



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 65

April 2019

Number 2

Spring Into the Sandhills!

May 3 through May 5, 2019

by Susan Campbell

The Club will be returning to Southern Pines, North Carolina for the **2019 Spring Meeting**. We hope that you will take advantage of the interesting trips and programs we have lined up from Friday, May 3rd and running through Sunday, May 5th. Groups will head out to destinations new to CBC members like Carver's Creek State Park, Lake Auman. Others will visit sites that have become known as birding 'hot spots' more recently, such as Hobby Field. We will also have trips to well-known locations such as the Sandhills Game Land and Woodlake.



Lark Sparrow
Photo by Jeff Beane

We hope everyone will take advantage of the renovated facilities at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve as well. The new Discovery Center opened two years ago and there is now a gift shop selling park as well as general Sandhills merchandise with all proceeds going to support park initiatives and activities.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Photo by Mary Sonis

Our headquarters for the meeting will be at the Hampton Inn in Southern Pines on NC Highway 15/501 just northwest of the intersection with US Route 1. Rooms are \$109 per night plus 9.75% tax. In order to receive the CBC meeting

rate, reservations must be made by calling their toll free number (1-866-238-4218 or 910-693-4330) before April 5th.

Reservations after the cut-off will be honored based on availability. There are numerous motels in the area if you cannot get a room at the Hampton Inn. Be aware that *there are other events going on that weekend in the area*, so you should not wait too long to make your lodging arrangements. The hotel will be accommodating our field trip schedule by having early breakfast hours, beginning at 6 a.m.



Hummingbird banding event

You will note that a number of the field trips focus on interesting organisms within the Sandhills ecosystem including plants, butterflies, and bees, in addition to the birds. On these trips, leaders will keep an eye/ear out for birds along the way, but will be specifically seeking out other species. Also, we have arranged some unique opportunities to observe interesting demonstrations by local folks. One such program is the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Nesting Ecology program involving an experienced local woodpecker biologist who will demonstrate the techniques used in monitoring and conservation of this endangered species. There will also be a photography workshop, hummingbird banding, and perhaps an actual prescribed burn.



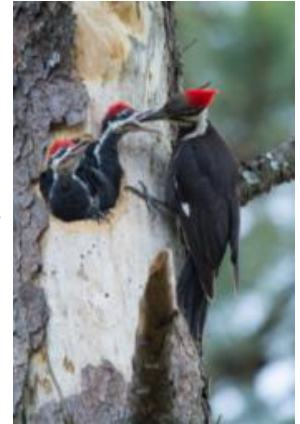
Prescribed Burn

Participants signing up for whole day trips will want to ensure they bring a lunch with them, as locations for purchasing food are limited in the vicinity of some

Spring the Carolina Sandhills! / continued



destinations. Options for 'birding on your own' on the way to the meeting will be posted at the CBC web site well ahead of time. Otherwise, you will find a number of possibilities in your registration packet when you arrive. We are very excited to offer for sale a special meeting t-shirt created by birder and artist Hal Broadfoot. The design will be similar to that on the previous Sandhills meeting shirts. A variety of sizes will be in hand and hopefully more than one color to choose from. These shirts should be a very special CBC memento from this meeting.



Pileated Woodpecker Family

Please remember to check the schedule posted at registration for more details on all of the weekend's events. And any last minute changes and/or cancellations. We will also have material on restaurants and additional family activities available when you arrive. If you have any questions about lodging, field trips or the Southern Pines area, feel free to contact the meeting organizer, Susan Campbell, at (910) 695-0651 or email susan@ncaves.com.



Red-headed Woodpecker
Photo by Debra Regula

Join us Friday for *Social Hour* hosted by Sandhills Natural History Society in the meeting area from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The local club will provide hospitality and desserts ahead of the program. Local photographer Brady Beck is our scheduled speaker. Brady, who has been a biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for three decades, will share some of his favorite images from his favorite place: the Sandhills Game Lands.

Saturday evening we will enjoy a barbeque buffet catered by the nationally famous Pick n' Pig. This restaurant, located at the Billy Mitchell Airfield (up in Carthage) is featured at the \$100 *Hamburger* website, known to aviators as a worthwhile destination for a fly-in meal. Dinner offerings will include pork, chicken, sides, salad bar and assorted desserts. We will also have a vegetarian offering from Valenti's Italian Restaurant. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for \$20 per person (including tax and gratuity).



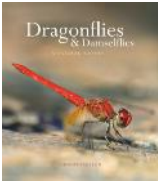
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Photo by Debra Regula

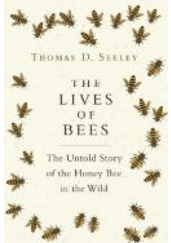
The Annual Meeting of the club will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by a program at 8 p.m. by US Fish and Wildlife Biologist John Hammond. John will bring us up to speed on the status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the Longleaf pine ecosystem that the bird calls home here in the Sandhills. He will also discuss management of different populations in the state, movements of the birds within North Carolina as well as tips for locating Red-cockaded on your own.

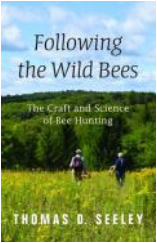
Look forward to seeing many of you here in the Sandhills in May!

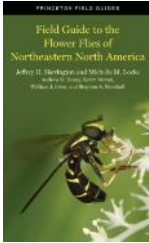
Princeton University Press


Spring 2019 Natural History & Ornithology Highlights











BirdGenie™ is a breakthrough app that helps anyone with an Apple® or Android® smartphone or tablet accurately identify birds in the backyard, local park, or on the nature trail—all with the tap of a button! Just hold up your phone, record the bird singing, and BirdGenie™ helps you identify the species. The app's highly developed sound identification ability and expert matching system enable bird enthusiasts to achieve an accuracy unheard of in the birding field. It's perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about the birds around them.

Below is a link to all of the 2019 releases
<http://assets.press.princeton.edu/catalogs/birds19.pdf>

CBC 2019 Spring Meeting Schedule **Carolina Sandhills**

Friday, May 3, 2019

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Friday Morning	Saturday Morning
Trip 1: Woodlake - 7:15am to noon	Trip 14: Hobby Field & Horse Country - 8am to noon
Trip 2: Slate Road & Camp Mackall - 7am to noon	Trip 15: Auman Lake & West End - 7am to noon
Trip 3: Hobby Field & Horse Country - 8am to noon	Trip 16: All American Trail - 8:30am to noon
Trip 4: Weymouth Woods Sandhills NP - 7 to 11am	Trip 17: Weymouth Woods SNP - 8am to noon
Trip 5: Carvers Creek State Park - 7am to noon	
Friday Afternoon	Saturday Afternoon
Trip 6: Prescribed Burning - 2 to 4pm	Trip 18: Hummingbirds in the Sandhills - 1 to 3pm
Trip 7: Bird Photography - 2 to 4pm	Trip 19: Bees & Butterflies of the Sandhills - 2 to 4 pm
Trip 8: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Ecology - 2 to 4pm	Trip 20: Wildflowers of the Sandhills - 2 to 4pm
	Trip 21: Southern Pines & Pinehurst Hot Spots - 2 to 4pm
Friday Full Day	Saturday Full Day
Trip 9: Howell Woods - 6:45am to 5pm	Trip 22: Raven Rock State Park - 7am to 3pm
Trip 10: Sandhills Game Land - 7:15am to 3pm	Trip 23: Deep River & North Moore - 7:15am to 4pm
Trip 11: Diggs Tract and more - 7am to 5pm	Trip 24: Howell Woods - 6:45am to 5pm
Trip 12: Pee Dee NWR - 6:45am to 5pm	Trip 25: Pee Dee NWR - 6:45am to 5pm
	Trip 26: Lumber River Kayak Trip - 7am to 5pm

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Sunday Morning
Trip 27: Boyd Tract-hike to the old tree - 9 to 11am
Trip 28: Rarity Round-up - 7 to 11am

Registration begins March 23rd at 2pm.

Register online at www.carolinabirdclub.org, for best availability of field trips.

Online registration closes April 27th at 8am.

2019 Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 1: Woodlake

Enjoy a diversity of stops within the private residential golf community of Woodlake, which surrounds Lake Surf, the largest body of water in Moore County. Flooding from Hurricane Matthew created a hole in the dam, and the lake has drained, leaving it mostly mudflats and small pools. We will look for early migrating shorebirds, and also visit upland hardwood and pine stands for migrant passerines. The group will check the marsh behind the dam for Bald Eagle and breeding species such as Green Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler. We will watch for large mammals such as Coyote, Grey Fox, Bobcat, River Otter, Beaver and Muskrat that frequent the area. Restrooms are available at a private residence where there will be a stop as well as just outside the main gate. The group should be back at the hotel by noon.

Trip 2: Slate Road & Camp Mackall

Join Fort Bragg Biologist, Alan Schultz for a guided tour of habitats around Camp Mackall. The installation is a satellite training area of Ft. Bragg with pine savannas, bottomland hardwoods, and early successional scrubland for training. It is here, where the Army's elite Special Forces train, that Lark Sparrows historically have bred. These areas are subject to military training and therefore generally off limits to public access. There are open areas of Longleaf Pine and wiregrass where we may find Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Brown-headed Nuthatch. The bottomland habitat could produce Wood Duck, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Parula and perhaps Swainson's Warbler. A beaver pond may harbor Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and Wood Duck. We will also check out a roadside population of the Federally Endangered Michaux's Sumac. There will be several stops with short periods of walking at each. Restroom facilities available. The trip will end at noon.

Trips 3 & 14: Hobby Field & Horse Country

We will head to 'horse country' on the eastern edge of Southern Pines and focus on open-country birds. First stop will be Hobby Field, an area recently acquired by the Sandhills Area Land Trust. This seventy-acre site has been home to, among other things, a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers the past three summers. On our hike around the perimeter of the field, we also expect to see Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird and perhaps a Loggerhead Shrike. Next, we will take a walk into the adjacent Walthour-Moss Foundation property. On this 4,000 acre, fire-managed site, we will find birds typical of Longleaf Pine like Pine Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We should encounter species associated with mixed pine hardwood such as Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher and Red-eyed Vireo and perhaps Red-shouldered Hawk. The trip will also include stops at a few nearby farms to look for species typical of early successional vegetation as well as Sandhills drains. If we are lucky, we may see Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey or even members of our breeding American Kestrel population. Bring plenty to drink and comfortable walking shoes. There will be a restroom stop. We depart at 8 and return to the hotel by noon.

Trips 4 & 17: Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve

Walking about a mile of the loop trails through typical Sandhill streamhead drains, we will look for flocks of migrant flycatchers, thrushes and warblers. Songs of Blue-headed Vireo and Bachman's Sparrow, which breed at the preserve, should be heard. There will also be the opportunity to learn about the breeding groups of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at the park this season. Fox Squirrels are more active this time of year, so look for family groups foraging in the woods. The group will also get a good look at the newest changes to the creek bottom as a result of our resident beaver's winter work. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a camera - there could be some good photo opportunities. The program will be over about 11a.m.

Trip 5: Carvers Creek State Park - Long Valley Farm

We will visit one of the state's newest parks, Carvers Creek SP, which includes the historical Long Valley Farm, northwest of Fayetteville. The farm was the bequest of the conservation minded James Stillman Rockefeller in 2004 and includes the family's winter home, an old millpond, and other farm structures that are in the National Register of Historical Places. The property provides a mix of farmland, pasture, mixed forest, and Longleaf Pine communities adjacent to Ft. Bragg. We will explore healthy, fire-maintained Longleaf Pine communities, a mature cypress-gum swamp, and wet meadows that support carnivorous plants like pitcher plants and sundews. Fox Squirrel has been seen on the property as well as Bachman's Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Loggerhead Shrike. There is an established Purple Martin colony adjacent to the family's old home. Birding potential at this site is still largely unknown, but expect a variety from Pine Warbler and Brown-headed Nuthatch to Great Crested Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler and Blue Grosbeak. There are restrooms at the park visitor's center. The group will be back at the hotel by noon.

2019 Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions/continued

Trip 6: Prescribed Burning

You will have the unique opportunity to join park staff at Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve for an up-close look at how a prescribed burn is prepared and conducted. Participants will measure weather parameters, and if conditions are favorable, staff will burn a small area. The program will last about two hours.

Trip 7: Bird Photography

Join Deborah Regula and learn basic techniques for beautiful images of birds. Deb is a local award winning photographer who has been capturing a variety of species digitally for a decade. The group will work the area close to the WEWO Visitor's Center, as well as the bird feeding station, looking for a variety of photo opportunities. Even if you are familiar with the process, you may pick up pointers on composition, improving focus, depth of field, and overall picture quality. This workshop will last about two hours.

Trip 8: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Nesting Ecology

Join local woodpecker biologist Kerry Brust to learn about the unique ecology of this native endangered species. Hear about the history of woodpecker conservation efforts in the Sandhills. Field techniques used for monitoring of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers during the breeding will be demonstrated. The program will last about two hours.

Trips 9 & 24: Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center

Howell Woods is located approximately 75 miles east of Southern Pines in Johnston County along the Neuse River. It is a large (2800 acre) property with a variety of habitats from open fields to bottomland hardwoods. There are extensive trails throughout and a number of streams and ponds as well as the river. We will spend some time viewing the exhibits at the Visitor's Center (where there are restroom facilities). One of the highlights should be seeing Mississippi Kites; at least one pair breeds on the property during the summer. Individuals are frequently seen soaring over the fields while searching for large insects. Be prepared to see a wide variety of species including Green Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Wood Thrush, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-throated Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes since there is some relief along the trails; however, the walking will not be too strenuous. Be sure to bring a picnic lunch. The group should be back at the hotel by 5 p.m.

Trip 10: Sandhills Game Land

The Sandhills Game Land boasts 60,000 acres of well-managed Longleaf Pine communities, all open to the public. Join longtime local birder Susan Campbell to visit some of the birding hotspots within and immediately adjacent to SGL, 30 minutes south of our hotel. Most of the species commonly found in xeric and mesic upland Longleaf Pine communities should be seen. In addition to searching for Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Susan will discuss how the state is gradually restoring the Game Land's forests to their original state. There will be stops in the Bird Dog Field Trial area to look for such species as Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and Yellow-breasted Chat. If we are lucky, we may see one of the locally breeding Mississippi Kites. In addition, we will visit the McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery where we may find lingering water birds, or even spot a foraging Bald Eagle. A stop may also be made along Drowning Creek to search for flocks of migrants. There will be a restroom break along the way, but be sure to bring lunch. We will return to the hotel by 3 p.m.

Trip 11: Diggs Tract & more

Participants of this trip will accompany Bruce Sorrie and Harry LeGrand, retired botanist and zoologist with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, to two very different destinations near Rockingham, Richmond County. The first, the Diggs Tract, is a recent acquisition by NCWRC. It has hilly piedmont-type terrain fronting the nutrient-rich, brownwater Pee Dee River. We will make a 4.5 mile drive through oak-pine woodlands, hardwood slopes, and regenerating clear-cuts, with stops for birds. The big attraction is the river corridor with its mature floodplain forests, easily reaching 120 feet tall. Adjacent slopes support mature beech-oak-hickory forest. The uplands should produce Yellow-breasted Chat, Prairie Warbler and Indigo Bunting, with Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher along the river. However, there are likely to be good numbers of migrants coming up the river, with the chance of some shorebirds, cormorants, terns or gulls in the mix. In recent years Bald Eagles have nested nearby.

The second stop has not yet been named, but likely will be a site within the Sandhills Game Land. There we will check out longleaf pine communities (uplands and streamhead) for Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and Brown-headed Nuthatch, as well as some spiffy plants.

Everyone should pack a lunch. Restrooms are available at a gas station between our 2 major stops. Group will be back at the hotel by 5 p.m.

2019 Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions/continued

Trip 12 & 25: Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

We will travel southwest an hour to Anson County, home of the Pee Dee NWR. Famous for its wintering waterfowl and nationally significant floodplain forest, PDNWR has much to offer. Although most waterfowl will have departed to northern nesting grounds, we will likely see Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, possibly Anhinga, Red-shouldered Hawk, and forest passerines such as Wood Thrush, Prothonotary, Kentucky, Northern Parula, and Hooded Warblers, American Redstart. We will drive and walk on dike roads and walk on dry boardwalks, with short walks into the forest. The new visitor's center features excellent displays and clean restrooms. Bring lunch and water. The group should return to the hotel by 5 p.m.

Trip 15: Auman Lake and West End

This large reservoir in western Moore County offers the possibility of lingering waterfowl and Double-crested Cormorant, as well as possibility of Bald Eagle and Osprey. Historically the lake has been a magnet to assorted migrating ducks, herons, egrets, gulls and even White Pelicans (in 2017). Spring birding potential at this site is relatively unknown given that it (like Woodlake) is a gated community. But we believe it is full of promise! Near West End we will visit Lighterwood Farm, where the Wimberley family has lived and managed the land for 150 years. Jesse, a well-known local conservationist will guide us around the property. We will experience fire-managed longleaf pine uplands, streamhead pocosins, and a beaver pond. En route we will check out a few spots for Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, and others. There will be a restroom stop between sites. We will return to the hotel by noon.

Trip 16: All American Trail.

This is an easy walk on a firm surface (but not paved), level for most of the way. The All American Trail hugs the perimeter of Fort Bragg for many miles and we will see firsthand how the longleaf pine community has been restored with controlled burns. Resident birds, including Red-cockaded Woodpecker, will be featured, along with nesting migratory species. The trail is handicapped accessible so can accommodate wheelchairs. Note our relaxed departure time of 8:30 a.m. We will return to the hotel by noon.

Trip 18: Hummingbirds

This is your chance to ask questions about hummingbird ecology and feeding in North Carolina. The group will observe Ruby-throated Hummingbirds up close as they are banded as part of ongoing research at the visitor's center. Don't forget your camera (and be sure it is charged up)! It is possible that a few lucky participants may even have the chance to release any hummingbirds that are trapped. The program will end around 3:30 p.m. or when the hummers thin out at the feeders. Susan Campbell, who is a Seasonal Naturalist at the park, has been working with hummingbirds for 20 years will be our leader.

Trip 19: Bees & Butterflies

On this hike we will be in search of flying critters *without* feathers. There will be an assortment of bees, butterflies as well as dragon and damselflies along the way. It will almost certainly be an opportunity to sharpen your Duskywing and Cloudywing identification skills. These species are plentiful along the trails at Weymouth Woods. Hoary-edged Skippers may also be fairly common at this time of year. In addition, we may encounter Pearly Eye as well as American Copper. Watch for Twin-spotted Spiketail, Blue Corporal, Common Sandragon and maybe even a Springtime Farmer. The group should certainly see an Ebony Jewelwing or two as well. The program will last about two hours.

Trip 20: Wildflowers

The winding trails of Weymouth Woods will take us through several types of upland Sandhills habitats in search of local spring specialties such as blooming pitcher plants, sundews, Carolina Wild Indigo, Common Goat's-rue, Dwarf Locust, Slender Roseling, Carolina Sandwort, and Tread Softly. The terrain will be good, but be prepared to get close to dense vegetation - long pants and long sleeves are encouraged. The walk will be approximately two hours long. Our guide will be Terry Sharpe, retired biologist and local expert on the local flora.

Trip 21: Southern Pines & Pinehurst

We will walk along the boundary of the historic Moore County Airport to look for Grasshopper Sparrow, Horned Lark, and other grassland species. Explore trails at Southern Pines Reservoir Park and Sandhills Community College for migrants and early breeders among the expanse of Longleaf Pines, flowering trees, and wetland vegetation. We may even glimpse a Fox Squirrel or two! Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and long pants since you may be walking through extensive grassy and damp areas. There are restroom opportunities along the way. The trip will be led by the McCloys: both David and Michael who have birded these areas for many years - and will end at noon.

2019 Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions/continued

Trip 22: Raven Rock State Park

We will travel to Raven Rock State Park northeast of Sanford, in the lower piedmont in Harnett County. We will stroll the spectacular half mile long bluffs along the Cape Fear River, surrounded by pine-hardwoods where neotropical migrants are often plentiful. Extensive stands of Mountain Laurel should be in full bloom. Woodland birding in the park often turns up mixed flocks with unexpected species in the spring such as Wilson's Warbler. Down by the river is a floodplain forest of tall hardwoods with Parula Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, and Acadian Flycatcher. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes since there is quite a bit of relief along the trails; however, the walking will not be too strenuous. Be sure to bring a picnic lunch. The group should be back at the hotel by 4 p.m.

Trip 23: Deep River and Northern Moore County

In stark contrast to the Longleaf Pine habitats of southern Moore county are the hardwood forests and bottomlands of the Deep River corridor in the piedmont of northern Moore. Nutrient-rich soils produce forests of imposing heights - 120 feet or more. We will hike through one floodplain forest in search of Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, American Redstart, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Wood Thrush. Adjacent rocky slopes and creeks should have Louisiana Waterthrush, Broad-winged Hawk, Great Crested Flycatcher, and both species of tanagers. Enroute we will make stops at pastures, clearcuts, and semi-open habitats for Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Kingbird, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, both vultures, and Red-tailed Hawk. Bring lunch and drinks. If time permits, a visit to the historical House in the Horseshoe and its hayfields. Our leader will be Bruce Sorrie and Harry LeGrand, both birders and botanists. There are no facilities on this route, except in Carthage and at the House in the Horseshoe. Back at hotel by 4 p.m.

Trip 26: Lumber River Kayak Trip

Looking for something a bit different? Spend the day on the chalk banked Lumber River in a kayak and bird along eight miles of the only blackwater river in NC to be designated as a National Wild and Scenic River by the US Department of the Interior. The trees found in the floodplain swamp surrounding the river, including Bald Cypress, Tupelo, Water Elm, River Birch, and Tulip Poplar, lend to a remote feel and provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. Birds in the area include Barred Owls, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfishers, and Prothonotary Warblers, as well as possible migrants. Non-bird species could include the White-tailed Deer, Beavers, and, if we are lucky, even Black bear and Northern River Otters. You can bring your own kayak or rent one for \$35, which includes transportation of the boat and the kayaker/ birder to and from the river. Pack a lunch as we will be on the river for the day. This will be a full day trip. The river is less than 45 minutes from area hotels.

Trip 27: Boyd Tract

A short drive from the Weymouth Woods visitor's center is a protected area of old growth longleaf pine. It includes the oldest known longleaf anywhere - 475 years! - as well as many other veterans. Our guide will inform us of the history of how this forest became protected and will explain the challenges of maintaining such an ancient stand of trees. It will be a very unique and informative hike. We will return to the visitor's center by 11 a.m.

Trip 28: Rarity Round-up

This trip will revisit locations birded earlier in the weekend in order to relocate noteworthy species seen earlier in the weekend. Destinations will be based on the collective interest of the group. Exact route will be the leader's choice. Trip will conclude by lunchtime.

Special Notes on Field Trips

*All trips are limited to 15 people.

*Please ensure you bring a lunch and drinks with you for full-day trips and snacks and drinks for half-day trips.

*Please note that some field trips depart from the hotel, while others depart from Weymouth Woods Visitor's Center. Please plan accordingly. Most trips carpool to minimize the number of vehicles; if you have room or wish to ride with other participants, please let your field trip leader know.

*The Sandhills Game Land trip will require higher-clearance vehicles, due to soft sand and high road-crowns. SUVs are preferred.

*And finally, it will be turkey season at meeting time, so it is suggested that you bring a brightly colored hat along. A number of our trip destinations are public lands that are open to hunting, and our leaders will steer clear of hunters. But nonetheless, it's a good idea for folks to be somewhat more 'visible' as we venture out into the woods - just in case.

OBX 2019 Continues Though Memories

and the TOP RATED eBird photo of 2018!
by Les Coble, Eastern NC Representative-at-Large

Several years ago friends at a Christmas party announced they were foregoing wrapped presents and would start their relationship over with the gift of memories - traveling. Locally, global warming has strengthened the Outer Banks as a mecca for winter and migratory birding. OBX would be listed in the top 10 for winter birding in the U.S. Memorable sightings abounded at this year's OBX.

Whether it be a life bird or a sighting of a known bird seemingly acting out of character this year's OBX Winter Birding Weekend had many attendees mentioning birding memories. The out-of-territory Golden crowned Sparrow and Cinnamon Teal. stole the show. These two species, speaking to a reporter in the pseudo-periodical *A Bird's Guide to Bird Watchers*, stated their appearances were their "only east coast performances this year!"

The Cinnamon Teal male was dressed gayly for the event in it's alternate breeding plumage, while the Golden-crowned Sparrow sported a subdued basic winter gown that was becoming for the unusual gas station stage it selected for the show, but still to the delight of the audience (and station owner.)



Courtesy:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cinnamon_Teal_male_RWD2.jpg

The Cinnamon Teal on River Road in Alligator River NWR was fortunately spotted early in the day, on Thursday, before the Weekend by Les Coble and Al Gamache of the Lower Neuse Bird Club. Big Al's uncharacteristic questioning of the possible sighting was a twist and downturn of the head. The bird was not known and certainly not expected to be in that flock of over 200 Green-winged Teal that had just flown in from over the woods on the north side of the flooded field. A quick scan by Les confirmed the Teal as it began to place itself in the typical view all weekend; that is, hunkered down in the middle of the flock. An immediate email to CarolinaBirds@duke.edu allowed confirmation within ½ hour. The Teal remained onsite throughout the Weekend.

The Golden-crowned Sparrow was a more amazing happenstance, located by a California birder walking around a convenient gas station In Harbinger, NC. In now well-known Patagonia Picnic Table Effect it's winter feeding flock friends of Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird included a Dickcissel!



Carolina Wren—Photo by Deborah Roy

168 members came to the Nags Head Ramada. 17 of the attendees were first time participants and three were from the Youth CBC, whose accomplishments are growing and growing. Want additional proof? The photo below is now in the Macauley Library as its Top Rated Photo of 2018! Martina Nordstrand came to the Weekend and led trips to Roanoke Island and Pea Island. Use the link in the photo credits and you will develop additional appreciation for this amazing photo, bringing home the significance of this captured moment. In fact, Martina has a photographic eye whenever capturing a birding moment. Take the time to see this lovely ability to compose a camera shot on her Facebook page.



2018's top-rated photo in eBird: Black Rosy-Finch
by Martina Nordstrand of YCBC!!

Our weekend speaker, Bob Schamerhorn (<http://iphotobirds.com/>), had many amazing photographs, so many in fact the truly outstanding seemed to get lost in the presentations. One thing not lost was the 88 species he has tallied at his backyard water feature.

OBX 2019 Continues Though Memories/continued

One must remember he is in a residential area! The number of warblers and other deep woods birds were a pleasure to see drinking and bathing in the shallow pool. A water feature I had in Maryland never ceased to amaze. One notable example was the bewildered Titmouse who could not determine how to crack open the snails it pulled from along the side of the collection pool. It had to resort to watching a Scarlet Tanager break them open and feed a youngster, and only settle for the scraps. Water features do bring hours of enjoyment.

Bob Schamerhorn was mentored by the Lynchburg (VA) Bird Club when he was young, and now gives back to enthusiasts and bird clubs with his photos and talks that capture and inspire through the sharing of his enthusiasm.



Tufted Titmouse photo courtesy of Bob Schamerhorn

Thanks Bob for getting that first digital camera. Your innate passion for art and nature shown through all weekend. We will be looking forward to your next photo award. Lesson learned CBCers – Introduce a young birder to our scholarship program. Details are on the CBC website at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants/ybc/>. Donations to this proven valuable program are graciously welcomed.

Jamie Gilson of Brevard NC, the YCBC recipient of a scholarship to the camp at the U of Delaware's Cape Henlopen Campus and a popular camp destination choice across the Country, gave us his glowing remarks on attendance and experiences at Saturday evening's banquet. Jaimie did not have to proclaim his attendance so appreciatively as we were able to see and hear in his voice the fun at meeting other like-minded youth and the camp directors.

Clearly the new knowledge was put to use as he was also helping Les Coble locate birds for attendees at a trip to River Road. Thanks Jamie for sharing your knowledge and skill.

The weekend sightings list totaled approximately 174 species. New sightings from Sunday morning's outings are still being evaluated.

A Harlequin, Glaucous Gull, and Common Gallinule are still being reported, as well as the Cinnamon Teal and Dickcissel.



Fair weather prevailed for the pelagic

trip. The leader Dickcissel - Photo by Kent Fiala noted foul weather may have produced more species. However, participants were unsure to laud or curse the seas, Dramamine notwithstanding. But a day on the ocean is always adrenaline filled as any moment can produce an unexpected species. Close looks at birds around the boat has one realizing how Brian and the helpful crew of dedicated spotters use flight and feeding characteristics to confirm visual pattern ID, just as we landlubbers do onshore.

Thanks to Christine Stoughton Root, CBC President for searching for and addressing every possible detail to make the Weekend a success. Les Coble, referring to himself as "Executive Assistant", wanted attendees to know she was the guiding CEO, whose pleasant style allowed our trip leaders to concentrate on the birds. We cannot adequately express our appreciation for their willingness to assist the attendees. Attendees responded with praise for the leaders patience and persistence to help locate more elusive species.



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Welcome New CBC Members!

Perry Youngblood
Pinehurst, NC

David Fischer
Cary, NC

Debbie Higdon
Sylva, NC

Terri Buckner
Chapel Hill, NC

Stephen & Sarah Dally
Hubert, NC

Susan Bagwell
Chestnut Mountain, GA

Cathy & Dan Harvey
Knightdale, NC

Mack Johnston
Candler, NC

Steven Guy
Beaufort, SC

Maxine Okazaki
Chapel Hill, NC

Paul Anderson
Charlotte, NC



Peter, Krystal & Tommy McManus
Columbia, SC

Joyce & Mike Becwar
Summerville, SC

Paul Livingston
Florence, SC

Christopher & Karen King
Rougemont, NC

Cheryl Manger
Southport, NC

Donna & Gary Brewer
Oak Island, NC

Mariann & Christopher Ramsayer
Apex, NC

Laura Graham
Pendleton, SC

Catherine and James Ford
Hendersonville, NC

Kristy & Alex Boon and
Torcia & Ian McHarg
Mills River, NC

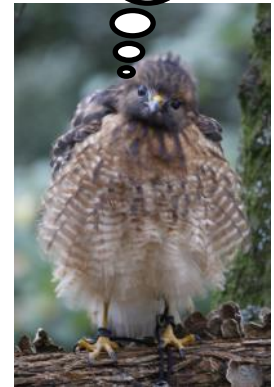
Pamela DeChellis
Katie Hodgson
Mount Pleasant, SC

Janice Koppenhaver
Boone, NC

Darrell & Shelley Young
Whispering Pines, NC

Barry Wheeler
Raleigh, NC

Joanne Parker
Southport, NC



CBC Spring Executive Committee Elections

We have an urgent need to fill a vacancy for **Eastern North Carolina Member-at-Large** on the executive committee for a two-year term 2019-2021. Members-at-large, along with the other members of the Executive Committee, guide the CBC by setting strategy and club programs, seeking and responding to members' ideas, and safekeeping the club's resources. In addition, Members-at-large form the planning committee for meetings (and you know you have ideas on how meetings should be run). If you are interested in serving your club in this capacity, please contact hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

The annual election for CBC officers will take place at the Spring Seasonal Meeting in Southern Pines, NC. We invite you to participate by reviewing the slate of nominees below and voting at the meeting. We will also take nominations from the floor during the meeting. If you are interested in serving in any of the open roles, please send an email to hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:

President – Lewis Burke – Columbia, SC (First one-year term)

Western NC Vice President – Guy McGrane – Deep Gap, NC (One three-year term)

SC Member-at-Large – Ed Blich – Charleston, SC (First two-year term)

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are listed below. The eligible term for re-election is listed following the Incumbents' names:

Treasurer – Paul Dayer – Durham, NC (Third and final one-year term)

Secretary – Jill Midgett – Charleston, SC (Second one-year term)

Western NC Member-at-Large – Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC (Second and final two-year term)

Eastern NC Member-at-Large – Lester Coble – Ernul, NC (Second and final two-year term)

Eastern NC Member-at-Large – TBD (First two-year term)

Incumbents elected at the Spring 2018 meeting to be ratified:

Western NC Member-at-Large – Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC (First two-year term, expiring 2020)

The following position was appointed to complete an existing term:

Eastern NC Vice President – Martina Nordstrand-Indian Trail NC

Spring 2019 Southern Pines, NC Registration Form
Registration Begins March 23rd @ 2pm. Register online for
Best Availability of Field Trips at

www.carolinabirdclub.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$35 = \$ _____

Buffet Dinner _____ Vegetarian option _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Meeting registration at the door costs \$40.

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

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

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

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

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Online Registration closes at 8 a.m. April 27th, 2019

Cancellations will be refunded if received by 6pm on April 19

After online registration closes, cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at

hq@carolinabirdclub.org.



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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

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

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring - Southern Pines, NC - May 3-5, 2019
Fall - Charleston, SC - September 26-29, 2019
Winter - Litchfield, SC - January 16-19, 2020
Spring - Black Mountain, NC - April 30-May 3, 2020

CBC Board Members

President, Christine Stoughton Root,
Merritt, NC
cssrbdr@gmail.com

Vice Presidents

Craig Watson, Mt. Pleasant, SC
Sherry Lane, Wilmington, NC
Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC

Secretary

Jill Midgett, Charleston, SC

Treasurer

Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Lester Coble, Ernul, NC
Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC
Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC
Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC
Mac Williams, Hartsville, SC

Immediate Past President: Irvin Pitts

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Deborah McDougall Roy, Charlotte, NC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

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

www.carolinabirdclub.org—UPDATE

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, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2018.

Printed on 100% recycled paper at Carolina Printing.