Scarlet Tanager. The area around the Pisgah Inn is good for finding Cedar Waxwing, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and perhaps a soaring raven. From there we will go south to Devil's Courthouse where Saw-whet Owls call at night. Then it's back to Graveyard Fields for the birds and outstanding scenery. We will try for Ruffed Grouse near here. The Black Balsam Forest Rd. leads to a parking area with Golden-winged Warblers, Veerys, and Least Flycatchers. Alder flycatchers don't arrive until late May. Walking: limited/easy. Restrooms: yes. Round trip drive: approx. 90 miles.

Trips 18, 36: Henderson County Hotspots

Expect shorebirds such as Least and Solitary Sandpipers, both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Plover, and possibly late Upland Sandpipers at Hooper Lane. The presence of these birds is strongly dependent on the condition of the fields and the weather. Bobolinks and several sparrows should be common in the nearby fields. Along the river, the trees and shrubs may have early Willow Flycatchers and Blue Grosbeaks, plus warblers and other passerines. Lake Osceola should have

flocks of feeding swallows, maybe Osprey, and nesting Yellow-throated Warbler. Jackson Park may also be included in this trip. Walking: easy. Restrooms: service stations. Round trip drive: approx. 56 miles

Trips 19, 37: Davidson River area/Pink Beds/Hwy 276

We travel up Hwy 276 through Pisgah National Forest stopping to bird at Davidson River Campground and the Cradle of Forestry for warblers (including Black throated Blue and Green), vireos, and thrushes. This trip includes the Pisgah Fish Hatchery and the parking area for Looking Glass Rock, which has a Peregrine Falcon aerie. At the Pink Beds picnic area we will walk the trails that pass through open meadows and forest. Restrooms: yes. Walking: mostly level. Round trip drive: approx. 75 miles.

Trip 31: Bat Cave Nature Preserve

After hiking a mile up a steep trail through a mature hardwood forest, you will be rewarded with Bat Cave's natural air conditioning: a cool moist draft that constantly pours out of vents on the side of the cave. Bat Cave is the largest known granite fissure cave in North America. The main chamber is a dark cathedral more than 300 feet long and approximately 85 feet high. The cave is wintering habitat for three rare species of bats, and several species of salamanders are found. Hickory Nut Gorge is cloaked in rich cove hardwood forest that harbor nine threatened or endangered plants, such as Broadleaf Coreopsis and Carey's Saxifrage. The preserve has an abundance of spring wildflowers. Migratory birds, including Swainson's Warbler, are here, but the emphasis is wildflowers. Nature Conservancy Fee: \$10. Walking: moderate to strenuous. Restrooms: no. Round trip drive: approx. 26 miles.

Trips 38: Max Patch and Lake Junaluska

If you want to see Golden-winged Warblers, this is the trip for you! Generally 15-20 other warbler species may be found, including Blackburnian, Canada, and Chestnut-sided. Least Flycatcher can be plentiful, along with Winter Wren, Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and other middle elevation species. The lake often has waterfowl surprises. No restrooms. Walking: limited/level/hills.



Save a Stamp!
 Consider using our Online Registration at
www.carolinabirdclub.org!



**CBC Hendersonville Meeting Registration Form
 May 2-3, 2014**

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening phone (____) _____

Email _____

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

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

Meeting Registration (Non-member) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above.

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. Meeting registration at the door costs \$35.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) 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.

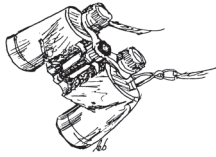
Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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

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

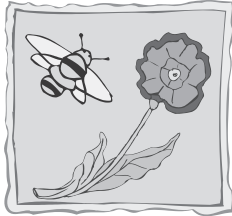
Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, April 25, 2014.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary (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.



Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid at
 Pinehurst, NC 28374 and
 additional mailing
 offices



Upcoming CBC Meetings

May 2-3, 2014 - Hendersonville, NC
 Fall 2014 - Charleston, SC

CBC Board Members

President, Katherine Higgins
 Wilmington, NC kathwrens@gmail.com

Vice-Presidents

Ron Clark, Kings Mountain, NC
 Jeff Click, Easley, SC
 Scott Winton, Durham, NC

Secretary

Phil Fowler, Concord, NC

Treasurer

Samir Gabriel, Huntersville, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Karyl Gabriel, Huntersville
 Jesse Pope, Linville
 Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt
 John Voigt, Emerald Isle

SC Members-at-Large

Don Faulkner, Easley
 Irvin Pitts, Lexington

Immediate Past President Marion Clark, Lexington, SC

Editor of *The Chat*, Don Seriff, Charlotte, NC

Website Editor, Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Editor of *CBC Newsletter*, Steven Shultz

2404 Bristers Spring Way, Apex, NC 27523

919-608-2069, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

Headquarters Secretary, Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC

hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$25; Family, \$30; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues of \$25 include \$4 for a subscription to *CBC Newsletter* and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00. Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2014.

Printed on 100% recycled paper at Grass Roots Press.