

# CBC Newsletter

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

Volume 65 June 2019 Number 3

### **CBC's New President is Excited to Get Started!**



Lewis Burke President

### Written by Lewis Burke, President

When I was four years old, I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker for the first time, and I have been a birder ever since. With the Carolina Bird Club, I have birded all over the U.S, including Alaska. Of course, our meetings in the mountains, the Outer Banks, and the S.C. Coast have given me many great birding experiences, but I must admit my favorite birding spot is our family farm in Saluda County, South Carolina. My daughter

Cranford is the farmer and grows some delicious vegetables for market, but I am even more excited about the 22 species of warblers which have been spotted there. In fact, when we were looking for a name for the farm, my suggestion was "Warbler Creek Farm." (I don't know whether it was actually everyone else's favorite name, but they all accepted my idea.) In my 71 years, I have been a member of numerous environmental organizations such as the Nature Conservancy



Lewis & his daughter Christine celebrating a life bird,

and the Sierra Club, as well as six birding clubs. I have been a member of the Carolina Bird Club for ten years, and I have come to think of it as my favorite activity

because it combines birding, concern for the environment, and most importantly friendships. Our birding community is truly important to me and I hope that as president I can uphold the high standards that have been set by our prior presidents. I really want the membership to let me know what we can do to make their membership as meaningful for them as possible.

PS: I have now seen all of the regularly reoccurring woodpeckers in the lower 48 states and unfortunately, the Lewis's Woodpecker is quite unattractive and my least favorite.

### Newly Appointed & Re-Elected Executive Committee Members

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 Blitch – Charleston, SC (First two-year term)

Eastern NC Member-at-Large – Sandra Gahlinger – Morehead City, NC (First two-year term)

The following position was appointed to complete an existing term:

Eastern NC Vice President - Martina Nordstrand-Indian Trail NC

Re-elected positions listed below:

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)

A great big THANK You goes out to Christine Stoughton Root and all of the former Executive Committee members!

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## **Fall Into the Lowcountry!**

Meeting Planners: Jill Midgett and Craig Watson September 26 through September 29, 2019 by Craig Watson

The Fall Seasonal Meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held in the South Carolina lowcountry, head-quartered in Summerville. This affords quick and easy access to some of the best birding spots in the lowcountry and is a short drive to historic downtown

Charleston. A city rich in history and nationally acclaimed for its beautiful landscapes and well-preserved architecture, we will gather for our meeting the weekend of September 26-29. Registration begins the afternoon of the 26th and field trips will continue thru Sunday morning the 29th.



Painted Bunting Photo by Carl Miller

Charleston's proximity to some of South Carolina's finest and most treasured natural coastal resources



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

allows us to offer trips to habitats ranging from wild, scenic beaches to longleaf pine savannas. We expect excellent birding, and our field trips are being designed to offer participants the opportunity to enjoy the best this region has to offer. We will offer birding trips south to the ACE Basin, north to the Santee Delta, and inland to the

Orangeburg Sod Farm. Destinations include the Sea Islands (Kiawah and Seabrook), Charleston Harbor (Pitt St., Patriot's Point, Ft. Moultrie) Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Dewees Island (NEW), Edisto Beach hotspots, Botany Bay (led by Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux), Folly Beach area hotspots (including little known Ft. Lamar), state wildlife management areas north and south, Francis Marion National Forest, Francis Beidler Forest and Pine Bluff (new Audubon SC tract), and Caw Caw Interpretive Center. Shorebird migration should be going strong, and we will seek out these southbound migrants as well as many of the other marsh and seabirds associated

with rich coastal environments. Fall along the coast can also be particularly exciting for Neotropical songbird migration, and we will explore some of the area's "migr



Red Knots Photo by Craig Watson

of the area's "migrant traps" in search of these species.

Wading birds will be abundant, with Roseate Spoonbills

now occurring year round in South Carolina. We will also offer two butterfly walks, a Young Birder's Workshop, a photography workshop (how to use your point and shoot camera, and SLR), assisting banding efforts at the Kiawah Island Banding Station, a rarity chase



Roseate Spoonbill Photo by Carl Miller



Baltimore Orioles Photo by Marcie Daniels

on Sunday, and a possible pelagic/ offshore birding trip. If you want to see Baltimore Orioles and a possible Western Tanager, we have arranged access to a few homes in the area that attract these birds. Stay tuned for a comprehensive list of field trips in the next issue of the newsletter. In addition to our exciting slate of field trips led by

knowledgeable local birders, participants have an opportunity to enjoy excellent evening presentations on bird-related topics. So make your hotel reservation now!

Our meeting headquarters is the Wyndham Garden Inn,

north of Charleston in Summerville. It is conveniently located near I-26 and I-526, providing quick access to birding hotspots in all directions, and only 25 minutes away from downtown Charleston. Special room rates are being offered to CBC members for \$119/night



Wyndham Gardens Inn Photo from website

(not including taxes). To reserve a room contact the Wyndham Garden Hotel Directly at 1-843-875-3300, and be sure to identify yourself as a Carolina Bird Club participant. Any requests for special room arrangements may be made at the time of your reservation. The reservation cut-off date for these rates is September 12, 2019 so please don't delay. Check-in time is 3:00 PM, Check-out time is 11:00 AM.

The hotel has a restaurant that serves breakfast but not lunch or dinner. Restaurants including Cracker Barrel, Ruby Tuesday, and Carolina Ale House are within walking distance, and many more are within a quick drive from the hotel. Each room has a microwave, minifridge, coffee maker, and Wi-Fi is complimentary. (continued on page 3)

### Fall Trip continued from page 2

Registrants arriving on Thursday, September 26th, may pick up their registration packets that afternoon. The hotel will be the location for our evening programs and other social events related to our meeting.

Our Friday night speaker is Arch McCallum. Arch will present a unique program titled "Empids Demystified!" A native of South Carolina and a member of the CBC since 1959, Arch has been fascinated by birds all his life, and has been recording and

analyzing their sounds since 1981. He's especially interested in the evolution of vocal repertoires in large genera, particularly chickadees and *Empidonax* flycatchers.



Arch McCallum with dish, Photo by Ed Harris

He has studied all 15 species of empids on their breeding grounds, from Alaska to Costa Rica and from the Sierra Madre to the Appalachians. After retiring from teaching ornithology, ecology, and

Arch McCallum with scope Photo by Bert Keller

other wonderful subjects at the College of Charleston, Arch now leads the occasional birding tour in the Southwest and works on web-presentations of his research on bird sounds.



Aija & Ed Konrad, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, CO Photo by Ed Konrad

Join us on Saturday evening to experience the riveting journeys of Aija and Ed Konrad as Aija challenged herself to a United States Big Year in 2018! Titled "Tales of a Big Year ... the Journey to 577", Aija and Ed will take you through a year of travels and adventure through a photographic essay of the quest for her Big Year!



Greater Prairie-Chicken Photo by Ed Konrad



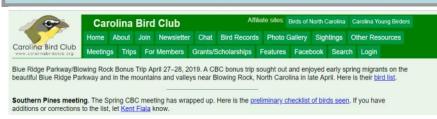
Lewis's Woodpecker Photo by Ed Konrad

Aija and Ed will share stories through their photos of how they crisscrossed the US, their non-stop schedule of birding from dawn to dusk, favorite birds, hikes, experiences, and even some challenges they faced. They will lead a colorful and animated tour though their travels to bird in Texas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Chicago and Ohio, Arizona, California, Washington, Florida, South, and North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, and Maine.

A more in-depth program, agenda, and field trip descriptions will be provided in the September newsletter. We hope you will join us for an exciting weekend of birding and presentations!



### Have you checked out the amazing CBC website recently? www.carolinabirdclub.org



You have access to:

- Updated Trip Information
- Photo Gallery
- "The Chat"
- Sightings
- And so much more! Check it out today!

### **Welcome New CBC Members!**

**New Life Member** 

Kathleen McElhannon

Ridgeville, SC

Sally & Alan Bolton Cameron, NC

Ginger Waynick, Reidsville, NC

Mary Abrams Cary, NC Kathlene Ford-Walters Michael Walters Mars Hill, NC Leah Mills Mocksville, NC

Mark Alt

Murfreesboro, NC

Katie Guthrie Snow Camp, NC Mike & Sharon Roberts

Cary, NC

Tina Rothbart Greensboro, NC

Melissa Mantooth Gastonia, NC Amanda Kallenbach

Bow, NH

Pat MacPherson St. James, NC

Cathy & Jarrett Rodrigues

Chapel Hill, NC

Debra Regula Pinehurst, NC

Mary & Al Olson Henry Bixby

Boone, NC

Robert McCall

Whispering Pines, NC

William Byars Greenville, SC

Marina & Jeff Tack Patricia Hughes
Southern Shores, NC Travelers Rest, SC

Gratia, Michael, Claire & Jake Barnett Alexandria. VA

Nikole Cabral Greenwood, SC Langston, Avery & Faith Jones

Conway, SC

Judi & Roy King Aiken, SC

Joyce Schultz Derek Coulson Meg & Richard Forward

Beaufort, NC

Kathy Miller & Tom Brown

Robert, Florence & Kora Hausler

Edenton, NC

Hayesville, NC

Sandra & Greg Gahlinger

Morehead City, NC

Fayetteville, NC

Marc Ribaudo Garner, NC

5

You are now a part of the CBC Flock!

Megan Lynch Moncure, NC



# Avian Partners Join Forces for Conservation, Education, & Research by Daniel J. Prohaska

In January 2018, the Avian Conservation Center received a \$3,000 grant from the Carolina Bird Club for the *Avian Protection and Preservation Program*, a conservation initiative designed to provide medical care to injured birds of prey and water birds, conduct environmental education programs, and advance citizen science research on an endangered species. Funds from this grant were used to purchase medical supplies and food for the care of injured birds and husbandry of the Center's resident collection of birds and to conduct environmental education programs across the state.

The natural alignment between the missions of the Avian Conservation Center ("the Center") and the Carolina Bird Club ("the Club") which address research, education, and conservation initiatives of birds of the Carolina and their



**Education Program at the Avian Conservation Center** 

habitats makes this project unique. With these organizations' combined resources the Avian Protection and Preservation Program ("the program") achieved significant successes. Together, we provided medical care to 815 injured birds of prey and water birds, engaged 7,785 students in environmental education outreach, and successfully identified 5,539 sightings of the endangered Swallow-tailed Kite through a citizen science database.

Among the birds impacted by this grant is Mississippi Kite #8382-18-271. The Center received a call in July 2018 from a Pawleys Island resident about a bird that appeared to be orphaned. Further research determined it would not be possible to return this bird to its nest, so it was transported to the Center's Avian Medical Clinic.

Upon arrival Clinic staff administered a full exam which revealed no orthopedic injuries. The bird appeared to be mildly dehydrated and was treated for parasites such as mites which were prevalent on the bird's feathers. Clinic staff structured a treatment plan to stabilize the bird and help it gain weight to prepare for its fall migration to South America. Timing is critical to get the bird ready for release before the end of August when most kites begin their migration south.

In early August the kite was evaluated for released and deemed fit for survival in the wild. Three and a half weeks after being admitted to the Clinic, this fledgling Mississippi Kite was released on the campus of Charleston Southern University in close proximity to other Mississippi Kites which were preparing for their fall migration. Releasing this bird near these adults will increase its chances of successfully migrating to its wintering grounds.

At a time when nearly one in eight species of birds (~12% of all birds worldwide) is at risk of extinction in the next 100 years – 50 times the historic rate – and the leading causes of these declines are linked to habitat destruction and degradation, direct persecution, infrastructure development, and climate change, this program is making a tangible impact on the livelihood of hundreds of priority avian species across South Carolina. Perhaps even more significantly, this program is shaping the hearts and minds of the next generation of conservationists, whose actions will determine the future of the natural world for generations to come.



### 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.

# **A Terrific Spring Meeting in the Sandhills!**

by Susan Campbell



Photo by Susan Campbell

The CBC Spring meeting here in the Sandhills is now history. We had a terrific turn out. Over one hundred members spent the first weekend in May enjoying the local flora and fauna—especially the avifauna, of course! The weather did not interfere with trips too badly.

Thankfully, the rain that was forecast, held off both Saturday and Sunday! Members enjoyed an assortment of opportunities in the field, wonderful evening

speakers both Friday and Saturday night, tasty barbeque at the Saturday banquet, and lots of time for fellowship with old and new birding friends.



Photo by Pam Ford

Photo by Pam Ford Friday night's welcome reception, sponsored by the Sandhills Natural History Society (SNHS), was a real treat with beautifully decorated tables and a variety of tasty treats. The local hospitality committee did an amazing job! SNHS's support of the entire event was invaluable. We are happy to report that they will receive a generous donation as a result of the profits raised from sales of our special meeting t-shirt. Shirts sold out before the end of the week-



end—which was a real testament to the artist; CBC's own Hal Broadfoot.

Groups set out on a total of twenty-six trips all over the area. Visits to a few Piedmont hotspots like Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge and Howell Woods, provided for a real variety in habitat. Also, we were very happy to offer a trip that stopped at one of North Carolina's newest State Parks: Carver's Creek in Spring Lake, just north of Fayetteville.



Bachman's Sparrow Photo by Pam Ford

A total of one hundred twenty species were spotted during the course of the meeting. Local specialties like Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow did not disappoint. Even harder to find species such as Kentucky Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Loggerhead Shrike turned up in a few spots. And there were, of course, migrants passing through. Common Loon (Lake Auman on Saturday), Blue-winged Warbler (at Weymouth Woods on Sunday), Bobolink (House in the Horseshoe on Saturday), Pine Siskin



Photo by Pam Ford

(Thunder Road Friday), and even a Merlin (Powell's Pond on Sunday) were very nice finds.



There was no shortage of other interesting observations during the weekend. Watching a family of White-breasted Nuthatches fledge right in front of our eyes was definitely a highlight for our group in Game Land Friday morning. One lucky group spotted a River Otter along the Pee Dee. And the Friday trip that stopped in the southern portion of



Photo by Pam Ford

Photo by Pam Ford the Game Lands located a new species of dragonfly for Richmond County:

Cocoa Clubtail. It was a memorable meeting for sure! Hopefully CBC members are already looking forward to a return to the Sandhills-- but will not have to wait ten years to do so!!!



Photo by Pam Ford



Photo by Craig Watson



Photo by Craig Watson



Photo by Pam Ford



Photo by Pam Ford

### Carolina Bird Club Field Trip – Blowing Rock, NC

by Steve Shultz



The weekend of April 27-28 dawned with an unseasonable chill. 38 degrees... in late April... Is this North Carolina or Minnesota? Considering that the last local bonus field trip we ran was in December and that morning kicked off around 50 degrees, this felt strange. And did I mention that the wind chill brought the "real-feel" temperature below freezing? So while the environment

screamed winter, the buzzy zzzzur-zzzur-zreee song of a (cold-tolerant) Black-throated Blue Warbler indicated that spring really was here.



Photo by Annie Miller

Of course, the morning eventually warmed up, and as the temperatures creeped toward respectable mercury levels, bird song increased. Buzzy pops of Northern Parula contrasted with the sing-song back and forth of Canada Warbler. Squeaky-wheeled Black-andwhite Warblers dueted with abundant Blue-headed Vireos while Gray Catbirds squeaked in the shrubbery.

Photo by Annie Miller

Over the course of Saturday and Sunday morning, 20 CBC members tallied 95 species of birds including 18 species of warbler. Warblers ranged from common (Black-throated Blue) to challenging (a Golden-winged seen well by only a few). Other highlights included

Bobolinks singing their bubbly songs from grassy fields; savoring ice cream at Valle Crucis park with orioles, Least and Willow Flycatcher, and Eastern Kingbirds; and a group dinner at the Foggy Rock restaurant.



We even discovered a new species, the Great Hornet Owl! (Which is what happens when a distant paper-wasp nest sways in the breeze, tricking hopeful observers!)

Special thanks to Dwayne Martin for leading a second group that enabled us to double the number of eager CBCers accommodated on this popular offering.



Photo by Steve Shultz



# **HOW I GOT INTO BIRDING**



We moved to Houston, TX in the early 80's, bought a new home, and set out to landscape our small yard. I bought a nice bird feeder (my first!) to use as a focal point in the yard.....and the rest is history. The birds came, in colors of red, blue, yellow, brown, black, and white. I had to know who these beautiful creatures were so I bought a pair of inexpensive Bushnell binoculars and a field guide, a 1966 Golden Guide, and I became hooked! From then on, every trip to the beach, golf course, or vacation destination Included these two items.

Fast forward to the present, and I now, not only watch the birds in my yard, but I also garden for them with native plants. I've always thought of birding as a combined hobby/

sport and have birded with so many interesting people that I would never have the chance to meet otherwise. And, have made lasting friendships with many of them. When I leave home today, my binoculars and field guide are still in my bag!

What was your introduction to birds? Let us hear from you!



# CAROLINA BIRD CLUB BONUS TRIP TO COSTA RICA AUGUST 10-20, 2019

# JOIN US FOR 9 FULL DAYS OF BIRDING SOME OF THE BEST COSTA RICA HOT SPOTS INCLUDING MONTEVERDE, ARENAL, AND LA SELVA!







This CBC bonus birding trip will take in some of the very best areas Costa Rica has to offer!

We will begin in the Pacific lowlands birding our way up to the cooler lush cloud-forests for 3 days of exciting birding in the Monteverde area, which is home to the gorgeous Resplendent Quetzal! Next, we will move from the Pacific slope to the Caribbean and the habitat and avifauna will shift radically! We will be staying for 2 nights at the beautiful Arenal Observatory Lodge at the foot of the Arenal Volcano. Birding this area is always fabulous! Finally, we will descend into the Caribbean lowlands for a 3-night stay at the lovely La Quinta Lodge in the Sarapiqui River Valley. Here, we will explore the rain forests of La Selva Biological Station, which is one of the best birding sites in Costa Rica! We will also be visiting other key birding areas, including La Virgen del Socorro, Cope's famous feeders, the Old Butterfly garden, and La Paz Waterfall Gardens. Please see CBC website link for more details!



We will visit hummingbird and banana feeders throughout the trip allowing for up-close and personal study of hummingbirds, tanagers, finches, and much more.

Professional bird guide Steven Easley will be our local guide for our trip, a highly respected authority on Costa Rican birds and other wildlife.

We expect to see over 250 bird species with a good representation of Costa Rica's hummingbirds, toucans, motmots, trogons, tanagers, oropendolas, and much more.



This bonus trip is packed with excellent birding, lodging, and delicious food for a very good price!

Join us as we explore the many wonders of Costa Rica!

Interested birders please contact Sherry Lane at Slane360@yahoo.com for registration information!



# When an Opportunity for a Cross County Trip Presented Itself, I Took it!

by Deborah Roy

Hello! I know that to most of you, I am the new stranger behind the newsletter, but hopefully it won't be long before you meet me in person and get to know me better. I am looking forward to that time! I wanted to share one of the most memorable trips I have ever experienced. It was a fast and furious 5 days, but it was absolutely amazing!

In February of this year, my husband Patrick accepted a new job that came with a company car. His company is based in Portland, Oregon and after spending a week training in Portland, he would need to drive the car back to North Carolina. He said I should fly out to Portland and drive back with him. After giving him a million reasons why it would be hard...work, the dog, other upcoming travel commitments, how much my back would hurt after sitting in a car for so long.....I finally said yes. Within a week, I had purchased a ticket, packed my bags, and headed to Portland to meet him. Our plan was not so direct as you can see on the map to the right. After all, this was a once in a lifetime trip where all hotels and gas were covered by his company.



**Bald Eagle** 

American Kestrel

Black-billed Magpie





We started our journey the night I arrived to put us in a good birding spot for the next day. We were also trying desperately to get ahead of a snowstorm...that ultimately caught up with us. When it got to the point where we were tired and the snow was like a blizzard, we stopped for the night. When we set-off the next morning within 15 minutes of our drive, the tire pressure light came

on for one of the tires. Yes, Patrick had run over a nail and the tire was nearly flat in seconds. He found an amazing place that was able to repair the tire and get this....they did it for free. When this first happened, I was bummed...thinking I would miss out on some early snowy morning birding...but right across the street from the tire place was a

field, a field where several Northern Harriers were hunting, including a grey ghost. I





have historically chased these beautiful owl-faced birds during the winters in North and South Carolina and to see several in a field together was amazing. So beautiful. After getting the tire fixed and heading back out on the road, within just a couple of miles, I noticed several large birds flying around another field. They were Rough-legged Hawks! Lifers! I had only ever seen these in captivity. Once we

got into some more rural countryside, there were American Kestrels perched

along the highway EVERYWHERE! They were sitting on posts and on the wires. Such a sight to see. We headed on to Yellowstone, another first for me. Here we saw several Bald Eagles of varying maturity, lots of Common Ravens, American Dippers (I was hypnotized by these guys) and several others including, ducks, grouse, and pheasants and I didn't even mention all of the mammals, include wolves, coyotes, bison, elk, and deer just to name a few. After Yellowstone, we headed to Theodore Roosevelt National Park where I saw my first wild Golden Eagle. This bird was simply spectacular. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see any wild horses. Next time for sure!



The icing on the cake was visit the popular winter lifers here. Number one on close second, the Northern raptors. I did not discount



our detour north to Minnesota to birding spot—Sax Zim Bog. Lots of the list-The Great Gray Owl and a Hawk Owl. And even though I love the many wintering song birds that

we were able to see. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Boreal Chickadees, Common Redpolls, and tons of woodpeckers, just to name a few. Only spending a day and a half in the bog

wasn't nearly enough. Definitely want to go back here, especially now that we know our way around



and where to spot stuff. Oh did I mention that at one point in the bog we needed to get towed out of a snowbank? Yup! After the bog, we made our journey south, stopping one time to spend the night and hitting a couple of eBird hotspots along the way. The trip was exhausting, and even with the snowstorm, flat tire, being stuck in a snowbank, it was all worth it. Every experience made this journey what it was-simply unforgettable.



**Great Gray Ow** 



Carolina Bird Club, Inc. 1809 Lakepark Drive Raleigh, NC 27612 Periodicals Postage Paid at Pinehurst, NC 28374 and additional mailing offices

# **Upcoming CBC Meetings**

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

Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC lewisburkej@yahoo.com

### **Vice Presidents**

Martina Nordstrand, Indian Trail, NC Guy McGrane, Deep Gap, NC Craig Watson, Mount Pleasant, SC

#### Secretary

Jill Midgett, Charleston, SC

#### Treasurer

Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

### **NC Members-at-Large**

Lester Coble, Ernul, NC Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC Sandra Gahlinger, Morehead City, NC Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC

### SC Members-at-Large

Ed Blitch, Charleston, SC Mac Williams, Hartsville, SC **Immediate Past President:** Christine Stoughton Root

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

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**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.

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