



CBC Newsletter

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

Volume 71

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Back to the OBX—Winter Birding at its Best! Thursday Through Sunday, January 22–25, 2026

Marc Ribaldo

Head To the Outer Banks and Be Prepared for Some Terrific Birds!

The Outer Banks are separated from the mainland by immense bays. Here, the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, fueled by the not-too-distant, warm offshore Gulf Stream, allows both water and air temperatures on this chain of sandy barrier islands to moderate the winter climate. Air temperatures on the barrier islands in winter can be five to ten degrees warmer than a few miles inland. Couple these conditions with the amazing variety of habitats and the Outer Banks area is a natural magnet for wintering waterfowl, waders, seabirds, and passerines. With a little work, daily bird counts of over 100 species are attainable.



Public lands along the Banks provide significant opportunities to observe wintering and resident species. Pea Island NWR provides the quintessential opportunity to explore a section of the remaining undeveloped wilderness in earnest and is just a short distance from our host hotel. Nearby Alligator River NWR and Mattamuskeet NWR provide additional opportunities to access extensive habitats for both expected and those unexpected rarities that make birding so exciting. Over 160 species were recorded during the winter meetings in 2024, including Ross's Goose, Sandhill Crane, Dovekie, Black-

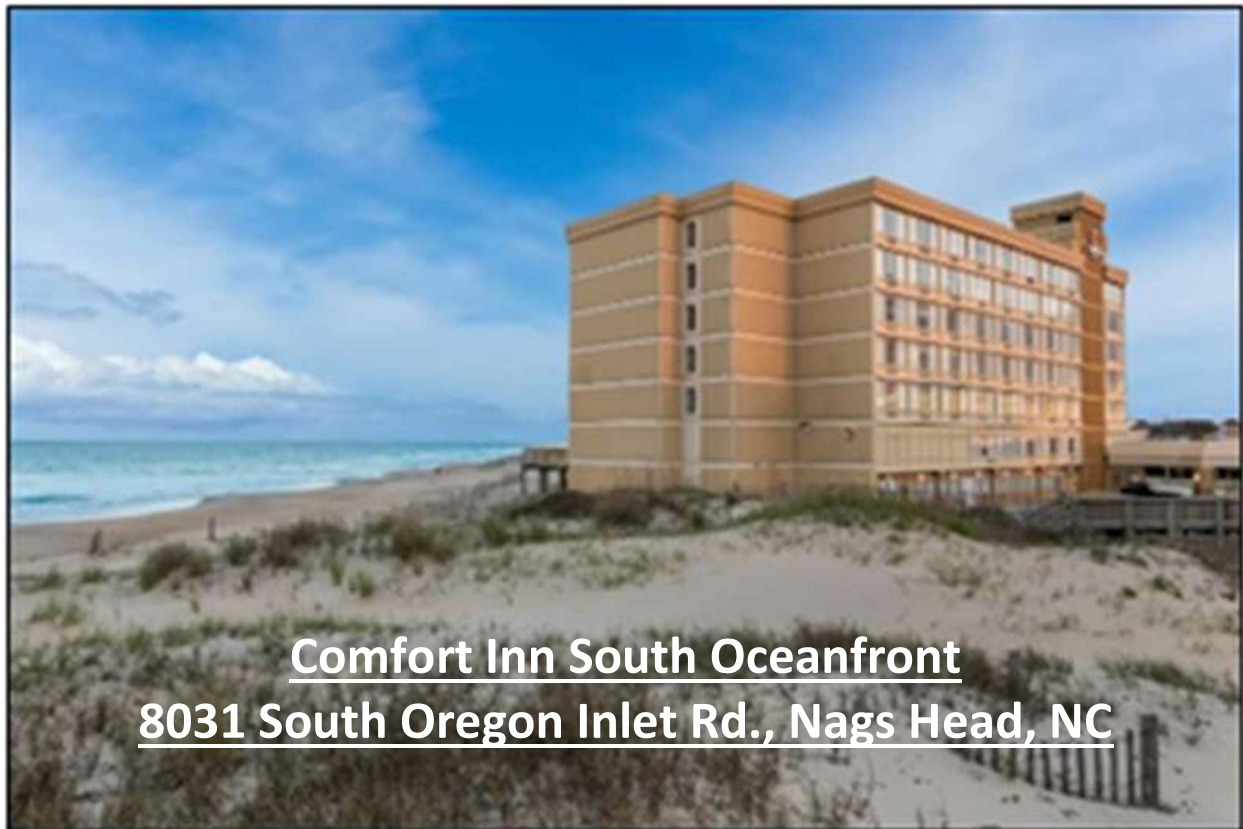
headed Gull, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Snow Bunting.

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The CBC Board is proud to once again invite you to the Outer Banks. Our host hotel and the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce also extend a warm welcome to members and guests to join us for a fun-filled weekend of birding. There is much information that follows. Please read carefully.

A full slate of half- and full-day trips on Friday and Saturday to visit the area's best sites, from Corolla all the way down to Ocracoke, has been planned. In addition, two Sunday morning trips are planned for tracking down the more unusual species that have been observed the previous two days. Four of the half-day trips have been planned specifically with wheelchair users in mind. All these birding locations have trails that are boardwalks or designated for wheelchair users. The boardwalks will allow access to sound-side and oceanside viewing. These trips are available to all attendees and would be beneficial for those concerned about good footing.

For so much more see the Trip Descriptions, and plan for a full weekend of birding.



The Comfort Inn South Oceanfront will be CBC headquarters for the meeting. This Inn boasts amenities that include private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave. For more information about this hotel, check <https://www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/nags-head/comfort-inn-hotels/nc236>.

*The CBC rates for this meeting are truly outstanding at \$92 per night for an ocean view room or \$69 per night for the street side. This cost does not include tax of 12.75%. When you call **(252) 441-6315 to make your reservation**, let them know you are with the **Carolina Bird Club – January 2026** to receive the special rate. **This rate will be guaranteed until December 22, 2025 (at midnight)**. Check-in time is 4 p.m. and check-out is by 11 a.m.

*Please sign up for the banquet buffet dinner on Saturday evening on the CBC website when you complete your trip selections. Sign-up attempts at the registration table will be too late. Advance reservation is required for the banquet. The buffet cost, including gratuity, is \$50 per person, again due with your meeting registration.

*Also note that this hotel does not currently provide drink or meal service. Our buffet will, therefore, be catered. There are, of course, nearby restaurants that span the dining spectrum: from fast-food places to very nice, sit-down eateries. Due to the time of year, some of these will be closed for the season. However, we will have a list of all the restaurants that are open at the registration table for participants to refer to. There is also a Fresh Market supermarket on the main road (NC 158/Croatan Highway) just north of the hotel that has a nice selection of prepared lunches, fresh pizza, and hot meals to go. More grocery options are also available further up the beach.

Be sure to visit the conference registration table as soon as you check in at the hotel and sign in for the meeting. Your meeting packet will include a confirmed event schedule and driving directions for each birding trip, plus your banquet ticket(s), if applicable.

We will have a social with cash bar both Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday evening John Carpenter from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission will talk about the North Carolina Bird Atlas. The Atlas is a statewide community science project to map birds during the breeding and wintering seasons. It started in 2021 and ends next year. Many of you have contributed to the project by submitting eBird checklists. John will present early results and the push for final data collection.

This Birding Weekend's catered buffet dinner will be on Saturday evening. The banquet will be at 6:30 p.m. after the social. The evening keynote speaker presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. Our Keynote Speaker will be Steve Shultz. Ever wonder what it's like to bird from a cruise ship? Well, Steve will answer all your questions during his talk on repositioning cruises. This is a relatively new type of trip offered by many tour companies that gets birders well beyond areas covered by usual pelagic trips.

Online registration begins Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. and closes January 11th, 2025 at noon. Please note that **January 11th, 2025 at noon is the last date for any refunds for CBC registration or dinner cancellations. Also, very important—if you have to cancel, please cancel online or notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list. Walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting.**

All trips will leave from the hotel. Please reserve your room and thank them for their hospitality. CBC greatly appreciates your use of the host hotel. The rate is exceptional, and CBC benefits by you staying there.

Registration packets will contain directions to the locations of the field trips offered during the weekend. The *North Carolina Birding Trail—Coastal Plain Trail Guide* can be used to study up on the Outer Banks sites you will be visiting, as well as planning your trip to and from Nags Head. John Fussell's *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina* and Mike Tove's *Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic* are standards for birding this area of North Carolina.

Important note: South Pond (south of the Visitor's Center) at Pea Island NWR, other than viewed from the NC12 shoulder, is ABSOLUTELY off-limits to casual birding. Please do not enter posted areas at South Pond or any other site unless you possess specific, explicit permission. Trespassers are being charged and fined. Our event is registered with the NWR to allow management of the entire NWR and permission into areas limited to the general public. Your leader will know where you are permitted access. If you are unsure, do not enter.

Finally, our trip leaders help the Board before the weekend with important planning assistance. So please thank them for a trip that helps you locate, identify and learn the rich bird life in the area. 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 that regularly attend our meetings know, we will also have bird books and magazines available for a small donation that will also go to the same fund.

Registration: Lobby at entrance to Ballroom. January 22th, Thursday 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; January 23 and 24, Friday and Saturday, 6:45 – 7:45 a.m. and 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Field Trip sheets will be in the registration room. After picking up your registration packet, please put a checkmark by your name on each of your 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 take your place.

Departure Times: The field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. Please arrive 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 one of the following: trip leader, 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, and water. Many of the 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 p.m.



Common Eider is a possibility from Jennette's Pier at Nags Head.

AGENDA

Thursday January 22

4:00-9:00 p.m. Opening Registration
Dinner on your own

Friday January 23

Field Trips 1/2-day and full-day trips
Dinner on your own
6:00-7:00 p.m. Cash Bar/Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Evening Program. "North Carolina Bird Atlas: Update" by
John Carpenter, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Saturday January 24

Field Trips 1/2-day and full-day trips
5:30-6:30 p.m. Social Gathering: Cash Bar
6:30-7:15 p.m. Banquet Dinner
7:15-7:30 p.m. Announcements
7:30-8:30 p.m. Evening Presentation. "Birders At Sea" by *Steve Shultz*.
8:30 p.m. Species Countdown

Sunday January 25

Rarity roundups 1/2-day trips

All activities are at the host hotel – All field trips depart from the host hotel

Field Trip Schedule

Friday, January 23 Morning Half Day

Trip 1– 7:00 a.m. Palmetto Peartree Preserve & Futch Game Lands
Trip 2– 7:00 a.m. Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 3– 7:00 a.m. Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 4 – 7:15 a.m. Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)
Trip 5 – 7:15 a.m. Pea Island NWR Visitors Center & Southside Dike
Trip 6 – 7:30 a.m. Jennette’s Pier Ocean Watch
Trip 7 – 8:00 a.m. Waterfowl ID Workshop
Trip 8 – 8:00 a.m. Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island

Friday, January 23 Afternoon Half Day

Trip 9– 1:00 p.m. Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette’s Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)

Trip 10– 1:00 p.m. Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier

Trip 11–1:15 p.m. Pea Island NWR North Pond & Visitors Center

Trip 12– 1:15 p.m. Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island

Trip 13– 1:15 p.m. Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marshes

Trip 14– 1:00 p.m. Alligator River NWR (Buffalo City Rd. to Milltail Rd.)

Trip 15- 1:30 p.m. Rodanthe Big Yard Birding

Trip 16– 1:30 p.m. Jennette’s Pier Oceanwatch

Trip 17– 5:15am Pocosin Lakes (Pungo and Phelps) NWR

Trip18 – 6:00 a.m. Mattamuskeet NWR

Trip19 – 6:30 a.m. Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island

Trip 20 – 6:00 a.m. Ocracoke Island

Saturday, January 24 Morning Half Day

Trip 21– 6:45 a.m. Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk

Trip 22– 6:45 a.m. Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 corridor to Milltail Rd.)

Trip 23–7:00 a.m. Duck Town Boardwalk & Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible)

Trip 24– 7:15 a.m. Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike

Trip 25–7:15 a.m. Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island

Trip 26– 7:30 a.m. Northern Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh Area

Trip 27– 7:30 a.m. Jennette’s Pier Ocean Watch

Trip 28 – 7:30 a.m. Jockey’s Ridge State Park

Saturday, January 24 Afternoon Half Day

Trip 29– 1:00 p.m. Young Birders Walk (location TBD)

Trip 30– 1:00 p.m. Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk

Trip 31– 1:00 p.m. Split Pea Sojourn

Trip 32– 1:00 p.m. Alligator River NWR (Buffalo City Rd. to Milltail Rd.)

Trip 33– 1:15 p.m. Pea Island NWR Visitors Center & Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)

Trip 34– 1:15 p.m. Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island

Trip 35– 1:30 p.m. Pea Island NWR North Pond & Visitors Center

Trip 36– 1:30 p.m. Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marina

Trip 37 – 1:30 p.m. Jennette’s Pier Ocean Watch

Saturday, January 24 All Day

Trip 38– 5:15 a.m. Pocosin Lakes (Pungo and Phelps) NWR

Trip 39– 6:00 a.m. Ocracoke Island

Trip 40– 6:30 a.m. Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island

Trip 41– 6:45 a.m. Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

Sunday, January 25 Half Day

Trip 42– 7:30 a.m. Alligator River NWR Search for uncommon/rarities seen

Trip 43– 7:30 a.m. Search for uncommon/rarities seen

2026 CBC OUTER BANKS MEETING FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

½ DAY FIELD TRIPS



Trip 1 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve & Futch Game Lands

We will look for the possible seven species of woodpeckers, including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search we should also see a good assortment of woodland and edge species. Learn more about P3 by visiting <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1194645>. After birding here, the group will travel to the Futch Game Lands where the flooded fields and catfish ponds hold ducks as well as other water birds and shorebirds. Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour
Conditions: Vary from uneven trails to roadside surfaces. There is a service Station at Mann’s Harbor; otherwise, plan on no restrooms.

Trips 2, 21 & 30 – Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk

Audubon Preserve is a remnant of maritime sandy forest and brush along Currituck Sound. The varied habitats and boardwalk will provide opportunity for land and water birds, and raptors are often encountered as they hunt over the woodlands. Duck Town Boardwalk is a 0.4-mile gem. We will scope the sound for loons and ducks. Orange-

crowned Warbler is often found along the Boardwalk, as well as winter sparrows.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to Pine Island

Conditions: Vary from wet turf to gravelly trails to a boardwalk. Restrooms are available at Duck.

Trip 3 & 22 – Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Road)

The east side of ARNWR has woodland but also many wet fields. We will travel Rt. 264 as far as Stumpy Point Bay, targeting Sound waterbirds. Then the drive will go west into ARNWR to Milltail Road’s boat ramp area seeking woodland species and finishing at the fields across from the Maintenance Buildings or the trail at the Rt. 64 intersection. Uncommon birds in the area have included Golden Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk.

Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes

Conditions: Gravel roads. Restroom options will be quite limited.

Trip 4 – Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)

4 HC Accessible Trips are scheduled this weekend, and several others of our trips are partially HC Accessible. There should be space available for non-HC attendees – same great birding but with good footing. This trip will visit both public and privately owned boardwalks to the Sound at Currituck Banks Forest Trail Preserve, the OBX Center for Wildlife Education, and Duck Town Boardwalk.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour

Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at Duck only, or a stop at a service station.

Trips 5 & 24 – Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike

In the morning the pond behind the PI Visitors Center is lit by the rising sun. Resting and actively feeding birds are in the best direction for viewing field ID clues. The adjacent dike affords views of North Pond and Newfield Pond, capped by a 2-story platform that also overlooks the inland waters and marsh.

Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes to the Visitors Center

Conditions: Wide grassy trail to the viewing platform. Restroom at the Visitor’s Center

Trips 6, 16, 27 & 37 – Jennette’s Pier (Nags Head) Ocean Watch. (\$3 entry fee)

A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter near-shore 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, Razorbills, Gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or Shearwater.

Approximate Travel Time: 15 minutes

Conditions: Boardwalk. Restroom in the Pier Entry Building.

Trip 7 - Waterfowl ID Workshop/Field ID

This workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as profile, foraging behaviors, and habitat. The leader will provide clues to field ID features or activity which can aid birders on all levels to describe a species. The field trip location(s) will be as determined by the leader.

Approximate Travel Time: TBD

Trip 8, 12, 25 & 34 – Oregon Inlet and Bodie Island

It seems every winter an unexpected bird spends the season in the dunes overlooking the ocean on the south side of Oregon Inlet. The fishing pier offers a great viewpoint for wintering sea ducks such as Harlequin and Common Eider. On the north side of the bridge is the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, where we will scope the inlet for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. We’ll continue on to Bodie Lighthouse Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform crosses marsh that is good for rails and marsh wrens. A late afternoon visit can be particularly rewarding for viewing waterfowl because of the light. If time permits, we will explore the “fisherman’s” trail.



Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes to Oregon Inlet

Conditions: Sand paths on the south side of Oregon Inlet, pavement on the north side

Trip 9 – Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette’s Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)

The forested sandy dunes of the Nature Conservancy’s Nags Head Woods Preserve are home to woodland species, some of which curtail migration for the warmer zone of the OBX. Their Handicap Accessible Trail offers opportunity for chair users, and other participants, to search for birds in mixed foraging flocks. See Trip 6 for a description of Jennette’s Pier. (\$3 fee to the pier)

Approximate Travel Time: 10 minutes to Nags Head Woods

Conditions: Packed trail and boardwalks. A restroom is in the Pier Access Building.

Trip 10 – Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier (\$3 Entry Fee)

Several protected woodlands at Kitty Hawk will provide opportunity for wintering land birds. A Sound view stop is planned and special permission has been acquired with the Pier at the Hilton Garden Inn at Kitty Hawk for ocean viewing. This final stop will fully and truly round out the birding opportunities. If access is unavailable at the pier due to hotel events the Regional Beach Access will be used.

Approximate Travel Time: 20 minutes

Conditions: The pier or Beach Access has a restroom.

Trip 11 & 35 – Pea Island NWR North Pond and Visitor’s Center

North Pond is open to the public year-round. Simply enjoy the thousands of ducks and other water birds that winter here. Every winter a rarity or two shows up. We will also scan the ocean from the dunes opposite the Visitor’s Center. A stop in the Oregon Inlet area may be included as time permits.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes

Conditions: Wide grassy trail to the viewing platform. Restroom at the Visitor’s Center.

Trips 13 & 36 – Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marina

Habitats will include woodland edges for winter land species, marsh birding and water views over the sound. We will tailor the visit based on local observations but likely start at the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. The impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl. Then we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village and scan the surrounding water and marina, interesting for the numerous gulls and landbirds that roam about oyster piles. Just south of the harbor is a road across the marsh ending at the Sound.

Approximate Travel Time: 25 min.

Conditions: Grassy trails at the Roanoke Marshes to gravelly roads around the harbor. Use service stations for a restroom.



Trip 14 & 32 – Alligator River NWR (Buffalo City Road to Milltail Road)

Alligator River NWR holds miles of huge impoundments with THOUSANDS of ducks, and often shorebirds. The trail at the end of Buffalo Road affords opportunity for land birds easily missed with so much flooded impoundments demanding viewer attention. The Buffalo Soldiers during the civil war resided here, the source of the namesake. Not a part of the tour is an option to stay in the Refuge at dusk after the tour at the intersection of Sawyer Lake Road and Milltail Road, the

place to be for Short-eared Owl, Red Wolf and Black Bear.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes

Conditions: Gravel roads. Restrooms are limited. There is a waterless toilet at the entrance to ARNWR (Rt. 64 at Milltail Rd.)

Trip 15 – Rodanthe Big Yard Birding

Join hostess Karen Lebing for a tour of her property on Pamlico Sound in Rodanthe. Gerry and Karen have observed 264 species to date on their two acres of heaven, one of the top yard lists in the country. From shrubby edge habitat to brackish marsh and open water, the birding potential on an afternoon in this spot is very good. Their feeder array (that includes sugar water for hummers) alone is a big draw in

this very special Outer Banks backyard. Do not forget your camera if you decide to sign up for this unique experience!

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes

Conditions: Easy walking on mostly flat terrain. There is a long boardwalk out into the marsh. Restrooms are on site as well as at neighborhood convenience store.

Trip 23 – Duck Town Boardwalk and Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip),

The almost 1/2-mile boardwalk at Duck is a viewing platform for both wintering landbirds and waterbirds. It is located along a brushy shoreline and the Sound. As time permits other Sound view locations may be included. The trip also includes the great opportunity granted to CBC for ocean viewing at the Hilton Garden Inn Pier (\$3 fee). Scopes are the best tool for this last stop. If the pier is closed due to an event at the hotel the nearby Regional Beach Access will be our site for ocean viewing.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to Duck

Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at both sites.

Trip 26 – Northern Roanoke Island - Fort Raleigh Area

The northern area of Roanoke Island has several birding sites visited by the locals. Habitats range from manicured turf to woodlands and Albemarle Sound viewing. If Elizabethan Gardens is used by the leader, a fee is required (\$8). The trip may go as far south as the Roanoke Island Marshes.

Approximate Travel Time: 25 min.

Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trip 28 – Jockey's Ridge State Park

Join an NC State Park Ranger to learn about this jewel of a park located adjacent to the famous Wright Brothers Memorial. Walk the trails in search of local flora and fauna associated with a variety of coastal habitat. Also, participants will be exposed to some of the rich human history associated with this part of the Outer Banks.

Approximate travel time: 10 minutes

Conditions: Moderate. Most of the trip will be hiking on well-defined trails, but the group will also encounter loose sand and some hilly terrain. Restrooms can be found on site at the park.

Trip 29 – Young Birders Walk

Details will be available at check-in.

Trip 31 – Split Pea Sojourn

Just south of Pea Island NWR's South Pond, "Split Pea" refers to the area around the inlet created by Hurricane Irene in 2011. This area is well known to local birders for its marsh sparrows and other marsh birds. We will visit this area, as well as the observation platform at South Pond. We will also walk over to the oceanside dunes and scan for seabirds.

Approximate travel time: 20 minutes

Conditions: This should be considered a strenuous trip. Participants need to bring footwear appropriate for walking in ankle- to shin-deep water. Trails are sandy and dunes may be climbed.



Trip 33 – Pea Island NWR Visitor’s Center and Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)

The PI Visitors Center viewing windows and area within the parking lot offer excellent birding on North Pond, especially for ducks, with chances for Brown and White Pelicans a distinct possibility. We will then travel to the Boardwalk at Bodie Light where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the lower portion of the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform cuts through marsh that is excellent for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to PINWR

Conditions: A restroom is available at both sites.

Trip 42 – Alligator River NWR or uncommon/rarities seen

Many of the unusual birds seen during the winter meetings on the Outer Banks are found at Alligator River. We will try to track down unusual species found the previous two days, and maybe find some more.

Trip 43 – Search for Uncommon & Rarities Seen

This trip will try to re-find the more unusual species found the previous two days on the Outer Banks and Roanoke Island. The actual route will depend on what was found, so be prepared!

FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 17 & 38 – Lake Pungo and Lake Phelps (Pocosin Lakes NWR). Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese lifting off at sunrise, a spectacle in itself. We will look through flocks of blackbirds with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles as this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include waterfowl species, and farm field and edge species, such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. There is a lot of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back in the Mattamuskeet NWR area.

Approximate Travel Time: 1.5 hours

Conditions: Roads, boardwalks and dirt paths. Restroom sites will not be available.

Trip 18 - Mattamuskeet NWR.

A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible. We will bird the Lake Landing area for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines and at other sections of the refuge where passerine habitat abounds. The entrance road follows the main viewing impoundment.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Conditions: Restroom at Lake Landing and in the Refuge Visitors Center at the end of the entrance road.

Trips – 19 & 40 - Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island

A full day that just has – well - promise. We will bird the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach, sorting through the gull flocks in search of Iceland, Glaucous, and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should be common. We will scan the ocean for alcids and other rarities. The salt pond usually hosts good populations of birds. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and a Sprague's Pipit may be present. Your leader may plan a stop at a local woodland area or some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north.

Approximate Travel Time: 90 minutes

Conditions: We will be walking primarily on sandy trails. Restrooms available at the Visitor’s Center near the lighthouse.



Trip 20 & 39 - Ocracoke Island

This is a new trip for the meetings. We will meet at the ferry terminal in Hatteras Village at 7:30 a.m. to make the 8 a.m. departure. The ferry ride across the Hatteras Inlet to Ocracoke can be very rewarding, with the possibility of sea ducks, loons, grebes, brown pelicans, northern gannets, and gulls. Once on Ocracoke, we will start at the parking lot at the ferry terminal and move across the island, stopping at access points to the beach, the pony pasture, campground, Devil Shoal's Road, the Hammock Hills Nature Trail and Springer's Point Nature Preserve and the Silver Lake Harbor in the village. Habitats

include maritime forest and shrub, salt marsh, beach, and dune.

Approximate Travel Time (from hotel): 1 hour 45 minutes to the ferry terminal.

Conditions: Trails are sandy and can have exposed roots. Restrooms/port-a-potties will be available in several locations.

Trips 41 - Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

As an all-day trip you will have more valuable time to scan the area habitats and increase those chances for life birds, or to study the posture and feeding habits that are guides to shorebird ID. The trip also goes south of the Visitors Center to the Newfield Platform (NOT the dike) and the Oceanview Trail for pelagic species hopefully near shore and may possibly travel further south to the marsh area at Split Pea Bridge. A stop at Oregon Inlet will be considered dependent upon time. DO **NOT** WALK THE DIKE BEYOND THE NEWFIELD PLATFORM.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes

Conditions: Sandy road shoulders and path to the ocean, grassy trails. Restrooms at Oregon Inlet and the PINWR Visitors Center.

Upcoming Birding Festivals in the Southeast

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://www.visitfortmyers.com/event/24th-annual-burrowing-owl-festival-wildlife-and-environmental-expo/7474>

April 16 - 23, 2026 - Spring Birding Days

Little St Simons Island, Georgia

<http://www.littlestsimonsisland.com/events-and-programs/birding-days>

Outer Banks North Carolina Registration Form

Registration begins Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. and closes January 11th, 2025 at noon.

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 = \$ _____

Dinner on Saturday evening _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

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 Fall Meeting at Beaufort, South Carolina October 2 to 5, 2025



167 species!

Top left: Youth birder Kai Dickson speaks after the Saturday banquet.

Top right: Birders at Spring Island on Saturday, October 4.

Middle left: Trip leader Steve Compton leading the Caw Interpretive Center on Saturday, October 4.

Middle right: Birders on the beach at Hunting Island on Saturday, October 4.

Bottom – Left to right: Youth birders Ema Hommel (recipient of the Youth Birder Scholarship), Kai Dickson and Aerin Skye Graham

102 birders participated





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

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter Meeting at the Outer Banks, NC – January 23-25, 2026

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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.

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