



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 61

August 2015

Number 4

Register Now for the Hickory Fall Meeting

Jesse Pope



While we are in the heat of the summer season now, it's hard to believe we are only weeks away from the peak of fall migration, with shorebirds already winging south. Soon we will be thumbing through field guides in an attempt to distinguish confusing plumages of fall warblers and diagnosing poorly lighted silhouettes of high passing raptors as our migrating birds begin their journey south for the winter. If you haven't already, it's time to start making plans to join us in Hickory, NC on September 18-19 for the fall CBC meeting. Hickory lies at the foot of the Blue Ridge and provides an excellent launching point to experience some of the mountains' best fall birding.

Our fall meeting is perfectly timed and located to experience the peak of fall raptor migration in the Southern Appalachians. Many of North Carolina's premier hawk watch destinations are within easy driving distance of Hickory. During the peak of the season, thousands of Broad-winged Hawks might be seen in a day at several of the region's hawk watch sites. Many of our field trips offer opportunities to experience hawk migration along the escarpment of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In addition to raptors, the Hickory area is a great location to seek out fall rarities such as Black-billed Cuckoo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red Crossbill, and an enormous variety of fall warblers. Who knows what may show up this year, but as previous meetings in the Hickory area have proven, it's a great place for bird-

ing in the fall. The last time our club met in Hickory was in September 2009. At that meeting, 137 participants tallied nearly 120 species including 27 species of warblers. That warbler list may be difficult to surpass, but in fall you just never know what might show up! We will be one week earlier this year versus the 2009 meeting, so it will be interesting to see how a week changes the variety of birds.

We will be staying at the La Quinta Inn & Suites Hickory, located just off Highway I-40 at 1607 Fairgrove Church Rd, Conover. Guests will need to reserve rooms under the Carolina Bird Club block prior to September 3rd by calling 828-465-1100. Rooms not reserved prior to this date will be released back into the hotel's general inventory, and are subject to current rates and availability at the time of booking. The hotel offers many complimentary amenities and a free breakfast buffet that includes cooked-to-order selections. Rates are \$82 (not including tax) for all standard rooms and \$97 for two-room suites. Rooms have coffee makers, microwaves, and internet.

The La Quinta Inn & Suites Hickory will also be the location for the Friday and Saturday evening programs and other social events related to our meeting. A buffet dinner catered by Liazzo's Catering will be offered Saturday night at a cost of \$23 per person. Participants should indicate if they have a dietary preference when registering.

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CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), August 2015, Volume 61, Number 4. 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.

The Birder's Club

Steve Shultz



When you become a birder, you join a fraternal organization by default. No, there are no dues, no secret handshake, and no silly hat (well...), but there is an automatic, world-wide network

of the brethren of which you are a member. Even if you don't subscribe to the newsletter.

And belonging to a club with diverse members in far-flung locations has certain advantages. Like built-in friends. Last year on a short trip to London, England I found myself, as birders often do, in a birdy location. We tend to gravitate to these, even if they are sewage plants or rubbish dumps. In my case, the destination was neither, but a lovely patch of wetlands, trails, hides and birdy habitats known as the London Wetland Centre. There's even a gift shop and café, leading me to believe firmly that Brits know how to bird. How much more civilized can a morning outing be than with a cup of hot tea or a freshly pulled latte?

And while I had studied my guide to British birds and could identify most of the feathered jewels on sight, sound was something entirely different. If different could be described as confusing. So while standing on the side of the trail listening to a strange-yet-familiar song, I asked a friendly-looking, scope-toting, passerby if this was indeed a Chiffchaff. We got to talking and, based in part on my North Carolina T-shirt (since Americans wear T-shirts everywhere we go), learned that by great coincidence, my new birding buddy was traveling to Raleigh the very next week for a business meeting!

As birders often do, I offered to go one step beyond providing websites for the better birding locations, and provide a guided trip to the Triangle's finest early-migration venues, which conveniently enough, also smell good (or at least not bad, although it would be nice to have a particularly juicy wastewater treatment plant nearby.)

We did the tour, saw the sights, and ticked off two dozen or so life birds for Gordon. Not a bad way to start to a business meeting!

A year later I found myself planning another trip to London, and at Gordon's invitation, sent a note to check on good locations to visit, any red-letter birds to see, etc. And as birders often do, he went one better. "Send me your wish list" he said, "We'll see what we can do." And "what we can do" turned out to be a dawn to dusk, whirlwind birding tour of South England that not even an expensive tour company could match. For not only was I out doing what I loved, in a beautiful new place with exciting and different birds, but I was doing it with "the club", with friends.

So the adventure began early one morning at a suburban London Underground station after a breakfast of granola bar and Fanta Orange (the real breakfast of champions!) Gordon met me immediately upon stepping out of the station, we piled into his blue Renault Scenic (52.5 mpg!) with two of his twitching mates, and set out for the wilds west of London.

The morning's first birding spot was on the Salisbury Plain in the general area of extensive military training grounds. Birds and soldiers both require large areas of open land without the disturbance of too many people, so the relationship works well. Soldiers get big tracts of land on which to drive tanks and fire artillery, and birds, when not being shelled or finding themselves in the way of a 62.5 ton tank, have open land on which to forage and nest. Unlike many of the sites where the military exercises in the United States, the public is allowed in the non-sensitive areas so long as active maneuvers are not underway. Signs warn visitors not to fiddle with any munitions they find, and hint that if one blows themselves up, not to come complaining later, but otherwise, we were free to roam the area looking for British birds.

We spotted Chiffchaff and small flocks of Redwings, Corn Buntings and Yellowhammers, but the real prize would be a Stone Curlew. The Stone Curlew, a type of upland plover, nests sparingly in England, and arrives sometime in March from wintering areas in

The Birder's Club

warmer climes. Since we were toward the beginning of the arrival period, and the birds are not common to begin with, there was hope, but not certainty, that we would find some (or even one).

Bouncing along a dirt road running along the base of a gently sloping hill, we spotted a recently arrived Northern Wheatear and then stopped across a swale from an area that looked slightly different from the surrounding fields. Which is to say that there were no tank tracks running across that particular bit of real estate. Stakes marked out the area for tanks to avoid as they trundle back and forth, for this is one of the spots where the curlews make their nests. The mainly nocturnal birds can be a bit of a bear to see, especially since they blend in so well with the yellow stalks of grass. Gordon set up his spotting scope, and immediately upon looking through the eyepiece, shouted that he had two birds. Sometimes luck shines down as brightly as the English spring sunshine.

Leaving the fake war zone behind, we drove country lanes and observed Little Egrets prowling farm fields and Red Kites wheeling across the sky above, eventually arriving at the New Forest.

This 219 square mile expanse of downland, heath, forest, and unenclosed pasture originated as a Royal hunting preserve created by William I in 1079. Roughly 90% of the land still belongs to the Crown, with small villages dotting the landscape here and there and free-ranging ponies wandering in between.

But while the ponies were neat to see, and the landscape beautiful, we were there to see birds! The heathland sports acres of low, bush-like shrubs with bright yellow flowers known as “gorse”. As the preferred habitat for Dartford Warblers, we stopped at an area with particularly dense bunches of gorse and made a short foray along well-worn walking paths, keeping one eye on the bushes and one out for fresh horse “gifts”. Dartford Warblers sort of resemble the Chat in shape and habitat preference, as well as their behavioral trait of staying low in bushes and not spending lots of time perched out in the open. In the United Kingdom, the warbler lives only in a narrow strip of southern England, but is somewhat more wide-

spread on the Continent.

Our foray through the heathland produced no Dartford's, and few birds of any type, so we returned to the patiently waiting Renault and continued driving through the park-like setting of New Forest to our next stop.

Acres Wood attracts birders from throughout southern England in hopes of getting a fleeting glance at one of the resident Goshawk population. But even without the chance of spotting the regal raptor, plenty of little dicker birds that would be a thrilling lifer for this visitor could be found. Common Buzzards lazily looped on invisible air currents while passerines including Chaffinch, Mistle Thrush and Wood Lark provided “on the ground” entertainment.

The dense gorse ponied up my lifer Dartford Warbler, appropriately darting from one clump of yellow flowering shrub to another. One of these shrubs conveniently held a pair of dashing Stonechat, giving me the rare “lifer two-fer in one shrub-like plant.”

Thus sated, but with only a glimpse of a diving Gos, we repaired to the car park and broke out a snack of pork pies and pickle. The pork pies are cold, pork-filled pastries that came in a plastic clamshell, while the “pickle” consisted of various diced vegetables pickled and then mixed with a sauce reminiscent of molasses. Accompanied by orange juice served in plastic Champagne flutes, this made for a classy and decidedly British snack break.

While gnawing away at our pickle-covered pork bites, the high pitched trill of a small, kinglet-like bird drifted over from a row of conifers. Since this was one of the few known local breeding locations for Firecrest, we aligned our binoculars in the same area and searched for the tiny songster. Eventually, and somewhat to my surprise considering the dense nature of the cover, we found Britain's smallest bird and notched another tick on my life list.

With the Firecrest in the pocket (figuratively; we didn't actually put them in items of clothing), we made

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our way to the Blashford Lakes. This series of old gravel pits and reservoirs now act as a nature reserve with amenities that include blinds (or “hides”), a nature center, and some feeder set-ups. The first lake offered a pleasing assortment of ducks, geese, grebes, and a couple of shorebirds. Highlights included a Black-necked Grebe (known to us Yanks as an Eared Grebe), Common Mergansers (called Goosanders in Europe), shelducks, wigeon, shovelers, and more. The snazzily plumaged Great Crested Grebe looked regal swimming slowly across the choppy water, while a few Common Redshanks poked along the water's edge in hopes of an easy lunch.

The second lake produced a sought-after local rarity in the form of a hen Long-tailed Duck as well as the jewel-like Kingfisher and point-blank views of Water Rail. Very similar to the American Virginia Rail, the views as the bird made its way along the marsh's edge in full sunshine could not be beat.

Another nearby blind promised close looks at woodland birds coming to a feeder set up, and indeed we enjoyed a constant stream of Eurasian Collared-Dove, European Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper, Nuthatch, and more. Nearby, Gordon spotted a Song Thrush, a “wanted list” bird for me, but I had trouble finding the Robin-sized creature. It turned out to be closer than I expected, and stood quietly on the path. This led to the comment, “Oh, the large bird standing right in front of me.”

We left the hide with just enough daylight left to reach the coast and see what might be found at the Keyhaven Marshes. The drive through quaint English towns and past thatched-roof cottages and local public houses led to a narrow road leading through marshland and shallowly flooded fields.

We parked near a pair of impoundments edging the Solent, the channel between Great Britain and the Isle of Wight, and popped out of the car with great expectations. The habitat looked perfect, and with shorebird migration in progress, I expected to see lots of really cool sandpipers in mere moments. Except that I did-

n't. While the habitat looked divine, only a couple of bored-looking ducks and a few Common Redshank (which really are quite common and do have red legs) piddled about in the skim of water.

By walking down the dike between the shallow flooded field and deeper marsh that extended off to the right, we got a better look at the shoreline, and I understood why few shorebirds graced the fields. With the tide out, broad mudflats extended hundreds of feet from shore, and in the puddles of salty water that remained, and on the edge of the sea, squadrons of shorebirds including Eurasian Curlew, Red Knot, Dunlin, and European Oystercatcher shuttled back and forth seeking out an afternoon meal among loafing gulls (including lifer Mediterranean Gulls), and stalking egrets.

By racing the sun, we were just able to squeeze in one final stop, a longshot try for Hawfinch. These comical looking finches with huge bills can be difficult to find, and so worth the trip.

After a twenty-minute drive, we arrived at the botanical garden and parked amid a group of tall conifers resembling hemlock trees. Reminiscent of scenery from the Appalachian Mountains, the gardens felt light years away from the heath and rolling hills of south England. We walked through the failing light to ornamental trees where the finches were known to roost, but arrived too late to catch the birds before they tucked in for the night. But we enjoyed a consolation pair of red and black plumaged Bullfinches, making the last entry on the day's list of life birds.

So belonging to the club paid off in spades. In my particular case, “the club” enabled me to see parts of England that I would not have found on my own, and see birds that I likely would have missed, and do it all with friends, and at no cost (Gordon and the others would not even let me pay a share of the diesel bill).

A much larger example of “networking for birds and fellowship” in the birding community happens this year as author and naturalist Noah Stryker journeys around the world trying to see more bird species in a

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CBC Fall Meeting Schedule

Friday, September 18

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

- Trip 1: Riverbend County Park 7:45
- Trip 2: Bakers Mountain County Park 7:45
- Trip 3: Hickory City Parks 7:30
- Trip 4: Wagner Property 7:00
- Trip 5: Lenoir Greenway 7:10

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

- Trip 6: Catawba River Greenway 1:10
- Trip 7: Murray's Mill Historic Site 1:00
- Trip 8: Wagner Property 1:00
- Trip 9: Hickory City Parks 1:15
- Trip 10: Lenoir Greenway 1:20

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 11: Rocky Face Recreation Area 7:00
- Trip 12: Ridge Junction: Blue Ridge Parkway **5:00**
- Trip 13: Boone and the High Country 6:30

Saturday, September 19

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

- Trip 14: Riverbend County Park 7:45
- Trip 15: Bakers Mountain County Park 7:45
- Trip 16: Hickory City Parks 7:30
- Trip 17: Wagner Property 7:00
- Trip 18: Lenoir Greenway 7:10

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

- Trip 19: Catawba River Greenway 1:10
- Trip 20: Murray's Mill Historic Site 1:00
- Trip 21: Wagner Property 1:00
- Trip 22: Hickory City Parks 1:15
- Trip 23: Lenoir Greenway 1:20

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 24: Rocky Face Recreation Area 7:00
- Trip 25: Ridge Junction: Blue Ridge Parkway **5:00**
- Trip 26: Linville Gorge Wilderness Area 6:30

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 at the registration table, or show up at the meeting place and tell someone.

All trips depart from the La Quinta Inn and Suites Hickory from the lobby and the parking lot. Look for the placard with your trip number. You will receive a sheet with all directions for your trips in your registration packet. Please bring it on each trip as car-

vans sometimes break down, and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the birding 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.

Hickory Fall Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Friday night features a brief social gathering followed by short presentations from local birders to discuss area birding hotspots. Important Bird Area Coordinator and Mountain Biologist Curtis Smalling will be our banquet speaker following Saturday night's dinner. Curtis will be sharing insight into the life of the Golden-winged Warbler and his work with this species in northwest North Carolina. Curtis has been involved in a number of conservation efforts to protect

the species including work with the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture group, which is focusing on conserving priority species in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

The fall meeting is shaping up to be a blockbuster event, and we sincerely hope you will join us as we celebrate fall migration in the Carolinas. If you haven't made the decision to register yet, we hope this meeting's field trip itinerary will surely help you decide to come join us!

Fall Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1 & 14: Riverbend County Park

This is a 450-acre passive park operated by Catawba County. With its mile of shoreline along the Catawba River, it is a wonderful place to see fall migrants. There have been 190 species seen at Riverbend Park so far! We will expect to find lots of warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Olive-sided Flycatchers have been spotted during fall in past years near the park office, and a pair of Bald Eagles nest nearby and fly over often. It will be a relatively easy hike along the River Trail, and depending on time, we may return to the parking lot through a stand of mature American Beech to look for more migrants.

Trips 2 & 15: Bakers Mountain County Park

Standing high above the Catawba Valley at 1,780 feet, Bakers Mountain Park offers some of the best bird watching in the Piedmont. The mountain is a beacon for migrating songbirds because of its height above the surrounding landscape and the amount of forest cover. The best part is that you do not even have to leave the parking area to see beautiful and breathtaking birds like the Black-throated Blue Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Hooded Warbler and many others! The park covers 189 acres on the north side of Bakers Mountain and is operated by Catawba County. We will look for migrating raptors from the observation platform located near the top of the mountain. Golden Eagles have been seen several times during the fall, along with hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks!

Trips 3, 9, 16 & 22: Hickory City Parks

Glenn R. Hilton Park is a 59.5-acre park operated by the City of Hickory and can be one of the best birding spots in the area. Twenty-two warbler species have been seen in a single day in late September after the passing of a cold front. We will hope for something like Connecticut, Cerulean, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Nashville, or Wilson's Warbler. The boardwalk trail is often a great spot for viewing migrating songbirds, wading birds, and raptors. At the furthest point on the loop is an observation platform adjacent to a cove of Lake Hickory. We will also bird along an adjacent bikeway between Hickory City and Geitner Parks. This will be an easy walk and most of it is ADA accessible.

Trips 4, 8, 17 & 21: Wagner Property

This is, easily, one of the best birding spots in our area. Located in Happy Valley, NC, the private property will be generously opened up to us again for the CBC meeting. The property consists of an old pea gravel mining operation and has wetlands galore in several stages of growth. This is also a great spot to find shorebirds! Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and others are regular visitors. White-crowned Sparrow, Swainson's Warbler, American Bittern, and American Woodcock have all been seen in recent falls. This will be a relatively easy walk, although parts of it may be through tall grass.

Trips 5, 10, 18 & 23: Lenoir Greenway

The Lenoir Greenway includes 7 miles of paved trails, spreading over 25 acres of land. The greenway passes through a variety of habitats, ranging from streamside bottomlands to open fields to early successional growth. We will look for migrating songbirds along the streamside section and should see a good variety of warblers, vireos, and tanagers! We will also stop at Parkway Bank in Lenoir to visit the Foothills Bird Club's official hawk watch location. Last year, in one day, over 10,000 Broad-winged Hawks were counted as they passed over this location! This will be an easy walk and is ADA accessible.

Trips 6 & 19: Catawba River Greenway

The Catawba River and Freedom Trail Greenways are paved trails that follow more than 4 linear miles of the Catawba River in Morganton and encompass more than 250 acres of land. This is a beautiful area near the headwaters of the river, and we should see lots of warblers and vireos. Blue-headed, Red-eyed, Yellow-throated, Philadelphia, and White-eyed Vireos have all been seen here in the fall. Waterfowl are also a possibility. This is an easy walk and is ADA accessible.

Trips 7 & 20: Murray's Mill Historic Site

A 10-minute drive from I-40, the Murray's Mill Historic District, in the rolling countryside of eastern Catawba County, nestles just as it was a century ago along the banks of Balls Creek. The millpond and surrounding area make for a great backdrop to go birding during fall migration. The large millpond is a great

Fall Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

place to scope out waterfowl, and the adjoining riparian areas scattered around mixed hardwood deciduous forests can be great places to search for fall migrants.

Trips 11 & 24: Rocky Face Recreation Area

Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area has a rich history dating back to the early 1900s. The site was a former quarry operation that began in 1922, with operations ceasing in the early 1940s. There have also been agricultural uses such as apple and peach orchards, wheat fields, and vineyards near the site. In 2003, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program signed an agreement that put Rocky Face Mountain on the North Carolina Registry of Natural Heritage Areas because of its unique qualities. Today, the former rock quarry area includes a paved ADA walking track as well as picnic shelter, restrooms, and park office. The quarry area features a sheer cliff face that is attractive to migrating raptors. Outside the quarry area, the park includes 5 miles of hiking trails that takes hikers along the top of the quarry cliffs and to the mountain peak. The trail also features various markers depicting some of the rare plants that are located at the park. This trip will include birdwatching as well as exploring the location's unique flora and non-avian fauna. Migrating raptors, dragonflies and butterflies are a sure bet.

Trips 12 & 25: Ridge Junction

Birding from a chair. No kidding!!! While the pre-dawn drive to this scenic overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway may not be everyone's cup of tea, the continuous stream of birds and a sunrise that takes one's breath should be worth it! We will leave the hotel at 5 a.m. in order to be in place when the sun rises and the drama begins. (At this early hour, we have a chance at seeing a Black Bear while driving up the Parkway!) Situated at a unique spot in the Black Mountains, Ridge Junction Overlook is the "low" point in the "J" shaped chain and acts as a funnel for southbound migrants. On good days, there could be several hundred migrants seen in small groups making their way through the tree line, all visible from your chair. On great days—well, let's just say it will knock your socks off! We will have lunch in the restaurant at Mt. Mitchell State Park and look for Red Crossbills while we are there. We will then return via Curtis Creek Road to look for more migrants.

Trip 13: Boone and the High Country

This trip will focus on some of the less "touristy" parts of the High Country. We will drive through the high-elevation grasslands on Rich Mountain to look for Vesper and Savannah Sparrows before turning our attention to Valle Crucis Park. This small park provides great birding opportunities along the Watauga River and in small wetlands near a pond. Orchard and Baltimore Orioles and Black-billed Cuckoos will be on our watch list. We will explore several other spots before returning to Hickory.

Trip 26: Linville Gorge Wilderness Area

The Linville Falls area can be a great birding spot in fall. There are two main trails at Linville Falls; each starts at the visitor center and provides birding opportunities and views of the waterfalls. A variety of birds, including Osprey, Belted Kingfisher and Wood Duck, may be seen along the river. Along the trails, watch for Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Hooded and Black-and-white Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Red Crossbill and Swainson's Warbler have been observed along the gorge, and Peregrine Falcon nest nearby. Several locations along this route will be great vantage points for watching migrating hawks as well. We will be birding around the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, making several stops in a variety of mountain habitats.

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calendar year than any other human being. And he is (doing it by connecting with local birders who provide lodging, meals, information, and transportation.) You can follow along at: www.audubon.org

Whether on the scale of a global Big Year, or simply on a person to person basis, I hope that your membership in "the club" produces similar rewards, either as a host, visitor, or both! Now I just need to get Gordon, Les, and Peter to jump the pond and go mountain "warblering" or explore the Gulf Stream on a pelagic boat trip!

Letter From the President

I am honored for the opportunity to serve as President of the Carolina Bird Club. I look forward to this coming year and especially for the chance of seeing you at future meetings and outings. It is my sincere wish that I can meet your expectations as a member of your Executive Committee. Also, please know your suggestions for improvements or any ideas you may have for the betterment of our club will always be welcome.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the principles I hope to move forward.

I will strive to be a good steward of our “resource” the Carolina Bird Club. Resource stewardship is a very important principle that not only reflects our financial resources but also embraces education and communication among our current and prospective members, conservation-oriented groups and local communities. If we practice good resource stewardship, in the various many ways available to us, the Carolina Bird Club will continue to grow as an organization and do good not only for the members but for our birding community as a whole.

Scientific-based ornithological research has been a cornerstone of the Carolina Bird Club since its founding in 1937. It is important that we continue this legacy, specifically as it relates to the birds of the Carolinas. We can all contribute in many ways: through our interest and support of the good work of our Bird Records Committees, promotion of our research grants

program, and contribution of published findings and sharing of knowledge in our journal, The Chat, and our excellent website and newsletter. I hope you will find ways to contribute to our knowledge of Carolina birdlife.

In recent years the Executive Committee of the Carolina Bird Club has embraced support of our “Carolina Young Birders”. I strongly support this initiative and will seek ways to build on this area of interest. I hope you will too. Many of us started birding at an early age, and thinking back, recall specific experiences or events that set us on a life-long course of bird study. How special would it be if experiences through our club or at a seasonal meeting could be one of those life-changing events to a young, future conservationist? What better way could we contribute to the future stewardship of our club than through our support of young birders?

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your support of the Carolina Bird Club. I hope you will continue being active members and join us at future meetings or on one of our bonus field trips and meet friends, old and new, through our shared interest in birding. Spread the word to a friend and invite others, pass along your ideas to the Executive Committee, and most importantly, have fun. I look forward to seeing you soon!

-Irvin Pitts

Spring Election Results

Members in attendance at the spring meeting participated in the annual election of officers. The following officers began terms effective after the election:

Irvin Pitts, Lexington, SC - President
(first of two consecutive one-year terms)

Teri Bergin, Mt. Pleasant - SC Vice President
(one three-year term)

Jeri Smart, Rolesville- East NC Member-at-Large
(first of two, two-year terms)

Steve McInnis, Columbia - SC Member-at-Large
(first of two, two-year terms)

The following incumbent officers were elected to continuing terms:

Samir Gabriel - Treasurer

Doris Ratchford - Secretary

Karyl Gabriel - West NC Member-at-Large

Christine Stoughton-Root - East NC Member-at-Large



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



**CBC Hickory Meeting Registration Form
 September 2015**

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Email _____

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

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

Buffet Dinner _____ x \$23 = \$ _____

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

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 _____

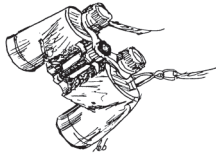
**Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
 CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374**

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, September 11, 2015.

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.

If you registered for the buffet and have a dietary preference, note here: _____



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Spring 2016 - Fontana, NC

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

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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 © 2015.

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