Dear Carolina Bird Club Members,

COVID-19 has made our triannual gatherings of club members at awesome birding locations dangerous. Our meetings have become impossible to do as we have normally done. The chance to bird with others, to get permission to bird locations with restricted access, to socialize with one another, to hear from great guest speakers, and to participate in the countdown are some of the highlights of the sense of belonging that our seasonal meetings provide.

The Executive Committee weighed the information provided to us by governmental agencies about the timeline for vaccinations, the risks of large gatherings, and the likelihood of further measures to limit the virus’s spread. With all that in mind, we considered the ramifications of what could happen if someone were asymptomatic and unwittingly spread the virus to others. The potential suffering and lasting consequences far outweigh the fleeting recreation of a weekend of birding. Therefore, we must cancel our in-person Spring Meeting.

BUT! Notice that we said “in-person.” We are going to try something innovative instead. We ask all CBC members to bird as much as they can from 6PM on Thursday April 29th (for owling or woodcocking) until 6PM on Saturday May 1st anywhere in North and South Carolina, putting all your observations into the eBird website or phone app. You may bird with others if you like, but the CBC asks that you respect the wisdom of countless medical professionals and researchers about social distancing and proper preventive measures like not riding in the same car as someone not in your family (or your “pod” as people call them). We also ask that you limit the size of any groups you put together to sizes within the limits recommended by the state health departments of the state in which you reside. Above all, be prudent!

For some additional fun, the Carolina Bird Club maintains a club eBird account (username: Carolina Bird Club), and we ask everyone to share their checklists with the CBC account, so that we can get a scope of how much birding gets done by our membership that weekend. If you are unsure how to share a checklist with someone, or how to use eBird, check out the article in our next newsletter entitled, “New to eBird? Let us Make It Work for You!”

Starting at 7:30PM on Saturday May 1st, the CBC will invite all members to attend a Zoom meeting in which we’ll have a guest speaker (we’re still working on that!), after which we’ll conduct the countdown and see how many species we will have seen at our virtual meeting, anywhere in the Carolinas, on land, sea, or air.

We hope that by Autumn the COVID situation will have improved enough so that we will be able to have our annual Fall Meeting in-person, like normal. But, for now, please join us in our first-ever Spring Virtual Meeting! We hope to see you “there.”

(continued on page 2)
To provide some additional motivation, the Executive Committee is offering prizes for CBC members, along with separate prizes for CYBC members, for eBird lists from the 48-hour Virtual Meeting with the:

1. Highest number of photographs of correctly-identified species (photographs must be taken during the meeting, and metadata can be used to confirm eligibility).
2. Highest number of sound recordings of correctly-identified species. The recordings must be made during the meeting. (.WAV files will be the only acceptable format for sound recordings, as they are the only ones accepted by eBird).
3. Highest number of complete checklists from the greatest number of different eBird hotspots, (only checklists submitted via the eBird app are eligible).

Finally, we are trying something new: starting with our virtual meeting, anyone who submits correctly-identified photographs AND sound recordings to eBird of all four Vireos that can normally be found in the Carolinas shall earn the coveted title of *Carolina Vireo Detective* (and accompanying patch), with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereunto. You do not have to obtain all the photos and recordings during the meeting, but once you do, you can apply for the title via an email (with the eBird lists attached) to hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

We will talk more about the virtual meeting in the April newsletter, but until then we wanted to let all CBC members know what the plans are and encourage everyone to remember COVID guidelines while birding with others, so we can all be healthy and ready to go when we can have our next in-person meeting.

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**Rufous Hummingbird Banding**  
*by Deborah Roy*

My winter visitor was identified as a male Rufous Hummingbird and was banded earlier this winter by Susan Campbell, who is the lead hummingbird researcher in North Carolina with the NC Hummingbird Research Program, a non-profit through the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science Friends. Susan is also a very active CBC member.

As part of the banding, Susan does a feather check and takes lots of measurements. She then adds a tiny dot of temporary paint on top of the bird’s head to identify him. I then got to hold the bird in the palm of my hand as it flies back out to freedom.

The study of wintering hummingbird species is a very important component of what the NC Hummingbird Research Program does. They have only scratched the surface on their quest to learn more about these truly amazing creatures known as hummingbirds. The only way to preserve all species of birds for future generations is to know what they require for survival. The best way to accomplish this is to learn as much about them as possible. Banding is one of the tools in that effort.

The banding did not deter him from returning to his feeder.

The more I read about these little jewels, the more I am in awe of them and nature in general.

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**Newsletter Editor Needed ASAP**

CBC is currently looking for a newsletter editor. Our current editor, Deborah Roy, will assist the next editor in coming onboard. They will also have assistance and support from the current executive board. If you are interested, please send an email to the CBC secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org
## 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](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)

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CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org).
CBC Board Members

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newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2021 – Cancelled
Fall 2021 – TBD
Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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 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.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

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