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CBC NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 43

July/August 1997

Number 4

Fort Caswell in October

We will be looking for migrating warblers and shorebirds during our fall meeting October 3-5. A pair of Gray Kingbirds nested this summer on the grounds of our meeting site - the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell on the eastern tip of Oak Island in Brunswick County near Southport.

Directions: From north and west of Wilmington take 133 South, which begins at the intersection of Hwys. 17, 74/76 and 421 in Wilmington. Stay on 133 until it ends. Continue straight ahead on Caswell Beach Rd. to the Assembly's gatehouse. From south of Wilmington, take 17 N; right on 211 East; right on 133 South until it ends. Continue straight ahead on Caswell Beach Rd. to the Assembly's gatehouse. At the gate, identify yourself as attending the CBC meeting, and the gatekeeper will direct you to Gingko Cottage for registration.

Refer to the enclosed field trip list for birding destinations on Friday and Saturday. Birding-on-your-own directions will be available Thursday for early arrivals and will be included in everyone's registration packet.

The Friday night speaker will be from the Nature Conservancy's Green Swamp Preserve. The Saturday night speaker comes highly recommended. Peter Stangel is director of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. His slide presentation is entitled "The Future of Birds."

Important Information: We have 43 rooms reserved for Thursday night, October 2, and 89 rooms reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. The Assembly's room rate is \$21 per person per night as long as two or more persons

share a room. The single occupancy rate is \$31 per night. There is no tax. This rate includes a user fee charged to all non-Baptist groups.

We will be housed in six cottages and five "hotels." The cottages have kitchens but no handicap ramps. Four hotels have ramps but not kitchens. Oceana Hotel is ground level and has kitchens. Those staying in the four hotels can share the kitchens in the cottages. All rooms have private baths, AC, heat, linens, towels and soap. They **do not** have phones or TVs, and **alcohol is not allowed** on the Assembly grounds. Refer to the May/June newsletter for descriptions of the rooms. The assembly's phone number for emergency contacts is (910) 278-9501.

Registration Deadline for rooms at the Assembly is **August 25**. Note that this is three days earlier than the date given in the last newsletter at the request of the headquarters secretary. **Full payment must be received by this date.** Any rooms not reserved by this date will be released back to the Assembly to be used by other groups. After Sept. 1 any one canceling their room reservation will forfeit up to \$14.50 per night. The meeting planner will make every effort to accommodate your requests for type of room on a **first-come, first-serve** basis, as the club is responsible for room assignments.

For those not staying at the Assembly, a list of local motels was given in the last newsletter. If you find all of those listed fully booked, call the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-457-6964 for other possibilities. Long Beach Campground is the only one on Oak Island at (910) 278-5737. (**Please Note:** there is a King Mackerel fishing

tournament in Southport this same weekend and many rooms in the area have been booked for months.) The meeting registration fee for those not staying at the Assembly will include the user fee charged to all non-Baptist groups.

Meals are available at the Assembly cafeteria, and we've heard the food is quite good! Breakfast costs \$4.50; lunch \$5.50; dinner \$6.00. Breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Most people going on field trips will not be able to take advantage of breakfast or lunch, but all field trips should end in time for dinner. All meeting participants are welcome to eat at the cafeteria. Dinner is one meat (no choice), two or three vegetables, bread, dessert, drink and salad bar. Lunch is a sandwich, hamburger, or casserole, plus salad bar, drink and dessert. Vegetarian main dishes are also available upon advance request. **Your preregistration and payment for meals must be received by Sept. 19** along with your field trip choices.

Registration, room key distribution and T-shirt sales will be at Gingko cottage. For those coming on Thursday, you can pick up your keys and packets of information from 3:00 to 9:30 p.m. If you need to arrive later than 9:30 p.m., call Gail before Thursday. The assembly's main gate is locked between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Friday registration will be 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Those arriving Saturday can register at the evening meeting. There will be a Friday night social at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. Saturday's night meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Call Gail Lankford at (919) 833-7741 (before 9:00 p.m.) or (919) 2127406 (anytime) for further information.

Backyard Birding

with Martha K. Brinson

May 11 was exactly one year ago when backyard birding turned into office birding, the day an adult female Ovenbird with brood patch appeared in an alley outside my office. I called a wildlife rehabilitator right away and held the bird in a large cardboard box, out of harm's way from the highly traveled area. But despite our efforts, the bird, which had a damaged tail, died on the way to the shelter.

May 11 of this year, I heard an Eastern Wood Pewee, for the first time this season, from the woods across the road in Green Level. At my parents' house in Raleigh for Mother's Day, while looking out the window at the kitchen sink, I saw my first-ever Pileated Woodpecker! I made the whole family come to the window to see. It was a first for everyone.

May 20 an Orchard Oriole arrived. I put out orange halves, just in case it wanted some.

May 24 a pair of Barn Swallows chirruped at me for half a minute from the phone wire right in front of me. Half a dozen hummers zoomed around all day, as usual. An Osprey circled overhead, and a Red-tailed Hawk settled in the pines. A pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches pecked at seeds at the Angus Barn feeder, and a male Towhee scratched in the grass below.

At dusk my Wood Peewee settled down to roost in the east pecan tree, unaware that Bob and I were standing just a few feet away.

May 26 the Indigo Buntings, Eastern Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows, and Blue Grosbeaks munched on seeds at the patio platform. The two Brown-headed Nuthatches brought their "bald" (gray-headed) baby with them today. I followed the Wood Thrush's song until I spotted him north of the goat pasture. Saw an American Crow with an egg in its beak. A Mockingbird chased the Crow but gave up, perched atop a phone pole, and sat there a long time, just looking all around.

June 1 was the first hot, muggy day of the year after a record-breaking cool spring. The Barn Swallows made their nest at the top of my neighbor's two-story porch columns. The male sits on the opposite ledge and watches the female on the nest. My usual Brown Thrasher came to the low platform feeder. American Goldfinches zoomed around and "pa-chic-oreed" from the river birch tree; a few House Finches showed up. A Carolina

Wren rattled from the hedge, and baby Carolina Chickadees are everywhere.

June 2 at work I spied a dead Robin, hanging by the neck in a hedge of osmanthus. It was strangled by green filament — like dental floss — four inches from a nest of baby Robins. I didn't want to scare the babies so I crept up quietly, cut the Robin free, and buried it. I reached to remove the remaining string so no other bird would get trapped and swoosh! — the mother robin dive-bombed me. I hurriedly finished up and left.

June 3 a Barred Owl awoke me at 4:30 a.m. so I went ahead and got up. The Eastern Wood Peewee came out of the woods and posed in full view for me in the crape myrtle.

June 6 I heard a Bob-White across the road. I found a snakeskin (complete with "eye jackets") that I think a Titmouse dropped. A Broad-winged Hawk called out once; we don't usually hear those as often as the Red-tailed's.

June 27 my neighbor came by to tell me the week-old Barn Swallows had been killed. The parents kept coming to the nest all day with food and kept looking into the empty nest. We don't know what killed them. One was on the ground, one in the nest, the rest missing.

June 28 I tracked down the Orchard Orioles' song and found an adult male at the tip-top of the sweet gum behind our house and a first-year male high in the cedar across the road.

June 30 Maxilla Evans of Waynesville, NC, wrote, "I had three male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along with females sharing my sunflower seed feeder today. The young will show up pretty soon. Occasionally we see a brown striped young with a beginning red splotch. The Grosbeaks share the feeder peacefully, rarely chasing each other away. I also have a pair of crows feeding their young cornmeal mixed with large amounts of sausage grease or corn oil. Birds mostly feed at a Mandarin feeder hung on a wire line strung from house to tree."

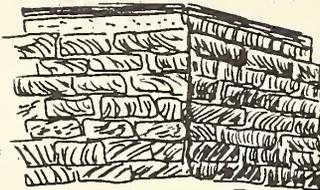
Maxilla added some delightful descriptions about growing native plants at the Corneille Bryan Nature Center at Lake Junaluska, helping to save a disappearing species (*Filipendula rubra*), her yard filled with chipmunks, possums, 'coons (which, she found out, love vanilla wafers); bobcats, and a deck that is "alive with flying squirrels at night."

July 5 a Bob-White came to the yard's edge, and I set out with my binoculars to try and see him singing. I crept up until quite near the sound then stood stock still and searched the thick woods. After a few minutes of visually sorting through the brush, there he was, just 20 feet away. We both froze and eyeballed each other for about 15 minutes (he was beautiful!), then my arms got tired of holding the glasses in one position. I slowly brought them down, but this spooked him and he left. He never did sing for me.

The baby Swifts are really noisy in the chimney today. While watering the daylily circle, I heard a bird song just like a Field Sparrow's only descending in scale instead of ascending. Peterson's says the Field Sparrow's song can ascend, descend, or hold one note so maybe that is what I heard.

July 6 I got up at 5:00 to listen to the birds waking up: Cardinals woke up first, then Crows, Swifts, Bluebirds, Peewee, Canada Geese, Field Sparrows, Towhees, Titmice, Buntings, Doves, Chickadees, and Brown Thrasher, all by 6:00. Guess Bob'll be next. Time to make coffee.

(see **Backyard** page 6)



Field Trip Schedule

CBC Fall Meeting, Ft. Caswell, NC

October 3-5, 1997

Friday All Day, Oct. 3

- Trip 1 Ft. Fisher/Carolina Beach State Park
- Trip 2 Bald Head Island

Friday Morning, Oct. 3

- Trip 3 Green Swamp Ecological Preserve
- Trip 4 Sunset Beach/Ocean Isle Sewage Treatment Plant
- Trip 5 Long Beach/Ft. Caswell/CP & L

Friday Afternoon, Oct. 3

- Trip 6 Holly Shelter Game Lands
- Trip 7 Sunset Beach/Ocean Isle Sewage Treatment Plant
- Trip 8 Long Beach/Ft. Caswell/CP & L

Saturday All Day, Oct. 4

- Trip 9 Ft. Fisher/Carolina Beach State Park
- Trip 10 Ft. Fisher/Carolina Beach State Park
- Trip 11 Carolina Beach State Park/Ft. Fisher
- Trip 12 Bald Head Island

Saturday Morning, Oct. 4

- Trip 13 Green Swamp Ecological Preserve
- Trip 14 Eagle Island
- Trip 15 Greenfield Gardens
- Trip 16 Sunset Beach/Holden Beach
- Trip 17 Long Beach/Ft. Caswell/CP & L

Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 4

- Trip 18 Green Swamp Ecological Preserve
- Trip 19 Eagle Island
- Trip 20 Greenfield Gardens
- Trip 21 Sunset Beach/Holden Beach
- Trip 22 Long Beach/Ft. Caswell/CP & L

Birding-on-your-own directions and maps to all sites listed above and a few others will be provided in your registration packets.

Trip participants are responsible for their own food and drink.

Bring your copy of *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina* by John O. Fussell III.

Fall Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 1, 9, 10. Ft. Fisher/Carolina Beach State Park: Should offer the overall best birding in the area for both warblers and shorebirds. All trips start at 7:45 a.m. **at Ft. Fisher.** Trips 1 and 9 start at Federal Point parking area (end of Hwy. 421), just below the ferry dock. Trip 10 starts at the Ft. Fisher Visitor Center parking lot at the entrance to the Ft. Fisher Historic Site. The drive to Ft. Fisher takes 60 to 75 minutes, depending on traffic congestion. Taking the ferry from Southport is recommended. The ferry leaves at 7:00 a.m. from the end of Hwy. 211 in Southport; holds 38 cars (reservations not accepted); costs \$3.00 per car one way; and arrives at 7:30 a.m. The ferry leaves Ft. Fisher every 45 minutes from 12:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for your choice of a return time. Participants should try to carpool.

Trip 11. Carolina Beach State Park/Ft. Fisher: Same as above, but will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Marina (end of SR 1628) at CBSP, which is off Dow Rd. off 421 S at Carolina Beach.

Trip 2, 12. Bald Head Island: Includes Cape Fear, NC's southernmost point of land; scenic lighthouse; a maritime forest preserve. Can be good for migrating warblers, ocean birds, hawks and sparrows. Western Kingbird possible. Trip begins at 7:45 a.m. at the ferry dock on West 9th St. in Southport off Hwy. 211. The parking fee here is \$5.00 per car. The passenger ferry is \$15 per person round trip. Golf cart rental will be \$7.50 per person. Each trip is limited to 24 people (6 golf carts). Bring a picnic lunch or eat at a restaurant on the island. The ferry departs Bald Head on the half hour and you can return anytime you wish.

Trip 3, 13, 18. Green Swamp Ecological Preserve: Pretty pine savannas and pocosins. Wildflowers, butterflies, insectivorous plants and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. About 25 miles from Ft. Caswell. Trips begin at Ft. Caswell at 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Be prepared for wet areas and hunting season.

Trip 6. Holly Shelter Game Land: Similar to Green Swamp. Harry LeGrand will meet those enroute to the meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Hwy. 17, 4.4 miles north of Hampstead at the Topsail Baptist Church parking lot (see p. 322 of Fussell's book): This area is about 50 miles from Ft. Caswell.

Trip 4, 7. Sunset Beach/Ocean Isle Sewage Treatment Plant: Shorebirds and waders. Sunset Beach is NC coast's westernmost point. Trips will begin at Ft. Caswell at 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. About 35 miles each way. Be prepared for a little wading on mudflats.

Trip 16, 21. Sunset Beach/Holden Beach: See above.

Trip 5, 8, 17, 22. Long Beach/Ft. Caswell/CP&L: Shorebirds, waders and warblers. About 20 miles round trip. Starts at Fort. Caswell at 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

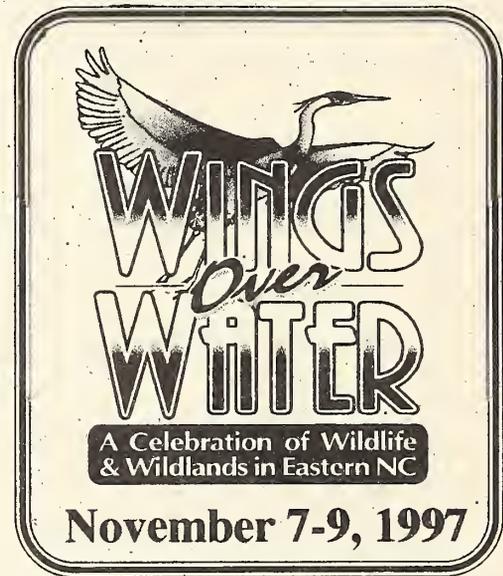
Trip 14, 19. Eagle Island: Spoil site. Good for warblers and shorebirds in morning, and shorebirds in afternoon. Both trips start at the parking lot for the USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial off Hwy. 421 N. Be there at 7:30 a.m. for trip 14 and

1:30 p.m. for trip 19. Cars will be allowed to drive on the dikes, so there will be limited walking. About 30 miles from Ft. Caswell.

Trip 15, 20. Greenfield Park: Scenic city park around a lake. Warblers, wading birds, Anhingas, and Moorhens. Trips start at 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Park's boat rental parking lot. About 32 miles from Ft. Caswell.

CBC T-Shirts

Sales were brisk at the Clemson meeting for the new CBC T-shirts. They will again be available for sale at the fall meeting in October. Due to limited but vocal demand, a dozen Mediums will be available for those who felt the Large's were just too big! If the Executive Committee approves them, new CBC caps will also be available at the fall meeting. The Watsons would like to remind everyone that they prefer checks over cash at registration.



The Outer Banks of North Carolina and the adjacent lands are a paradise of ocean beaches, rolling sand hills, shrub thickets, broad marsh areas, pocosins, blackwater swamps and tracts of maritime and inland forests. These varied habitats are rich in wildlife diversity, and large acreages are protected as parks and wildlife refuges.

By November, the frantic summer tourist season is well past, and the land and water are left to those who wish to blend with nature. The three-day *Wings Over Water* event will be your opportunity to enter this land of wildlife enchantment. Through field trips, workshops and seminars that you select, you will get an insider's look at some of the most fascinating ecological settings in the United States.

Wings Over Water is a must for serious birders and wildlifers, as well as for anyone who desires to get close-up and personal with these unique ecosystems.

Call 1-800-446-6262 for registration information.

If you have already registered for the meeting, complete only the name and address portion and skip to the Meal and Field Trip Registration.

Registration Form CBC Fall Meeting, October 3-5, 1997

Name(s) _____ (list each name for name tags)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ (day) (_____) _____ (evening)

____ I will **not** be staying overnight at the NC Baptist Assembly. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$12 each and _____ nonmember registrations at \$13 each. Registration at the meeting for those not staying at the Assembly is \$16 for members and \$17 for nonmembers. Registration fees include the Assembly user fee charged to all non-Baptist groups.

____ I **will** be staying overnight at the NC Baptist Assembly. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$6 each, _____ nonmember registrations at \$7 each and \$21 per person per night (\$31 single rate) room fee for _____ persons for _____ nights (children ages 2-5 are \$10.50 per night and infants under 2 are free). I will arrive on _____ Thursday, _____ Friday, _____ Saturday. Room fees include the Assembly user fee charged to all non-Baptist groups. Note that registration for accommodations at the Assembly can be made only **in advance** and **not** at the meeting.

Indicate choice of accommodations below:

Place a 1 by your first choice of accommodations and a 2 by your second choice.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ____ Any room is fine | ____ One double bed, one twin |
| ____ Two double beds | ____ One double bed, one bunk set |
| ____ Two double beds, one bunk set | ____ Oceana (18 rooms; two double beds; ground level) |
| ____ One double bed | ____ Little Pier (Two bedroom cottage) |

Note any special requests concerning accommodations:

The names of those wishing to be assigned to the same room should appear on the same registration form.

Meal and Field Trip Registration (Due September 19, 1997)

Field Trips

Friday morning or all day I (we) would like trip number ____ (1st choice) ____ (2nd choice). Friday afternoon I (we) would like trip number ____ (1st choice) ____ (2nd choice). Saturday morning or all day I (we) would like trip number ____ (1st choice) ____ (2nd choice). Saturday afternoon I (we) would like trip number ____ (1st choice) ____ 2nd choice. ____ yes ____ no I will have a 4-wheel drive vehicle for use at Ft. Fisher (trips 1, 9, 10, 11)

Meals

Put the number of people in the blank reserving the following meals:

____ Thursday dinner	____ Saturday breakfast	____ Sunday breakfast	Breakfast \$ 4.50
____ Friday lunch	____ Saturday lunch		Lunch \$ 5.50
____ Friday dinner.	____ Saturday dinner	Vegetarian meals ____yes ____no	Dinner \$ 6.00

Included in my enclosed check is the amount of \$ _____ to pay in advance for the above meals.

Meals **cannot** be paid for at Ft. Caswell in October. If you do not **preregister** and **prepay**, you cannot eat at the cafeteria on campus.

Mail with check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Welcome New Members

Richard & Pauline Bock
Murrells Inlet, SC

Paul W. Bridgema
Fayetteville, NC

Randy Carver
Florence, SC

Susan Cavanaugh
Raleigh, NC

Katherine H. Cherry
Raleigh, NC

Anna M. Forbis
Clemson, SC

Dr. Michael & Teresa Justice
Murfreesboro, NC

Russ Latta
Charlotte, NC

Edward & Pat Muschell
Raleigh, NC

Betty C. Scott
Hamstead, NC

Richard Youket
Stem, NC

Life Member

John McBride, Jr.
Tucson, AZ

Deceased

Mrs. Roger W. (Dottie) Foy
Oriental, NC

James B. (Jay) Shuler, Jr.
McClellanville, SC

Claudia P. Wilds
Washington, DC

Backyard (continued from page 2)

It's been a while since we've heard from the South Carolina piedmont or mountains or the NC coast. But I'd like to hear from any of you. Drop me a line and tell me about the birds in *your* backyard. — Martha

4300 Green Level Road
Apex, NC 27502
(July 9, 1997)

CBC Newsletter is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas, with headquarters at Raleigh, NC. CBC is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1937, with membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608, (919) 781-2637 (voice or fax), e-mail, Smith82534@aol.com. Submission deadline is the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November. Articles may be in the form of typed, hard copy or 3 1/2 " computer disk.

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