



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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June 2016

Number 3

## Letter from the President



**Dear CBC Members,**

I wanted to take this opportunity to give an update on some of the more significant happenings involving the Carolina Bird Club Executive Committee. First, I would like to say thanks to the entire CBC Executive Committee for all their tremendous work, and a special thanks to Carol Bowman, our club secretary. I welcome Vivian Glover as our new Carolina Bird Club Newsletter Editor! As you probably know, Steve Shultz has decided to “retire” after serving 10 superb years as our Newsletter Editor. Thanks Steve for a job well done!

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- CBC Offers, Opportunities & Information
- Welcome New Members!



*“From Virginia Beach the caravan drove south to the marshes of Mackay Island NWR. Here we found the trip’s first Tundra Swans and numbers of puddle ducks.”*

*“Along nearby River Road, we spotted Greater Yellowlegs walking around in the snow, a new one for most of us, and ticked off a few shorebirds to cap off the trip list.”*

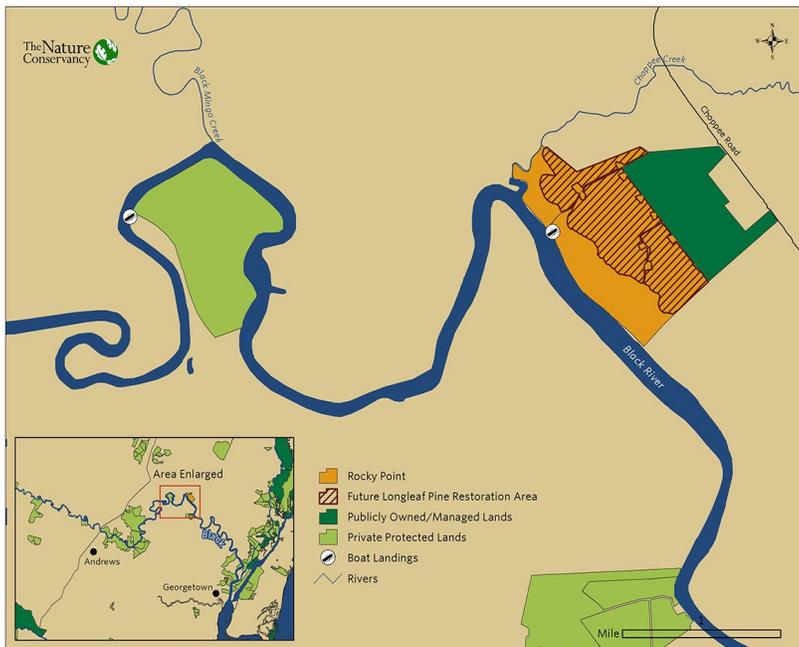
**Steve Shultz**

*Good spirited CBC Birders, braving freezing temperatures and snow, pose at Bodie Island Lighthouse. **Leader Steve Shultz.***

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# Letter from the President—Significant Updates

## Rocky Point Conservation Tract



In the area of conservation, the CBC Executive Committee completed the final phase of its involvement with the acquisition of the 462-acre conservation tract on the banks of the Black River in Georgetown County, South Carolina, known as the Rocky Point Community Forest. The CBC supported this project with a donation of \$68,066 from the “Haymaker Reserved Fund” through a partnership involving the Nature Conservancy, Winyah Rivers Foundation, Open Space Institute and other conservation organizations. Closing on this project was completed in December 2015 and CBC members had their first opportunity to bird here at our winter meeting in Litchfield. You can read more of this project in the February 2015 edition of our newsletter, found on our website.

## Young Birders Scholarship

As part of an ongoing initiative, the CBC Executive Committee also continued their support of our “Carolina young birders”. This year for the first time, we initiated a scholarship program, offering up to \$500 to applicant young birders to support their attendance to birding camps and similar events. This scholarship is funded by CBC member donations. Thank you! It is my sincere wish that we can grow our support and welcome young birders at future seasonal meetings. Continued donations will allow us to do so. This is one way we can contribute to the future stewardship of our club, and who knows, support the next generation’s great Ornithologist! Similarly, our grants program continues to support excellent projects throughout the Carolinas in the areas of research, education and conservation. Expect to hear more of these programs real soon.



## Share Your Knowledge

Science-based ornithological research has long been a cornerstone of the Carolina Bird Club and I would like to reiterate the importance that we as birders continue this legacy. Our state Bird Records Committees continue to do excellent work. I am especially pleased with the professionalism of our committees and of their efforts to increase communications among our birding community. I hope you will consider ways to contribute your knowledge of Carolina birdlife by documenting your sightings. Rare and significant findings should be submitted to our bird records committees for review, see applicable guidelines, and articles or notes can be submitted for publication in our journal *The Chat*. You can also post photos to our CBC website Photo Gallery, which is a quick meaningful way of sharing your observations. Also, consider contacting our Newsletter Editor about contributing possible articles on memorable field trip outings. There are many ways to participate! **(Continued p.3)**

## Online Reservation & the CBC Website

Another recent development has been the revamping of our online reservation system for our seasonal meetings through our CBC website. The early response to this new system has been amazing and we hope to keep up with the demand in one way by developing a more extensive line-up of field trips with our upcoming meetings. The CBC Website is a wonderful resource, and if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to browse its contents. There is much of interest there including info on upcoming meetings, recent bird observations and where to find them and numerous helpful links. The photo gallery is one of my favorites.

*The Chat* is the official publication of the Carolina Bird Club, published quarterly and mailed to all qualified members. Manuscripts published in *The Chat* must be related to study of the birds of the Carolinas.

A typical issue of *The Chat* contains one or two articles or reports, one or more General Field Notes, Briefs for the Files, and sometimes Reviews.



I want to thank all of you for supporting the Carolina Bird Club. I hope you will continue being active members and I look forward to seeing you at future meetings or outings. Your suggestions and ideas are always welcome and your responses to our recent surveys is appreciated. Our club is filled with folks possessing many good talents and please don't hesitate to volunteer your "talents" to the club. There are many ways you can contribute: by volunteering to serve on the executive committee or as field trip leader and through other various contributions. Most importantly, have fun with birds and I look forward to seeing you soon!

**Irvin Pitts**

## 2015- A Very Good Nesting Season in SC for Wood Storks



**Nesting Wood Storks—  
SC Department of Natural Resources**

**From an SCDNR News Release** -"Similar to last year, 2015 was an excellent year for Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) nesting in South Carolina. 'The number of wood stork nests counted in South Carolina during 2015 (2,496 nests) was only slightly lower compared to 2014 (2,501 nests), the state record'said Christy Hand, S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist. 'Chick survival was also very high for the second year in a row.' "

During 2015, storks nested in the following counties:

- Beaufort (9 colonies)
- Charleston (4 colonies)
- Colleton (3 colonies)
- Georgetown (2 colonies),
- Bamberg (1 colony)
- Hampton (1 colony)
- Horry (1 colony) and
- Jasper (1 colony)

"Historically, Wood Storks used South Carolina as a feeding area during the summer and fall after dispersing from nesting colonies in Florida and Georgia. After much of their habitat in southern

Florida was altered and lost, wood storks gradually began to expand their nesting range into South Carolina and more recently into North Carolina during the nesting season." For more about wood storks and other wading birds visit website (<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/species/wadingbirds/index.html>).

**Contributed by Steve Shultz**

# CBC Visits the CBBT and Nags Head-Steve Shultz

The mouth of the Chesapeake can be cold. Very cold. My birding buddies and I often argue whether the coldest spot in the Southeast during winter is on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) or out on the cape at Hatteras. So cold temperatures are not really an eyebrow raiser when looking at the weather forecast for an upcoming birding trip, say the recent CBC Bonus Trip to the CBBT and its southerly neighbor, Nags Head. Even the Winter Weather Advisory suggesting a dusting of snow didn't really elicit much response. But these two words did: Gale Warning. For while visitors to the CBBT's three restricted-access islands may be sufficiently hardy to weather low temperatures and the vagaries of winter precipitation, strong winds often result in traffic restrictions on the 17.6-mile link between the Tidewater and the Eastern Shore.

In spite of the daunting forecast, the majority of the roll arrived early on Saturday morning, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at the CBBT's south toll plaza. Here we received the bad news; while we could visit island #1 and the observation point on the north shore, our police escort would otherwise be occupied assisting high-profile vehicles. Nonetheless, we gamely grouped into as few vehicles as possible (no sense in paying more toll than necessary) and set out for island #1. Strong northwest winds blowing the length of the Chesapeake piled up massive waves that, when breaking on the rocky shores of the four man-made islands, created streamers of near-freezing spray. Sea ducks bobbed in the undulating water, all pointing into the wind like so many small, dark, windsocks. Gannets realized that they did not need to flap at all in order to fly, just set wings at the correct angle of a tack, and off you go. (Continued p.5)



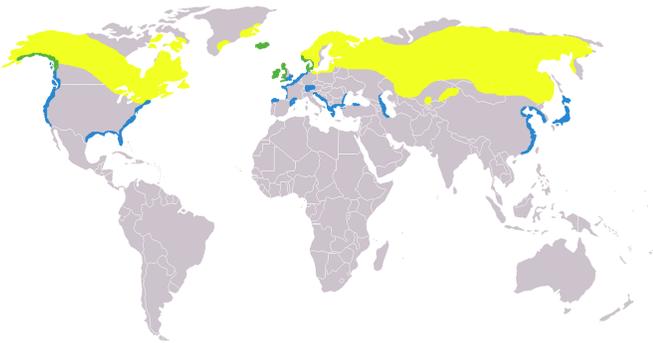
## ***CBC Birders at the Bodie Island Lighthouse.***

*(The current **Bodie Island Lighthouse** is the third that has stood in this vicinity of Bodie Island on the Outer Banks in North Carolina and was built in 1872. It stands 156 feet (48 m) tall and is located on the Roanoke Sound side of the first island that is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The lighthouse is just south of Nags Head, a few miles before Oregon Inlet. It was renovated from August 2009 to March 2013, and was made climbable by the public. The preceding Bodie Island lighthouses actually stood south of Oregon Inlet on Pea Island in an area now under water. The first was built in 1847 and then abandoned in 1859 due to a poor foundation. The second, built in 1859, was destroyed in 1861 by retreating Confederate troops who feared it would be used as a Union observation post during the Civil War. The third and current lighthouse, with its original first order Fresnel lens, was completed in 1872.—Wikipedia)*

# CBC Visits the CBBT and Nags Head

While one might think that the temperatures, in the low 20s, might be the biggest comfort concern, the blistering wind created more of an issue. With gusts topping out at 55 mph, smart birders found convenient wind-breaks from which to observe the local avian population. The shelters consisted of utility trailers, squat brick buildings, strategically located trash cans, and at least one road sign.

*Fortunately the birds also found the lee to their liking, and we were able to leisurely observe Purple Sandpipers going about their business, Ruddy Turnstones looking for Cheetos, Surf and Black Scoters drifting on the sea, and Great Cormorant, Brant, Greater Scaup, long skeins of Red-breasted Merganser, and more.*

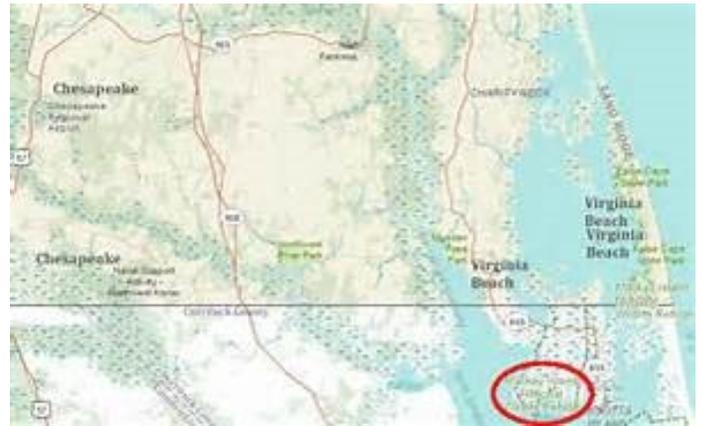


*The Red-breasted Merganser breeding habitat is freshwater lakes and rivers across northern North America, Greenland, Europe, and Asia. It nests in sheltered locations on the ground near water. It is migratory and many northern breeders winter in coastal waters further south.*

A Peregrine Falcon put on quite a show, first stooping on and capturing a duck, then kiting in the wind between bouts of high speed passes that kept the gulls more or less on their toes. Northern Gannets passed close overhead, while a bit higher, Red-throated Loons flew out to sea. Other than the loons, most of the birds were heading into the wind and making for the bay.

*An observation point near the complex's north terminus provided chances to see more Surf Scoters and Bufflehead, while adding several land-centric species to our budding trip list.*

After a more-elegant-than-necessarily-expected-during-a-birding-trip lunch at local favorite *Taste*, we invaded the Pleasure Point area where several folks picked up lifer looks at Lesser Black-backed Gull (conveniently standing next to a Great Black-backed Gull) and others notched year-bird Fish Crows. While the recently observed Western Tanager was not present, lots of little woodland birds provided post-lunch entertainment.



From Virginia Beach the caravan drove south to the marshes of Mackay Island NWR. Here we found the trip's first Tundra Swans and numbers of puddle ducks. Lucky observers noted four River Otters examining the ice recently formed on their roadside swimming pools.

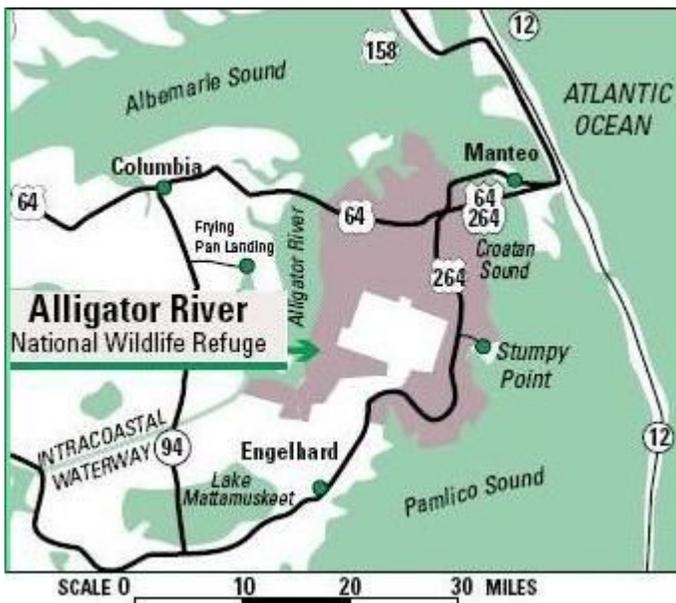
*After a night in Nags Head, the group reconvened at Bodie Island Lighthouse at dawn. Crisp, clear skies and a coating of new-fallen snow made for a nice photo opportunity of the historic light. Much of the lighthouse pond was covered in a skim of fresh ice, but a reasonable variety of ducks made for fun.*

(Continued p.6)

# CBC Visits the CBBT and Nags Head

Much like Bodie, the impoundments of Pea Island sported much ice, and many of the recently reported flocks of birds appeared to have moved on. We did spot the local avocets, hundreds strong, huddled together for easy viewing, and took advantage of the wind shadows created by the east-west dikes to sort through the waterfowl gathered nearby. Looking east, we enjoyed the sight of hundreds of scoters passing to and fro just past the ice-encrusted boiler of the Oriental.

Retreating to the relative calm of Roanoke Island, we stopped at a Painted Bunting stake-out, enjoying the brilliant tropical colors of what may be the Lower 48's most colorful songbird, before hitting the White's service station for lunch. From a gas station perspective, this joint offers some of the best food around, just what we needed as sustenance to prolong our trip with a visit to nearby Alligator River NWR.



*Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge* was established on March 14, 1984. It contains 152,195 acres which lie on the mainland portions of Dare and Hyde Counties, North Carolina. The Refuge is roughly 28 miles from north to south and 15 miles from east to west. It is bordered on the west by the Alligator River and the Intracoastal Waterway; on the north by Albemarle Sound; on the east by Croatan and Pamlico Sounds; and on the south by Long Shoal River and corporate farmland.

*Mostly frozen impoundments along Milltail and Sawyer Lake Roads meant, conveniently for us, that waterfowl and other birds nested in the deeper water close to the roads. Wilson's Snipe looked slightly perturbed at the thought of foraging in frozen ground, but seemed to take the cold snap in stride.*

Tundra Swans slipped and skidded on the ice, no doubt wishing that the sun would do its job and melt the thin sheet quickly. Shovelers, teal, wigeon and more rested on dikes or floated in open patches of water, many posing nicely for photos. One enterprising drake Wood Duck noted our arrival with the usual suspicion vested in gamebirds. Instead of leaping into the air to head for more secure quarters, this clever duck partially submerged, extended his head and neck so that just the eyes and nostrils were above water, and slowly paddled into nearby flooded timber.

*Along nearby River Road, we spotted Greater Yellowlegs walking around in the snow, a new one for most of us, and ticked off a few shorebirds to cap off the trip list. After bestowing Chris Clack with the door prize for guessing the closest to the actual number of species seen, we cranked up the car heaters and headed west.*

So the weather was a bit less than optimal, but we still found some neat birds, and more common birds doing neat things, and generally had a good time doing it. So while windy and a bit cool, I think most agree that the trip accomplished its goal of "having fun".



Look for another version (hopefully less windy) of this popular offering next season!

# Beaufort, SC to Host Fall Meeting

From Steve McInnis

## Greetings CBC Members,

The fall 2016 Carolina Bird Club meeting is in Beaufort, SC on September 30 and October 1.

The coast of South Carolina offers great fall birding! The last meeting in Beaufort, SC was held in the fall of 2011. Participants tallied 203 species, which ties for second highest in the CBC records. On top of high species count, Beaufort offers diverse field trips and experienced field trip leaders.



Hunting Island State Park, SC

## Excellent Bird Counts

These interesting and enjoyable field trips will yield excellent bird counts. In 2011, 28 warbler species were seen, which included Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Worm-eating and Swainson's. Additional species seen were Mottled Duck, Ruddy Duck, Least Bittern, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork and Seaside Sparrow. In 2016, we will offer these trips and additional trips to Botany Bay Plantation and ACE Basin. **(Continued p.8)**



Scenic and Historic Beaufort, SC

Abundant birds bring birders, and Beaufort is the fourth highest in attendance, which occurred Fall 1996. In addition, this Beaufort meeting will offer two outstanding speakers! On top of all these positive attributes, the Beaufort hotel expense will be very low, which makes this meeting a great birding value!

## Fall Migration

The field trips will take full benefit of fall migration. Migration concentrates on the coast and Beaufort will take full advantage by featuring the coastal plain. Field trips will travel to various habitats, such as Bear Island WMA, Donnelly WMA, Pinckney Island, Hunting Island, Savannah River Spoils Site and Savannah NWR.



Botany Bay Plantation, Edisto Island, SC

## Beaufort Meeting

In addition to extensive field trips, we are happy to announce our speakers. The Friday night speaker will be **Sharon Richardson, Executive Director of Audubon of South Carolina**. Ms. Richardson will tell us about all the activities Audubon is providing in South Carolina. The Saturday speaker will be **Ted Floyd, Editor of the American Birding Association's "Birding" magazine**. Ted is the editor for "Birding" magazine, which is the flagship publication of the America Birding Association. A former college-level instructor, Ted is a regular lecturer at ABA's Institute of Field Ornithology

### Beaufort's Blend of Cultures

In addition to the speakers, the field trips and the birds, Beaufort is an extraordinary and picturesque setting. Beaufort has churches and mansions as far back as 1720's. Beaufort's cultures are a blend of Native Americans, Spanish, French, English and the



**Historic African American Penn Center,  
St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, SC**

ride a horse-drawn carriage or visit the many art galleries. For the more conventional, you can go shopping, pick up handmade chocolates, or walk the town's waterfront. If you still have extra time, you can go to the many of the adjacent islands, spend time with the Live Oak trees and lighthouses.

Picturesque Beaufort has been featured in many films including 'Forrest Gump,' 'Prince of Tides,' 'The Big Chill,' and 'The Great Santini.' Beaufort is the home of late author Pat Conroy.

### Meeting Headquarters—Quality Inn Town Center

Our headquarters will be the Quality Inn at Town Center, at 2001 Boundary Street, in downtown Beaufort. The hotel is situated just a few blocks from the historic section of town.



**Quality Inn Town Center, Beaufort, SC**

Since our 2011 meeting, the Quality Inn has gained new neighbors, such as Starbucks, Jimmy John's Sandwich Shop, Moe's Southwest Grill, Red Rooster Café and Hilton Garden Inn, which have located next door. To combat five years of inflation, the Quality Inn has kept their prices the same and added a free breakfast.

Rates are very competitive at \$52.99 for double, queen or king per night (not including taxes). Queen & king rooms include a microwave and a fridge. All rooms have complimentary Wi-Fi connection. And, there is a computer available for guest use in the lobby. These rates will be available for the nights of Sept. 29 through Oct. 1, for club members.

Numerous birding opportunities, great birds, extensive field trips, good speakers, a popular location and a picturesque scenery will make the fall 2016 CBC meeting at Beaufort, SC, a wonderful meeting. Call the Quality Inn and reserve your room, today. The next newsletter will contain more meeting details, registration forms and field trip descriptions.

**To reserve your room, call Quality Inn at 843-524-2144. Be sure to tell them you are with the Carolina Bird Club.**

# Winter Birding in Northern Minnesota



In February, CBC Member, Steve Compton, headed to Duluth, Minnesota for a special winter birding experience.

*"The festival and visitor center cater to birders who come from all over to see birds that are very hard to find elsewhere in the US." Steve Compton*



*"The festival conducts daily guided tours using city school buses. We had to scrape the inside of the windows with an ice scraper." Steve Compton*

*Spotted was the Pine Grosbeak "eating cranberries." Steve Compton's Sax-Zim Bog Birding Expedition will be featured in the July issue of the CBC Newsletter.*

**Submissions by CBC Members welcomed.**



# CAROLINA BIRD CLUB OFFERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Research and education grants:

The CBC provides grants to support research, education and conservation of birds of the Carolinas and their habitats. Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The CBC Grants Committee meets quarterly to review applications. For guidelines and additional information visit: [www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants)

## Conservation grants:

An official representative of the conservation organization should send an application which includes:

- Details of the purpose of the grant request.
- Project plans (with dates) as appropriate.

For guidelines and additional information visit: [www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants)



## Carolina Young Birders Club

We are a club for any young person aged 8-19 who has a interest in birds and lives in the Carolinas. It's free to join- all that we ask is to stay in contact with us and participate!

If you are a young birder or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail at -

[mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org](mailto:mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org).

Also, if parents or relatives are interested in helping with the club they can become adult facilitators aiding with the logistics of the club.

Check out our Events and Field Trips Page for upcoming trips at [www.carolinayoungbirdersclub.org](http://www.carolinayoungbirdersclub.org)

## Carolina Bird Club Online Store

Check out the array of CBC merchandize 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>



# Welcome New CBC Members!

Dr. W.D. Altman, Chester, SC

Scott Anderson, Raleigh, NC

Toni & Ralph Baric, Haw River NC

Jacy Bernath-Plaisted, Greenville, NC

John & Mary Brammer, Charlotte, NC

Kevin Caldwell, Barnardsville, NC

James & Patricia Dedman, Columbia, SC

Bill Driscoll, Myrtle Beach, SC

Robert Eggleston, Bridgewater, VA

Amy Etherington, Avon, NC

Dan, Wanda & Corey Evans, Rock Hill, SC

Marie Freeze, Winston Salem, NC

Mary & Deane Freudenberg, Pompton Plains, NJ

Alan Fudge DVM, Taylors, SC

Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC

Judy Grant, Chapel Hill, NC

Diana Gray, Winston Salem, NC

Marsha Green, Pawleys Island, SC

Jo Hackl, Greenville, SC

Gary & Leslie Harbour, Travelers Rest, SC

Lauren & Andrew Hoke, Durham, NC

Therese & Tim Holmes, York, SC

William Hudson, Raleigh, NC

Tom Johnson, Charleston, SC

Jack Kaeck, Burnsville, NC

Helen Kalevas, Hillsborough, NC

John Kester, Georgetown, SC

Edward Lesane, Burlington, NC

Casey Lown, Lexington, SC

Marcia Lyons, Buxton, NC

Carl Matthews, Larry Davis & Carlos Matthews Davis  
Waynesville, NC

Donna Meadows, Fayetteville, NC

Amber & Scott McCalla, Sumter, SC

Marshall McIver, Bahama, NC

Bobbie McCutchen, Kingstree, SC

Roberta McKinney, Campobello, SC

Ellen Morin, Wilmington, NC

Peggy Mynes, Milton, WV

Karin Perk, Boone, NC

Eve & Don Peterson, Hilton Head, SC

Steve Rhodes, Charleston, SC

Jeanette Sabo, Southern Pines, NC

Mona Sadler, Bayboro, NC

John Satterfield, Emerald Isle, NC

Michael, Kathy & Jennifer Saunders

Little River, SC

John Scavetto, Charlotte, NC

Steve Shaffer, New Bern, NC

Sharon & Rob Smart, Raleigh, NC

Louis & Pallas Teer, Morehead City, NC

Jean Trent, Seattle, WA

Sharon Watson, Columbia, SC

Michelle Wilcox, Southern Pines, NC

James Wilkins, Greenville, SC

Dee Dee Williams, Columbia, SC

Tracy & Rick Young, Hendersonville, NC



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Raleigh, NC 27612

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at Pinehurst, NC 28374  
and additional mailing offices

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2016 - Beaufort, SC

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC

### CBC Board Members

**President**, Irvin Pitts, Lexington, SC  
pittsjam@windstream.net

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Sherry Lane, Wilmington, NC  
Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC

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

**Website Editor**- Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

**Headquarters Secretary**- Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC,

hq@carolinabirdclub.org

**CBC Newsletter Editor**- Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,

newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

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

**[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://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 © 2016.

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