



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 70

Issue 6

December 2024

LET'S GO SOUTH FOR THE WINTER! Host Hotel - Islander Hotel and Resort - Emerald Isle, NC January 16-19 2025

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 to Down East Carteret County, we will scour every nook and cranny to discover as many species as possible. Our 2005 meeting netted 181 species, so let's top that!



On Friday and Saturday night, plan on a social at the Islander Hotel & Resort to renew past acquaintances and meet others prior to hearing from Possumwoods Acres Rehab Facility here in Hubert. Saturday's speaker will be a representative from the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Host Hotel: Islander Hotel & Resort, located at 102 Islander Drive, Emerald Isle, NC 28594. Reservations can be made online using the **GROUP CODE CBCC011625** 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. They will also honor this rate on January 15th if rooms are available – you will need to call to make that reservation. 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

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2024, Volume 70, Number 6. 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

cannot be guaranteed after this date, so be sure to reserve before the deadline. With participation limits on all field trips, like the early bird getting the worm, early registration will give you the best chance for your trips of choice, so make your plans now, and we'll see you at Emerald Isle.

Online Registration opens, Saturday December 7th at 2:00 pm. Registration ends **December 29th** at noon. Registration may be extended if we have sufficient early registrants but is not guaranteed. **January 5th** at noon, is the last day for refunds if you have to cancel attendance. Also, very important— If you have to cancel, please do so online, or else notify the Headquarters Secretary by sending an email to hq@carolinabirdclub.org so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list. Walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting. Please reserve your room and thank them for their hospitality. CBC greatly appreciates your use of the host hotel. The rate is exceptional, and you actually save CBC costs by staying with us.

Registration: Hotel lobby at entrance to ballroom on the left. January 16, Thursday 4:00 pm-9:00 pm; January 18 & 19, Friday & Saturday, 6:45-7:45 am and 12:30-1:30 pm.

Field Trip Sheets: Located in the registration room. After checking in at registration, please put a checkmark by your name on each of the field trip sheets so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name, so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Directions/Trip Info: In the interest of the environment, we are no longer printing and packaging the meeting information you receive by email, including directions, field trip descriptions, and the itinerary. Plan ahead by printing or downloading this information before you arrive. Be sure to visit the conference registration table as soon as you check in at the hotel, sign in for the meeting and check-mark your name on the field trip list so we know you have arrived.

Departure Times: The field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. Please arrive at a minimum 10–15 minutes early. Look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cell phone numbers will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip, make every effort to advise the trip leader or meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you.

All Day Trips: Please bring a lunch, snacks, water. The two sites are remote with no nearby restaurants.

Hotel Returns: Morning trips should be back to the hotel by noon; afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 pm. As is becoming the tradition, we will have a raffle as part of our weekend. Proceeds will benefit our Young Birders (camp scholarship) Fund. Please consider bringing a bird-related item or two for donation at the meeting. And as many of you know that regularly attend our meetings, we will also have bird books and magazines available for a small donation that will also go to the same fund.

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting Agenda

Emerald Isle North Carolina January 16-19, 2025

Islander Hotel & Resort

Check-in time is 4 pm

<p>Thursday, January 16</p> <p>4:00 - 9:00 pm Opening Registration Dinner on your Own</p>	
<p>Friday, January 17</p> <p>Field Trips -1/2 and full-day Dinner on your own 6:00 - 7:30 pm Cash Bar/Social 6:30-7:00 Announcements/NCBA 7:00-8:00 pm-Program by Leslie Ruble from Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary - their quest and guest.</p>	<p>Start at Host Hotel Restaurants List – Registration Desk Host Hotel Host Hotel Host Hotel</p>
<p>Saturday, January 18</p> <p>Field Trips -half and full-day Dinner on your own 6:00 - 7:30 pm Cash Bar/Social 7:15 - 7:30 pm Announcements 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Program-NC Coastal Federation 8:30 pm Species Countdown</p>	<p>Start at Host Hotel Restaurant List - Registration Desk Host Hotel Host Hotel Host Hotel</p> <p>Matt Janson - Returning Young Birder</p>

The Carolina Bird Club is conducting a **member survey** to help plan for the future. We appreciate your time in completing this survey which should take less than 15 minutes. The survey is being conducted using Google Forms but you do not need an account to complete the survey. Results are anonymous (if you provide your email in the volunteering section, we will remove it before looking at the results).

In the next week, you will receive an email from CBC Notifier (notification@carolinabirdclub.org) with a link to the survey. Please complete the survey by November 11th.

Thank you for your participation.

Field Trip Schedule

Trip #	January 17 - Friday Morning	Time	Trip #	January 18 - Saturday Morning	Time
1	North River Wetland Preserve	7:00	19	North River Wetland Preserve	7:00
2	Fort Macon State Park	7:00	20	Fort Macon State Park	7:00
3	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	7:15	21	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	7:15
4	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	7:30	22	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	7:30
5	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	7:30	23	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	7:30
6	Shorebird Workshop	8:30	24	Atlantic Beach Pier	8:30
			25	Birding 101, Day1 - Day10,000	8:00
Trip #	January 17 -Friday Afternoon	1:00	Trip #	January 18 - Saturday Afternoon	Time
8	North River Wetland Preserve	1:00	27	North River Wetland Preserve	1:00
9	Fort Macon State Park	1:15	28	Fort Macon State Park	1:00
10	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	1:30	29	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	1:15
11	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	1:15	30	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	1:30
12	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	1:30	31	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	1:15
13	Atlantic Beach Pier	12:30	32	Atlantic Beach Pier	1:30
14	Rachel Carson & Bird Shoal		33	Rachel Carson & Bird Shoal	12:30
Trip #	January 17 -Full Day	Time	Trip #	January 18 - Full Day	Time
16	Shackleford Banks East	8:00	35	Shackleford Banks East	8:00
17	Cedar Island	7:00	36	Cedar Island	7:00
				January 19 - Sunday	
			37	Rarities Chase	7:30



Field Trip Descriptions



17 & 36: Cedar Island - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cedar-island>

Covering over 14,000 acres, Cedar Island NWR consists of sandy beach shoreline, marsh, and both maritime and upland forests. We will start with a brief stop to look for Seaside Sparrow. Any brushy area may hold a Sedge Wren, especially along Lola Road, and the shoreline adjacent the ferry terminal will allow shorebird viewing. The beach walk will be about a two-mile round trip with firmer and softer sand footing. Down the beach we can scope the ponds and water on the inland side of this spit from atop the dunes. We will also make a stop near the Ferry Road Bridge for sparrows and rails. There is a restroom at the ferry terminal, and picnic tables for our lunch. Bring your spotting scope if you have one, otherwise share those brought by the leaders. **Travel time:** One hour - we will bird going and coming back. **Difficulty** - Moderate. **Facilities** - limited, so bring a lunch and water.



Seaside Sparrow is one of the target species for the Cedar Island field trip.

16 & 35: Shackleford Banks East - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L674614>

This trip travels to a remote barrier island (no facilities) where we hope to find numbers of shorebirds, waders, and beach birds. This is an amazing opportunity to bird an area that is as natural as it gets in coastal North Carolina. We should have nice numbers and variety of shorebirds, with the possibility of Long-billed Curlew. This is the location where a Bar-tailed Godwit spent a number of recent winters. Access to the island is via “ferry”, a small open boat. Bring lunch, water, extra jacket and footwear that can withstand several inches of water. Conditions will be muddy in some marsh-side areas. Be prepared for cold, wind, and possible spray on the boat ride to and from the island. There is no dock on Shackleford, so participants will need to exit the boat onto the beach, possibly crossing shallow water for a short distance. If weather cancels the trip, alternate trips will be available on the mainland.

Among the birds we hope to see: Red-throated Loon, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, Northern Gannet, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson’s Plover, and Marbled Godwit. In addition, a few the wild ponies may be in the area. **Travel time** - 1:05. The ferry departs from 1800 Island Road, Hackers Island at 10:00 am. **This trip requires purchase of ferry transportation at \$24/person** - pay at

the ferry terminal or book online. **Difficulty** – Possible spray, walking on soft sand and mud. **Facilities** - at the ferry terminal.

1,8,19 & 27: North River Wetland Preserve - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1023805>

North River Preserve is managed by the North Carolina Coastal Federation. This is an area of over 6,000 acres that is being restored from farmland to upland and lowland forest, freshwater and tidal wetlands, and open water and mudflats. The restoration effort provides excellent habitat for passerines, shorebirds and wintering ducks. Since access is limited to this property, take advantage of this opportunity to learn about habitat restoration efforts while birding one of the best hotspots in the area. The possibility of a rare bird is good! **Travel time**: 55 minutes. **Difficulty**: Easy - In and out of car several times. **Facilities** - None **Cost**: \$5/person, payable at the gate by cash or check.

2,9,20 & 28: Fort Macon State Park - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L387768>



Common Eider is a possible species at Fort Macon State Park.

The birdwatching at Fort Macon State Park is enriched by the surrounding Atlantic Ocean, Newport River, Beaufort Inlet, and Fort Macon Creek, all facing the Morehead City Channel. Birds frequently fly over the park, moving to and from these nearby water bodies. Pelagic birds can occasionally be spotted near Shackleford Banks on the horizon or over the channels. Occasionally, catch a glimpse of a Common Eider or Great Cormorant. With such a diverse landscape, one never knows what delightful avian surprises may appear. **Travel time**: 25 minutes. **Difficulty**: Easy to Moderate, with some unlevel ground and beach walking. **Facilities**: On-site.

4,11,22 & 30: Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods Park

The *Cedar Point Tideland Trail* (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L579948>) provides opportunities to view salt marsh and upland pine/hardwood-associated bird species. A combination of raised boardwalks and paths cross the marsh and pine/hardwood communities as the trail winds around along the edge of the White Oak River Estuary. Snags offer good chances to view woodpecker species, including Red-headed Woodpecker. The trail offers a nice view of the tidal marsh with opportunities to view herons, egrets, and Osprey.

At *Emerald Isle Woods Park* (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2153912>), get a glimpse of how Emerald Isle must have looked when it was completely undeveloped, covered in dense trees. In total, the park stretches over 41 acres of forest. This is an under-birded area – who knows what surprise it may present! **Travel time**: 10 minutes. **Difficulty**: Easy with some boardwalk. **Facilities**: On-site.

5,12,23 & 31: Patsy Pond at Croatan National Forest & Gallants Channel

Patsy Pond (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L741082>) is part of the Croatan National Forest and winds through an open woodland of longleaf pine forest. Red-cockaded Woodpecker can be found here year-round. We will look for active cavity trees marked with blue bands.

Trails at *Gallants Channel* (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L14406635>) traverse woods, wetlands, coastal habitats, and the improved waterfront area of the Gallants Channel site. This area offers opportunities to see various wading birds and shorebirds along the waterfront, including herons, egrets, terns, gulls, pelicans, Black Skimmers, and American Oystercatchers. The trails have been designed to access several habitats. **Travel time:** 15 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Facilities:** Close by.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a year-round resident at Patsy Pond, Croatan National Forest.

3,10,21 & 29: Hoop Pole Nature Trail & Calico Creek

Hoop Pole Creek Natural Area (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L606265>) includes a 0.5-mile trail that follows Hoop Pole Creek out to Bogue Sound, passing through maritime forest for much of the walk and ending with views of coastal salt marsh. A variety songbirds may be seen in the wooded areas – Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet are frequent. We will scan the creek and marsh areas for Northern Harrier, Osprey, Marsh Wren, and wading birds, and we will look and listen for rails.

Calico Creek Boardwalk (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L983859>) is a noted spot on the North Carolina Birding Trail and is a unique destination that's hidden among local houses and businesses. The boardwalk provides opportunities to see wintering waterfowl and water birds. **Travel time:** 25 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Facilities:** Close by.

6: Shorebird ID Workshop and Field Birding

The shorebird workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as overall profiles, foraging behaviors, and habitat which can aid birders at all experience levels to quickly and confidently identify shorebirds to species. We will review all shorebird families, but our primary focus will be Charadriidae (plovers) and Scolopacidae (sandpipers). If you're interested in refining your "peep" identification skills, then please join me in this discussion-based workshop. **Location:** Hotel - off site field locations to be determined by the leader. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Facilities:** At the hotel.

25: Birding from Day 1 to Day 10,000 (Birding 101)

This is a trip for newer birders and those more experienced who want to gain tips for identifying birdlife. Use of binoculars and using bird shapes to home in on a species will allow you to feel comfortable using the field guide of your choice. Don't be surprised to learn long time birders must practice these skills too! **Travel time:** Dictated by the leader's choice of birding sites. **Difficulty:** Easy? **Facilities:** At the hotel.

14 & 33: Rachel Carson Reserve at High Tide -

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L899138> &
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1273924>

Take a short ride on an open boat to this unspoiled island just across the channel from Beaufort. More than 200 species of birds have been observed at the site, which is on the Atlantic Flyway and is an important feeding area for Piping Plovers and other wintering birds. Meet at the hotel then proceed to the Islander Ferry Adventure at 610 Front Street on the waterfront in the Beaufort. At the terminal use the restroom as there are no facilities available after this point. When we beach the boat for our 3-to-4-hour visit, expect a slim chance for water underfoot while getting ashore. If weather cancels the boat, alternate trips will be available on the mainland. We will plan our trip to coincide with high tide when the greatest concentration of shorebirds will be present. **Travel time:** 20 minutes. **Difficulty:** Moderate, with extensive walking, some on sand. **Facilities:** None. **Cost:** \$20 for the Rachel Carson Ferry which has to be paid for at time of registration. The maximum number of attendees is 20.



Marbled Godwit is one of the shorebird species found at Rachel Carson Preserve in January.

13, 24 & 32: Atlantic Beach Pier - Handicap Accessible - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1068007>

A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for nearshore birds and occasional pelagic species that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will scan the ocean with you as you watch the action for loons, grebes, scoters Razorbills, gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or some shearwaters. No fee is required to access the pier. **Travel time:** 35 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Handicap Accessible Facilities:** Nearby

37: Search for Rarities: Attempts to relocate rarities that had been seen over the weekend.



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



Emerald Isle, NC Registration Form

Registration Begins Dec 7th @ 2 pm. Register Online for
Best Availability of Field Trips at
www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice	To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.
Friday	/	/	/	
Saturday	/	/	/	

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$45 = \$ _____

Ferry Fee Rachel Carson Trip 14 & 33 _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Meeting registration at the door costs \$45.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

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 _____

CBC Bonus Trip: Warbler Road

May 10-11, 2025

By Steve Shultz

A road paved with warblers? Almost! Virginia's famous "Warbler Road" has long been known as an opportunity to enjoy seeing and hearing most of the Southeast's montane breeding warblers in one day. Dropping from the crest of the Blue Ridge to the James River valley, this series of interconnected forest roads passes through breeding habitat used by Canada, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Black-throated Green, and Pine Warblers, Ovenbird, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, and more. Add in Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, vireos, thrushes, and others, and a May trip to the mountains north of Roanoke, Virginia can be nothing less than magical.

But it gets better, for within a short distance are riverine habitats preferred by Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Warbling Vireo, Baltimore and Orchard Oriole, Yellow and Yellow-throated Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher and more. And if that were not enough, toss in a dash of open field birding for Grasshopper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and allies, along with a visit to one of the area's best spring migrant traps for Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, lingering waterfowl, spring shorebirds, and the occasional Black-billed Cuckoo, and you have the makings for a very special weekend.



Blackburnian Warbler is one of many warbler species that might be encountered at Virginia's famous "Warbler Road" during a spring migration visit.

Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we visit Warbler Road for a first ever (to this wonderful location) "bonus field trip weekend". If you've never seen or heard a Cerulean Warbler, this is the trip for you. While scarce in the Carolinas, this beautiful summer resident is almost common in Virginia's Blue Ridge... if you know where to look (and we do!). Your trip fee of \$125 covers guided birding all day Saturday, May 10 and the morning of Sunday, May 11. Participants are responsible for lodging, meals, and transportation. We limit this opportunity to 8 participants in order to provide the best possible experience.

Contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or 919-629-7226 for registration. Upon confirmation of your space on the trip, additional information on lodging, logistics, and frequently asked questions will be provided. Note that lodging in and north of Roanoke, Virginia is plentiful and reasonably priced at the time this trip is offered, but due to college graduations and other events, often sells out or becomes rather expensive closer to spring. Early reservations are recommended to ensure choice.



Fall Meet-ups a Success!

Fall Meeting Field Trip Summaries

In place of our traditional Fall seasonal meeting, CBC held day long meet-ups in the three geographic regions of North and South Carolina on successive Saturdays last month. Although Hurricane Helene foiled our plans in the mountains and Piedmont of South Carolina on September 28th, a group along the coast managed a fun day of birding. Turnout was lower than we hoped, but feedback from the gatherings was quite good. We have no plans anytime soon to repeat this meeting format, however we now know it is a possibility in the future.

North Carolina Coastal Option - 21 September, 2024

A total of eleven people joined the outing, including six new birders as CBC participants, three long-time members, one gentleman from Maine who joined us as he headed south, and our outstanding leader, Martin Wall.

Our first stop was the North River Wetland Preserve, which was indeed very wet. Despite the slow start, we were well on our way by 8:30 am, achieving a total of 54 species at the first stop. Four Kestrels provided quite a show with their interactions. We also topped out at five warbler species, with a total of 17 birds still in breeding plumage, all located within a 1/4-mile stretch.

Our second stop was Fort Macon State Park, which was bustling with many people enjoying their last days of summer. Despite the crowds, the birds were still present. Brown Pelicans were abundant, and we observed five species of Terns. On the more colorful side, we spotted Ruddy Turnstones and a pair of Painted Buntings at the feeders, which did not disappoint.

We topped out at a total of 63 species observed, showcasing the area's rich diversity of land and shorebirds.

North Carolina Piedmont Option - 21 September, 2024

The Fall 2024 NC Piedmont CBC trip was both successful and enjoyable for participants and leaders alike. About fifteen attendees and several leaders, joined by helpful local birders out and about, enjoyed a variety of Fall migrants at Ebenezer Point and Buckhorn Dam in Chatham County. Highlights included Bay-breasted (which has been much less numerous this year than last), Cape May, and Blackburnian Warblers, providing several attendees their lifer looks, along with Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. But the star of the show was an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron, who sat cooperatively in a tree and gave everyone a long look!



The star of the North Carolina Piedmont meeting was an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron, who sat cooperatively in a tree and gave everyone a long look!

North Carolina Mountain Option - 21 September, 2024

Twelve birders started the day at Jackson Park in Hendersonville – one of the preeminent sites to experience fall migration in western North Carolina. We were treated to a classic day of migration at the park, finding 14 species of warblers, including good views of a rare Golden-winged Warbler. Another good find was a rare flyover Red-headed Woodpecker. After a picnic lunch, we headed to the Blue Ridge Parkway for a hawk watch at the Mills River Valley Overlook. There we were treated to a pair of adult Bald Eagles that flew directly overhead, a kettle of over 100 Broad-winged Hawks, and another Red-headed Woodpecker. What a great complement to our morning woodland birding! We ended the day with 58 species and a dozen very happy birders.

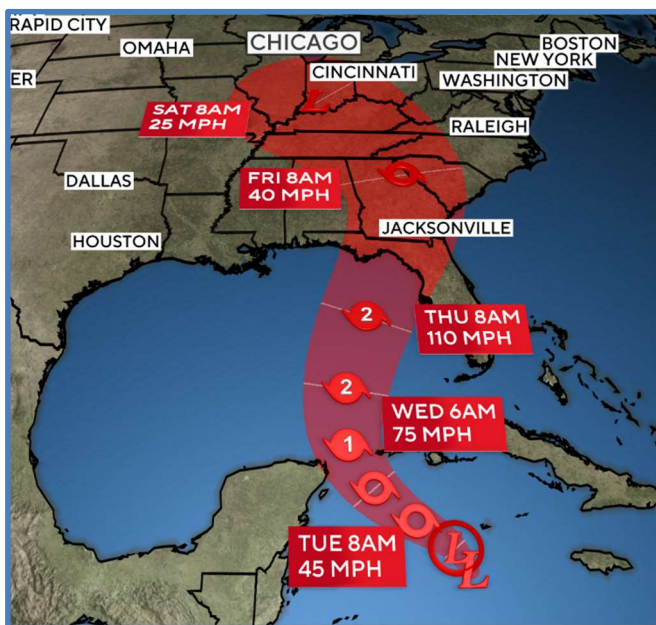


These intrepid CBC birders spent the morning at Jackson Park in Henderson County on 21 September, 2024.



Hurricane Helene Has Changed the Mountain Landscape That CBC Birders Will See

By Steve Dowlan



Hurricane Helene slammed into the mountains of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and western South Carolina on September 27 and 28, adding a massive amount of rain to already saturated soils. As you have undoubtedly seen on every kind of news and social media outlet, this storm was like nothing anyone had ever seen. Records for rainfall and floodwater depth were broken, and homes, vehicles, property, public utilities, and lives were lost in a matter of hours. Left without cell service or internet, most of us had no idea how much rain had fallen, and many mountain residents did not understand the full scope of the storm and the damage it left in their area for days.

I was the first out of my neighborhood to survey the damage around my home in the Watauga County High Country on Friday afternoon, just after the winds subsided. Here, the difference between the affected and the unaffected was proximity and orientation to even the smallest ditch and intermittent stream. If a home was perched high enough between any water features and the slope below held, everything looks eerily unchanged. If the next house down the road was across from a culvert or stream, the road, any culverts, bridges, yards, driveways, and vehicles might have been swept away or destroyed on-site and debris was carried miles downstream. Simple topography was the factor that determined of the amount of destruction that occurred.

Other than a few down trees and some erosion around our entrance bridge, my neighborhood came through unscathed... we were lucky. For a little less than a day, we could not get to Boone, just a few miles away. Our power was restored late on Friday – out for only about eight hours – so we could at least host other friends and families who had no power, no internet and no cell phone service. This lasted for almost two weeks for some. With no way to call or contact friends via digital media, news was conveyed in the old-fashioned way... we talked to one another face-to-face.

My experience here was nothing compared to what happened elsewhere in the mountains, and for many, recovery from the storm will takes months or years... maybe even a lifetime. As local communities recuperate, they will need your business from “down the mountain.” Some towns were less affected and are ready for visitors and the money they bring now. My local communities of Boone and Blowing Rock are among them. Other communities need you to stay away a while longer so that they can clean-up, grieve and rebuild. In some areas, including favorite birding locations, “you can’t get there from here” will be in effect for a while longer.

As of October 23, only a 20-mile section of the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) in North Carolina is open between from milepost 285.5 at Bamboo Gap to milepost 305 near Beacon Heights, in the Blowing Rock area. Some trails and facilities in this section are still closed to all entry. The rest of the BRP is closed in North Carolina, including to foot traffic. Check <https://www.blueridgeparkway.org/> for the latest on BRP

closures. The Parkway is kind of the “artery” of High Country birding activities, and it is the most visited national park unit in the United States, with 16.7 million visitors in 2023. I’m sure all of us will be shocked to find out what parts of the road looked like after the storm, although after seeing what happened to other public roads near my home, my shock might be a little less. Nonetheless, I’m hopeful that all of us will be able to visit the rest of the western counties for our mountain specialties.

So, please check any available resources before you head into the mountains for birding adventures during the next few months. Visit North Carolina has released a helpful interactive map (<https://www.visitnc.com/advisory/cAdA/hurricane-helene-travel-advisory>) that shows the most up-to-date road closures, areas that you should avoid, and where it is safe to travel. If you have friends and acquaintances in the areas you hope to visit, check with them for real-time updates. Mountain people are resilient and self-reliant, and your sensitivity and respect for their struggles and needs will go a long way toward creating a welcoming atmosphere for visiting birders. Be patient, be kind, and be helpful, please.

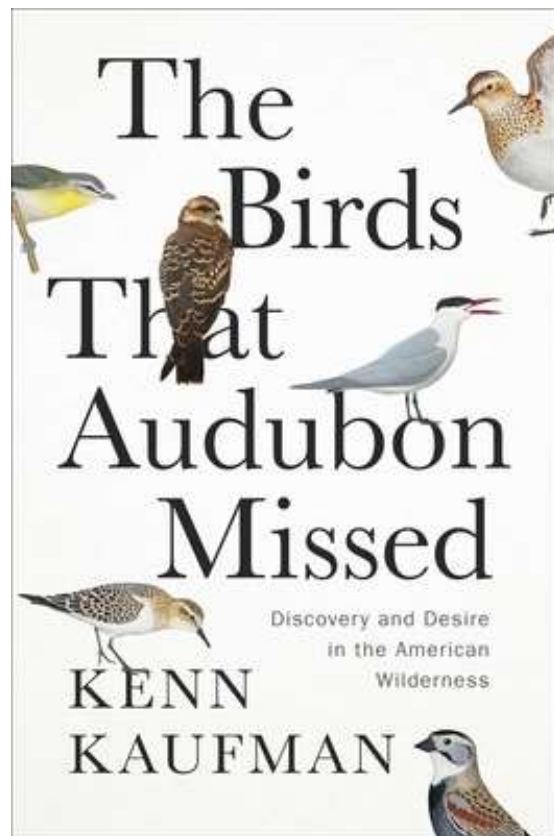
Birders Book Review:
The Birds That Audubon Missed: Discovery
and Desire in the American Wilderness by
Kenn Kaufman

2024, Hardcover; 400 pgs. ISBN: 9781668007594

What’s in a name? A lot as it turns out. One of the biggest news stories in recent birding history is the announcement that American eponymous names are on the way out, to be replaced with less controversial, and presumably more descriptive, common English monikers. No matter where one’s views might be on that topic, the history of how birds received their names fascinates.

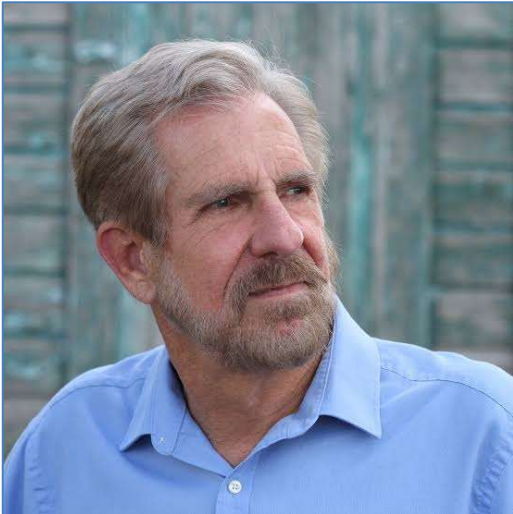
Whole books have been written on the subject and make fascinating reading. Kenn Kaufman’s *The Birds That Audubon Missed: Discovery and Desire in the American Wilderness* is not that book. Although the often-fascinating stories behind common English are weaved throughout, Kaufmann’s latest offering marries anecdotes, personalities, science, and especially art into an engaging, thought-provoking, and enjoyable read.

Blending fascinating biographies of early naturalists exploring frontiers of a “new” continent, an artist’s critique of perhaps the most famous avian painting collection in the world, John James Audubon’s *Birds of America*, and poignant thoughts on natural history, Kaufman leads us on an entertaining, roller-coaster journey through one of this work’s most



interesting threads, why did Audubon and contemporaries miss certain species of birds familiar to current day observers?

Certainly, modern day tools allow biologists to separate species not obvious morphologically, but how did species clearly separable by visual observation or, as was common at the time, in the hand after collection at the end of a shotgun fly undetected at a time when finding and naming new birds was a contemporaneous Oscars race? Kaufmann chews on this question while grabbing and intertwining personal memories, an artist's eye, and a philosopher's mind, all the while backed by painstaking original source documentation.



The title's promise of Discovery is answered by questions including: How was Lincoln's Sparrow discovered and who is it named after? What, exactly, is a Small Headed Flycatcher? Where can one find a Washington Sea-Eagle? And why are some of the species depicted in Birds of America postured that way?

And perhaps most importantly, was John James Audubon worth the praise that his image garners today? The title's promise of Desire recounts the fascinating and intense race to claim, as one's own, the bounty of new species found in fledgling North America.

The Birds That Audubon Missed offers all of this and more. If you or someone you know (and it is the holiday season!) appreciates history, loves birds, or simply likes a good story, this book is for you. I guarantee that you will enjoy.

Steve Shultz

Project FeederWatch Season Starts November 1



Friday, November 1, is the first day to count birds for FeederWatch's 38th season. If you haven't signed up yet, [join today!](#) Remember, you don't need feeders to participate, and you can count for as little time as you want.

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Project FeederWatch is sponsored in the U.S. and Canada by [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) and in Canada by [Armstrong Bird Food](#).



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at Banner Elk, NC 28604
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Spring Meeting at Fletcher, NC – April 26-27, 2025

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

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December 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).

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