



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 70

Issue 5

October 2024

Let's Go South for the Winter! by Christine Stoughton, Bob Lewis, and Betsy Kane

A winter trip to the beach promises a chance to see many of our traditional wintering birds and holds the lure of a rare species. This year's winter meeting is no exception, as participants and leaders alike will sort through shorebirds, gulls, terns, loons, sparrows, waterfowl, and more in search of that rarity. Could we spot a new North Carolina record or a life bird? Join us from January 16-19, 2025 at Emerald Isle for fantastic winter birding on our barrier islands, marshes, national forest, and wildlife refuges. From Emerald Isle down east to Carteret County, we'll scour every nook and cranny to discover as many species as possible. We last visited this area in 2005 and tallied up 181 species.



Friday and Saturday night, plan on a social at the Islander Hotel and Resort to renew past acquaintances and meet others prior to hearing from Possumwoods Acres Rehab Facility here in Hubert. Saturday's speaker is still to be announced.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Islander Hotel and Resort, located at 102 Islander Dr, Emerald Isle, NC 28594.

Reservations can be made online using the code CBCCO11625 to obtain our rate, or by calling 252-354-3464. Room rates are \$89 per night for single or double occupancy, plus room tax. Be

sure to mention you are with the CBC when making reservations. All rooms have a hair dryer, coffeemaker, refrigerator, and microwave. Please note that breakfast is not served at this hotel, but there are fast food alternatives available nearby. The reservation deadline is December 16, 2024. Rooms and room rates cannot be guaranteed after this date, so be sure to reserve before the deadline.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2024, Volume 70, Number 5. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

CBC Outer Banks Trip December 14 - 15, 2024

Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other “hotspots”.

The trip will focus on waterfowl and shorebird identification as well as building a broad trip list including everything from grebes to sparrows. The trip starts Saturday, December 14, at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot the south end of the new Basnight Bridge over Oregon Inlet. Saturday will be devoted to birding along the immediate coast. Sunday will include a stop at Alligator River NWR.

Detailed information including directions, lodging choices, dining opportunities and more will be provided to registrants. Birds that you can expect to see include loons, numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, most of the dabbling ducks that winter in eastern North Carolina, chances to see sea ducks including all three American scoters, gulls, wintering passerines, and winter shorebirds including American Avocet, Purple Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Alligator River NWR may provide an opportunity to see black bear, raptors, shorebirds (if water levels are right) and numbers of Tundra Swan and waterfowl.

Logistics: The fee for this field trip is \$75 and advance registration is required. Participation is limited to 12. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. A number of motels, hotels, and other lodging are available in Nags Head north through Kitty Hawk. We will attempt to carpool in order to reduce the number of vehicles caravanning to the birding sites. Spotting scopes are useful if you have one. Dress for the weather and in layers. If we are enjoying a warm early winter, mosquito repellent may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will likely either be at a seafood restaurant or Subway. If you prefer, bring a bag lunch. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner.

This trip involves multiple consecutive hours of standing, walking on uneven or sandy surfaces, and extended exposure to the elements. I would describe the trip as “moderate” from a physical activity perspective.

To register for this field trip contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or (919) 629-7226. Upon confirmation of your slot on the trip you will be sent a registration form/waiver that can be submitted with your trip fee. Note that there is a modest fee to walk out on Jennette’s Pier.

Passing of Longtime Member Clyde Smith

Clyde Smith passed away in Raleigh on August 7, 2024 at the age of 89. He was a long-time member of Carolina Bird Club, and was editor of the Newsletter for 22 years, ending with the March/April 2000 issue. In his many years of service, he played an important role in shaping the CBC Newsletter into what it is today. I think it has been more than 10 years since Clyde attended a meeting, but old-timers will remember him as a regular. Memorial gifts may be made to Raleigh Rescue Mission, 314 E. Hargett St., Raleigh, NC 27601 or the Triangle Land Conservancy, PO Box 1848, Durham, NC. 27702.

Jesse Haaf's Arizona Young Birders Camp Adventures

Camp Chiricahua, Southeastern Arizona

In July I had the good fortune to attend Camp Chiricahua in southeastern Arizona. During this camp, I visited one national park and one state park, covered 650 miles, and saw 190 bird species. Trip leaders were Michael O'Brian and Louis Zemaitis. Many thanks to the Carolina Bird Club for making it possible for me to attend this Arizona Young Birders Camp. Below I will share some notes from a few of the most impactful days.

July 3, Tucson

After arriving in Tucson and a group introduction, we headed south to drive through a desert landscape peppered with mesquite and saguaro. After stopping at the foot of Madera Canyon, we headed up to the Santa Rita Lodge, which has a great setup of feeders. There we saw the rare Berylline Hummingbird. Also seen there were Broad-billed, Rivoli's, and several other hummers. It was a very exciting start to a great trip!



July 4, Tucson

After waking up at our hotel for breakfast and spotting a Lucy's Warbler, our group headed to Saguaro National Park to find some classic desert species. There we saw a Gilded Flicker, a Crissal Thrasher, and a Black-throated Sparrow, to name a few. Afterward, we made our way up Mount Lemmon to camp in Rose Canyon where we saw our first Virginia's Warbler and Yellow-eyed Juncos. At night, we found Common Poorwill and a Great Horned Owl.

July 5, Mt. Lemmon

Waking up to the sounds of Yellow-eyed Junco and Western Bluebirds, we started early this morning on a walk to Rose Canyon Lake. There we saw Red-faced and Olive Warblers and a Greater Pewee. Afterward, we headed up the mountain for more sky-island specialties.

July 6, Mt. Lemmon

Starting out birding at 5:00 am, we ventured back to Rose Canyon Lake, then packed up to head down the mountain towards the Chiricahuas. On the way, we made a stop at a golf course pond in the middle of the desert (Lake Cochise). There we saw dozens of Wilson's Phalaropes and a few Western and Baird's Sandpipers, among other shorebirds. Also, there were Chihuahuan Meadowlark and a few species of ducks. We made it to Cave Creek Ranch just before sundown to see Blue-throated Mountain-gem and a few other species at an amazing feeder setup.

July 7, Portal Arizona

We woke up at 4:30 am on this day to search for birds before sunrise at the Cave Creek Ranch. While there, we heard the first Elf Owl and Inca Dove of the trip. We also saw a Northern Pygmy-Owl and a Bronzed Cowbird. Heading up into the canyon, we stopped along Cave Creek to search for an Elegant Trogon and got fantastic views of a singing male near the nest. There were also calling White-eared Hummingbirds and a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Driving up the canyon searching for birds, we stopped at the southwestern research station to see hummingbirds. We discovered quickly that a snake was raiding a Scott's Oriole nest so I stayed back to view the feeders. I was fortunate to see a baby Scott's Oriole that had fledged before the snake could get to it.

Heading over to the hummingbird feeders, I saw my first Violet-crowned Hummingbird. Right after leaving this spot, trip leader Michael O'Brien spotted a male Montezuma Quail running for cover. Shortly after this, we got out of our van and quickly realized it was a pair of quail with a covey of tiny chicks!



After this satisfying morning, we headed back to the ranch for downtime, which I used to watch the bird feeder setup. In the afternoon, we headed to the desert, which produced Thick-billed Kingbird and Woodhouse's Scrub-jay. We saw droves of Gambel's Quail at various stages of life, despite their average longevity being a mere one and a half years. After these finds, we headed back up the road for a rest stop at the ranch then headed out for nocturnal

birding. Making various stops to listen for owls and nightjars, we saw a cute pair of Whiskered Screech-Owls and a disturbed Acorn Woodpecker looking out of its roost hole.

July 8-15, Portal-Sierra Vista-Patagonia

Highlights for the last week included two Spotted owls, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Juniper Titmouse, Barn Owl, Bendire's Thrasher, Botteri's Sparrow, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Mexican Chickadee, Cassin's Sparrow, Rose-throated Becard, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Golden Eagle, Five-striped Sparrow, and Tropical Kingbird.

It was a once in a lifetime birding trip and I am so grateful to the Carolina Bird Club for this opportunity. For the full trip report, check out <https://ebird.org/tripreport/257411>



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 18 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.carollnabirdclub.org

Exciting News: Carolina Bird Club Partners with Birdability for Birdability Week 2024!

The Carolina Bird Club (CBC) is thrilled to announce its partnership with Birdability, the international organization dedicated to making birding accessible to everyone. Together, we will sponsor this year's Birdability Week, running from October 21-27, 2024.

What is Birdability Week?

Birdability Week is an annual celebration focused on birders with disabilities and other health concerns. This special week serves as a platform to share resources, ideas, and foster a more inclusive and welcoming birding community. Building on the success of inclusive celebrations like #BlackBirdersWeek and Latino Conservation Week, Birdability Week aims to make birding an enjoyable and enriching experience for everyone.



Birdability is committed to ensuring that the birding community and the great outdoors are accessible, safe, and inclusive. They focus on people with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, chronic illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental illness, and those who are neurodivergent or deaf/hard of hearing. Their mission is not only to support current birders but also to introduce birding to those who might not have experienced it yet.

What to Expect This Year

Birdability Week 2024 promises a variety of engaging virtual events and activities designed to highlight and celebrate accessible birding:

- **Virtual Panels and Speakers:** Participate in insightful discussions with experts and advocates in accessible birding. One highlight will be the "Birding with... Birdability Captains" panel, featuring North Carolina's own Karaleah Reichart Bercaw and other Birdability State Captains. They will share adaptive tools and strategies that make birding more accessible and inclusive.
- **Workshops on Backyard Birding and Nature Journaling:**
 - **Backyard Birding Workshop:** Learn how to transform your backyard into a birding haven. This workshop will cover attracting birds with food, feeders, and natural plantings, and will include virtual tours of backyard setups.
 - **Nature Journaling:** Join Birdability Captains Rebecca Geekie, Kim Aikins, and Kathy Balman for a session on making nature journaling more accessible. Discover tips, tools, and ideas to enhance your birding experience through journaling.
- **Offbeat Photography Contest:** A unique competition celebrating the distinctive perspectives of birders with disabilities. This contest will turn the traditional "Best Photo" category on its head.
- **Bird(ability) Your Way! Weekend (October 24-27, 2024):** This event encourages birding in any way that suits you—be it a "big sit," car birding, backyard birding, or hosting an accessible outing. Share your photos and sightings to showcase the diverse ways people experience birding.
- **Birding Livestreams and Virtual Events:** Tune in for live events showcasing adaptive equipment, birding locations, and the diverse experiences of birders with disabilities. Highlights include a special BirdNote event celebrating birdsong and a session from American Trails on working with the Deaf community.

Stay tuned to CBC's Facebook page for more details and updates as we approach this exciting week in October. Participation is completely free of charge, so please join us in celebrating Birdability Week and help make birding accessible for all!



iNaturalist is the Perfect Complement to eBird

iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation. Get connected with a community of millions of scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature! What's more, by recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research-quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. So, if you like recording your findings from the outdoors, or if you just like learning about life, join iNaturalist!



is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in the USA (Tax ID 92-1296468).

Vision: iNaturalist's vision is a world where everyone can understand and sustain biodiversity through the practice of observing wild organisms and sharing information about them.

Mission: iNaturalist's mission is to connect people to nature and advance biodiversity science and conservation.

Learn how to get started with iNaturalist at

<https://help.inaturalist.org/en/support/solutions/folders/151000552105>

Nominations Sought for New CBC Executive Committee Members

As always, at our spring 2025 meeting we will be holding elections for officers as part of the Annual Meeting of members. We will have several vacancies that need to be filled as well as a few positions with members who are eligible to serve another term that will be on the ballot.

Mark Songer (Treasurer), Bob Lewis (NC Member-at-Large) and Jennifer Roberts (SC Member-at-Large) would like to serve a second term.

However, our President, Secretary and Western NC Vice President positions will soon be vacant.

The only position that has a specific requirement of past service is President. It is our hope that the next President will be a member from South Carolina since our current President is a North Carolina resident.

If you are interested in one of these seats, the following descriptions, taken from our by-laws, might help you understand what each is responsible for:

President:

1. shall preside at all meetings of the Club (excepting the portion that deals with elections of Officers and Members-at-Large) and at all meetings of its Executive Committee (See [Article XI, Subarticle III, Nominating Committee, Number 5](#)).
2. has authority to appoint committees (See [Article XI, Subarticle II, Number 1](#) and [Subarticle III, Nominating Committee, Number 1](#), and [Species Records Committee, Numbers 2 and 3](#)).
3. shall be an Ex-officio (non-voting) member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.
4. is authorized to represent CBC at meetings of other nature organizations and commissions, and may delegate substitute(s) in absence of the President
5. shall be responsible for the Club Seal.
6. Shall pass on to successor any and all files and records pertaining to the Club as soon as possible after leaving office.

Western NC Vice-President:

1. longest in office is to preside and temporarily assume the President's functions in the absence of the President.
2. are to serve as chairs of the Awards, Membership or Publicity Committees, or any other committee chair designated by the Executive Committee.

Secretary:

1. shall record the minutes of General Meetings of the Club in which a matter for record is conducted, minutes of Special Actions (See [Article XI, Subarticle I, Number 3](#)), and of all Executive Committee Meetings.
2. shall provide copies of all minutes to all members of the Executive Committee within sixty days following all Executive Committee Meetings. Is to maintain file(s) of all minutes.
3. shall record members appointed to all committees of the Club and include in minutes.
4. shall provide, for the information of the membership, all committee appointments to the Editor of the Newsletter for publication as soon after appointments as possible.
5. shall aid the President in developing Agenda by maintaining records of incomplete actions.
6. is to provide successor all records and minutes as soon as possible after leaving office.

If you have questions or are interested in running for one of the vacancies, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Julie Davis (SC Vice President), Betsy Kane (Eastern NC Member-at-Large) and/or Paul Laurent (Western NC Member-at-Large). You can find their contact information at the club website in the Executive Committee section of the About tab.

Memories From Winter 2023-2024

Short-eared Owl at Guilford County Farm, North Carolina, 29 December 2023. Photo by Bob Lewis



Carolina Bird Club
1800 Meadow Ave.,
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Banner Elk, NC 28604
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter Meeting at Emerald Isle, NC – January 16-19, 2025

Spring Meeting at Fletcher, NC – April 26-27, 2025

Fall 2025 meeting in the South Carolina Low Country (exact destination TBA) - early October

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

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Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

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Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Mark Songer, Greenville, SC

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Kevin Burke, Hendersonville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC
Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC
Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC
Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC, hq@carolinabirdclub.org
CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadline for submission of Volume 70, Issue 6 is
October 15, 2024

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.

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