Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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

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CBC Outer Banks Trip
December 13 - 14, 2025

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 13, 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. The trip will end around noon on Sunday the 14th.

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.

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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 repellant may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will be picnic-style unless weather is a challenge, in which case we can visit a nearby sandwich shop. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner.

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.

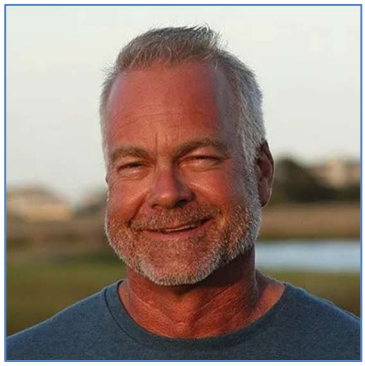
CBC Winter Meeting: back to the Outer Banks!
January 23-25, 2026

The North Carolina Outer Banks is one of our most popular meeting locales. The Outer Banks is not only a destination that produces incredible bird diversity in the winter months, but also hosts an astounding abundance of feathered fauna. Pea Island, Alligator River, Hatteras Point, and Mattamuskeet are just some of the renowned birding hotspots we will visit. We expect to tally well over 150 species during the weekend. We are staying at the Comfort Inn South Oceanfront in Nags Head, which will also be our meeting headquarters. Plan now on going!

Comfort Inn South Oceanfront

Registration is now open for Wings Over Water 2025!
Manteo, North Carolina

You can now check out this year's selection of trips and events for the annual festival of birds and wildlife on NC's Outer Banks! Go to www.wingsoverwater.org. Trips are filling up fast!



Festival dates are Tuesday, October 14 through Sunday, October 19. As always, there are new offerings as well as perennial favorites. This year's keynote speaker is our own Brian Patteson from Hatteras, NC. Brian is a world-renowned offshore birder and photographer who operates his Seabirding tour business aboard the Stormy Petrel II. His countless hours spent off the coast of North Carolina have significantly improved our understanding of the distribution of many sea-going species in the area. His Saturday night presentation will be an illustrated overview of pelagic species found in the Gulf Stream.

The winter Encore weekend is Friday, December 5th through Sunday, December 7th. Come marvel and the diversity of cold-season waterfowl and waterbirds of North Carolina's Dare, Hyde and Tyrell Counties.

Join the Leadership of the Carolina Young Birders Club!

Do you have a passion for birding, youth engagement, and conservation? The Carolina Young Birders Club is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to lead and inspire the next generation of bird enthusiasts in North and South Carolina. With 34 active members, a robust online presence, and established resources, this is your chance to make a meaningful impact!

Why Volunteer with Us?

- ***Make a Difference:*** Play a pivotal role in shaping the future of young birders and fostering a love for nature and conservation.
- ***Gain Leadership Experience:*** Develop your leadership skills and gain valuable experience in managing a vibrant community organization.
- ***Leverage Existing Resources:*** Benefit from our established website, newsletter, Facebook community, scholarship opportunities, and operating funding to drive the club's success.
- ***Connect with Like-Minded Individuals:*** Join a network of passionate birders and conservationists who share your enthusiasm for the natural world.

Your Role:

As a volunteer leader, you'll have the opportunity to guide the club's activities, engage with members, and bring fresh ideas to the table. Whether you're interested in organizing events, managing communications, or expanding our reach, your contributions will be invaluable.

Ready to Take Flight?

If you're ready to take the Carolina Young Birders Club to new heights, we want to hear from you! Please express your interest by contacting carolinayoungbirders@gmail.com
Join us in inspiring the next generation of bird lovers and making a lasting impact on our community. We look forward to welcoming you to our team!

Thank you for considering this request. I'm confident that with your help, we can find the perfect leaders to continue the club's mission. Looking forward to your thoughts!

Best regards,
Christine

In Memory Of…

Pat Moore, of Frisco, NC passed away shortly after celebrating her 97th birthday in early April. As has been said, Pat was an accomplished teacher, gifted artist and loved birds. She was a life-long enthusiast who was not only passionate about birdwatching but tirelessly volunteered in the name of birds and their habitats on the North Carolina Outer Banks. She and her husband Neal made many trips early in their married life from Maryland to the area for Pat to look at birds and for Neal to fish. After moving to Dare County full time at retirement, Pat became a volunteer with both the National Park Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

She would lead regular bird walks on Cape Point and around North Pond at Pea Island. Pat and Neal also loved taking visitors, including many CBCers, out on the beach to the Point in their 4 WDs over the years. Pat was also one of the original organizers of the annual Wings Over Water birding and wildlife festival. She served on the steering committee until the time of her passing. Likewise, Pat was the compiler of the local Hatteras Christmas Bird Count right up to the 2024-25 season. She will surely be missed by the local birding community as well as scores of bird friends far and wide.

Bruce Smithson, of Wilmington, NC passed away on April 28th. He enjoyed birding near and far. And Bruce enjoyed sharing his passion with others, whether old friends or new meeting-goers at a CBC meeting. He particularly loved poring through shorebirds around Fort Fisher, Carolina Beach, Wrightsville Beach and countless other local hotspots. Bruce also loved hummingbirds-- especially those he fed in the colder months. Having one of "his" wintering Ruby-throateds banded was a very proud moment for Bruce. Many of us have fond memories of time spent in the field with this "champion of birds.

Late Summer Triangle Area Meet-up

Join Susan Campbell for a "hummingbird morning" at Apex, NC on Saturday, September 13th at 8am. Come learn lots about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and how to attract them. We hope to see at least a few hummingbirds "up close" as part of Susan's on-going research. Bring a camera, chair and bug repellant. The location is to be determined. Please email Susan (susan@ncaves.com) or text 910-585-0574 for directions and other details by September 7th if you plan to attend.

Volunteers Needed!

The CBC is looking to fill three vacant Board seats as soon as possible. Individuals would be appointed to fill these seats until next year's elections, in April of 2026. We need a Treasurer, SC Vice President and Eastern NC Member-at-large.

In order to manage the club's finances, investments, etc., it is preferrable that interested candidates for Treasurer have accounting experience.

Candidates for South Carolina Vice President should be prepared to assist with strategic planning as well as support regional seasonal meetings in South Carolina.

Eastern North Carolina member-at-large is one of two positions in the eastern half of North Carolina. Responsibilities include assisting with organization and executing regional seasonal meetings.

Interested parties should contact the Chair of the Nominationg Committee, Susan Campbell (susan@ncaves.com).

The Carolina Bird Club, Incorporated (CBC) is a non-profit, educational, and ornithological organization, founded in March 1937. This status is covered by Section 501(c)(3) IRC of 1954 and corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Laws (Refer to our Letter of Determination 24 Feb 1966). Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. To review the bylaws at the club website, visit
https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/main/by-laws.html

Upcoming Birding Festivals in the Southeast

September 22 - 25 Fall Shorebird Event
Little St Simons Island, Georgia
https://www.littlestsimonsisland.com/events-and-programs/fall-shorebird-event

February 4 - 8, 2026 - Hammock Coast Birding Festival
Pawleys Island, South Carolina
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/event/hammock-coast-birding-festival/

February 28, 2026 - 24th Annual Burrowing Owl Festival
Cape Coral, Florida
https://ccfriendsofwildlife.org/programs/burrowing-owl-festival/

April 16 - 23, 2026 - Spring Birding Days
Little St Simons Island, Georgia
https://www.littlestsimonsisland.com/events-and-programs/birding-days

April 24 – 26 – Hatchie Birding Festival
Brownsville, Tennessee
https://www.hatchiebirdfest.com/

April 27 – May 2 - New River Birding & Nature Festival
New River Gorge National Park
https://www.birding-wv.com/

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Banner Elk, NC 28604

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall Meeting at Beaufort, SC – October 2-5, 2025
Winter Meeting at the Outer Banks, NC – January 23-25, 2026

CBC Board Members

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Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC
jenroberts@aol.com

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Mike Resch, Asheville, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

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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

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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.

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, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. Copyright © 2025.