As you all know, the Executive Committee has had the difficult task of trying to lead the bird club during the most serious health crisis the world has faced in over 100 years. We have had to cancel our Spring and Fall Meetings. Also, discussions have begun about the advisability of conducting our Winter Meeting scheduled for the Outer Banks in January of 2021. We have scheduled the Spring 2021 meeting for Black Mountain, N.C., but even that meeting may be in doubt. I know of at least three of our Executive Committee members that have said they will not attend a meeting until there is a vaccine. While I cannot poll the entire membership of the club, I do believe we need your input. So please give me your thoughts. My email is lewisburkej@yahoo.com.

While our meetings have been the major activity of the club, the Executive Committee and other committees of the club have been busy. For example, the N.C. Records Committee is welcoming Martina Nordstrand to its membership. Martina is a young and excellent birder. Aaron Given has worked tirelessly to revise the by-laws of S.C. Records Committee. Under Steve Shultz, “The Chat,” the ornithological journal of the club, continues to be an excellent publication. The Grants Committee, under Craig Watson, gave a full report in the last newsletter but they already have 3 outstanding grant requests under consideration. Also, under the leadership of Craig and Karyl Gabriell, the Executive Committee is evaluating a substantial conservation grant to preserve some important habitat in North Carolina.

The Nominating Committee of the Executive Committee has faced the challenge of the cancelled Spring Meeting which is our business meeting and the time when we elect new offices and executive committee members. We can hold an election if we have 40 members present or by having the proxy of 40 members. The Executive Committee normally holds a planning meeting in August. I will propose that we hold that meeting by Zoom and that we solicit the proxies of a sufficient number of members so we can elect our new Executive Committee members. I personally am in favor of holding this election by proxies so that I can step down as president. Dr. Steven L. Tracy of Gastonia has agreed to be nominated for the presidency.
Birding with Sunflowers by Deborah Roy (Continued from page 1)

to include American Goldfinch, Indigo Buntings, Ruby-throated hummingbirds, Red-winged Black Birds, Eastern Phoebes, House Finches, Blue Grosbeaks, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, and Northern Cardinals. If you are thinking of heading out to locate and/or photograph the birds or sunflowers, do your research. Some fields peaked the first or second week in July and some will not peak until September. It all depends on when the seeds were planted and the peak bloom time for sunflowers is only two weeks, so ensure where you are planning to go still has some blooms. However, it is when the flower begins to fade that is when the sunflower seed begins to form and the feasting begins. I found the best time of day was to get there right before sunrise and a couple hours before sunset. This is when I found the birds to be most active and there were fewer people at the fields. During mid-day, the heat of the day seem to send them under cover of the trees that were closest to the fields. Also, with photography, the light can be very harsh at mid-day. However, if you want to get your fill of bees and butterflies, you may want to wait to go until late morning, when they seemed to be more active. Make sure you bring lots of water with you out into the fields, as well as wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen. Happy birding!

CBC Executive Committee Elections

We have an urgent need to fill two vacancies for both Eastern and Western NC Members-at-Large for two-year terms on the Executive Committee. Members-at-Large, along with 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 Seasonal Meetings. If you are interested in serving your club in either capacity, please contact hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:
President – Steve Tracy – Gastonia, NC (First one-year term)
Eastern NC Vice President - Colleen Bockhahn – Raleigh, NC (First three-year term)
Western NC Member-at-Large – (First two-year term)
Eastern NC Member-at-Large – (First two-year term)
Treasurer – Paul Dayer – Durham, NC

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are listed below. The eligible term for re-election is listed following the incumbents’ names:
Secretary – Jill Midgett – Charleston, SC (Third and final one-year term)
SC Member-at-Large – Mac Williams – Harstville, SC (Second two-year term)

Have you visited the CBC website lately? www.carolinabirdclub.org
Here you can find news and updates, trip information, past newsletters, The Chat, photo gallery, notable sightings in North and South Carolina, and so much more!

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!

Leslie Kennedy
Cary, NC

Dennis McCunney
Greenville, NC

Shawna & Saylor Pochan
Ryan & Arthur Ives
Durham, NC

Marie-Emeline McGee
Landrum, SC

Rachel Wood
Charlotte, NC

Beverly & Anders Gyllenhaal
Raleigh, NC

Evans Lodge
Chapel Hill, NC

Paula Teander
Pittsboro, NC

Tony Johnson
Hilton Head Island, SC

Peter Conway
Chapel Hill, NC

Matt Lawing
Durham, NC

Clarence Mattocks
High Point, NC

John Swan
Asheville, NC

Paul & Kathy Bridgeman
Fayetteville, NC

Cynthia Steffen
Mount Pleasant, SC

Anne & Blayne Olsen
Cornelius, NC

New Life Members!

Jeff Bruton
Raleigh, NC

Baxter McLendon
Brunson, SC

How I Got Into Birding
by Layton Register

I moved to Charleston, South Carolina, one year ago. Until then, I have lived practically my whole life in Kentucky. I grew up on a farm near a small town called Paris. There were a few fields for crops, but it was mainly barns and pastures for horses. My father bred, raised, raced, and sold many Thoroughbred racehorses and rode in many horse shows on his jumpers Sundance, Windjammer, and others. My father’s life revolved completely around horses. To the dismay of my dad, my riding career was short-lived. I think it was about the time I was in lead line that I hung up my boots. Kicking soccer balls, shooting basketballs, and throwing footballs appealed to me more than sitting in a saddle. I stayed in good graces with my father by taking an interest in the Thoroughbreds.

And then my life started revolving around Thoroughbreds after my father took me in 1972 to the racetrack not far from our farm. It is called Keeneland. It was a glorious fall afternoon. The feature race was the Phipps Stable’s Numbered Account winning the Spinster Stakes. I was nine years old. I remember the horses, the riders, the crowd, the dresses, and coats and ties as if it all happened yesterday. Much has changed in horse racing since that day, most of it not for the better.

My interest in birds has replaced my time spent in barns caring for horses and mucking stalls, and when not in a barn, engulfed in Thoroughbred pedigrees, sales catalogs, past performances, and race results and charts. This is even to the point where I have built an on-line bird reference. There are so many excellent resources and ways to learn about birds, but I keep coming back to the drawings and writings of John James Audubon. I cannot decide what impresses me more: Audubon’s artwork and observations or the physical effort that it required for him to create and publish Birds of America. The more I read his accounts for the Birds of America, the more I wished they were indexed. So, this is what I am attempting with my website. It is called AskAudubon.net.

Want to share your own “How I Got Into Birding” story? Please send your completed story to newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org.
CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club.

For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.
On May 5th we were contacted about two young Red-tailed Hawks (Buteo jamaicensis) that were found on the ground in Myrtle Beach. Unfortunately, there had been some construction in the area which resulted in the tree with the nest in it being knocked down. We quickly dispatched one of our dedicated volunteer staff, Mary Hayes to assess the situation. As well as being a clinic volunteer, Mary is also one of our transporters and part of our reuniting team. Mary was able to quickly assess that one of the adults was nearby keeping an eye on the young bird. Unfortunately, by the time Mary had arrived, one of the Red-tailed Hawks had passed. Mary contained the remaining youngster and transported him to the Avian Medical Clinic for assessment.

Luckily, no injuries were found. The bird was provided fluids and a quick meal to hold him over and the decision was made to attempt to reunite this bird with the adult the very same day by placing him in a substitute nest. Mary was able to set up one of our nesting platforms in a tree nearby where the bird was found with the help of the finders. The bird was then placed on the platform under the watchful eye of the adult.

One month later, Mary went back to remove the platform and caught a glimpse of the young Red-tailed hawk soaring above the area! We are thrilled to have been able to reunite him with his parents and give him the very best chance of success in the wild! Have a look through the album below to see a play by play of the reuniting of this Red-tailed Hawk!

Please check out the center’s Facebook page for additional re-nesting stories, programming, and other updates.
Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

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lewisburkej@yahoo.com

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newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

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

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, $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 online. 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.

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall - Beaufort, SC - Cancelled
Winter - Outer Banks, NC - January 14 - 17, 2021
Spring - Black Mountain, NC - May 6 - 9, 2021