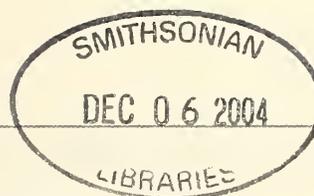


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CBC Newsletter

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

Volume 50

December 2004

Number 6

CBC in Atlantic Beach, January 28-30

By Judy Murray

Let's go to Atlantic Beach in January to see good winter birds! Our winter meeting will be held January 28-30, 2005 in Atlantic Beach, NC. We'll search for shorebirds, gulls, terns, loons, gannets, sparrows, waterfowl, and others on a variety of field trips. We've seen up to 150 species on past CBC meetings in Carteret County, including rarities such as Long-billed Curlew, Red Phalarope, and Thayer's and Glaucous Gulls.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Sheraton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Hotel (2717 W. Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512, 252-240-1155 or 1-800-624-8875). From US 70 in Morehead City take the causeway to Atlantic Beach, turning right on SR 58. The Sheraton is 2.3 miles on the left. Room rates are \$65 per night single or double occupancy, plus a 12% room tax. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or advanced payment of a first night's room, including tax. Be sure to mention you are with CBC. All rooms have a hair dryer, coffeemaker, and refrigerator. The rate does not include a continental breakfast, however, there is a restaurant in the hotel where you can purchase breakfast. Reservation deadline is December 27, 2004. Room rates cannot be guaranteed after that date.

Dana Harris will have the registration table set up beginning on Thursday, January 28, at 7 pm. There will be a social hour Friday and Saturday nights from 7-8 pm, followed by the general meeting at 8 pm both nights in the meeting room of the hotel. John Fussell is our featured speaker Friday night, presenting his program "Birding and Bird Habitats in Carteret County," giving us a peak at the birds we can expect to see over the weekend. Saturday night Mike Tove's program will be "Gull Identification: Their Molts and How to Age Them."

John Fussell has a great line up of field trips with exciting birds to see on each trip. The descriptions of the trips and pre-registration form are in this newsletter. Be sure to include your trip preferences when you register for the meeting. Mark your calendars and register now for this wonderful birding experience. Hope to see all of you there!

Upcoming CBC Meetings

*Blowing Rock, NC - April 29-May 1, 2005
Charleston, SC - September 30-October 2, 2005
Virginia Beach - Winter 2006*

Remember to keep your hummingbird feeders up this winter. You might be treated with a surprise winter guest!!

On Coming to Raleigh, in 1938

By Thomas Quay, Professor Emeritus Zoology, NCSU

The first person I met on coming to North Carolina State to begin graduate studies on September 1, 1938, was Dr. Carey Bostian, Professor of Genetics. He said, "Now that you are here, you're going to teach ornithology, not me." I said, "fine by me," and they put me on a teaching assistantship. (Dr. Bostian later became the Chancellor of North Carolina State University.)

The next person I met was Dr. Z. P. Metcalf, head of the Department of Zoology, Entomology, and Genetics, who had just created the new curriculum of Wildlife Conservation and Management. The third person I met was the nationally famous Dr. B.W. Wells, a pioneer plant ecologist, who wrote *The Natural Gardens (Communities) of North Carolina*.

Then I went downtown to the State Museum of Natural History to meet the "Brimley Boys," H. H. and C. S. Brimley, who had come over from England in the 1880s. They made their living at first by collecting scientific specimens of plants and animals, mainly from the Walnut Creek lowgrounds of southeast Raleigh, and shipping them to great museums all over the world! H. H. became the Director of the State Museum at an early age and soon became an exceptional figure in his innovative exhibits. He was also very social about town, with top hat and cane. The great Gene Odum of Chapel Hill wrote an autobiography of H. H., for the Chapel Hill Press.

C. S. Brimley became the State Entomologist and published *The Insects of North Carolina*. He could tell you from memory the scientific names of all the thousands of species included. C. S. Brimley was a true genius, who never went to college. He would make up poems and stories for children, on the spot without preparation. Being entirely blind in one eye and color blind in the other, he perfected the art of field identification of birds by size, shape, movement, song, chip notes, and by light and dark markings before Roger Troy Peterson's great book of the 1930s burst upon the world. Dr. Z. P. Metcalf arranged for an Honorary Doctorate for C. S. from the University of North Carolina.

Dr. John Grey was minister of the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church when, in 1937, he became the motivating force behind the creation of the North Carolina Bird Club, and the first editor of *The Chat*. Dr. Grey was also the prime force behind getting T. Gilbert Pearson and the Brimleys to publish the second edition of *The Birds of North Carolina* (1942).

It was a great pleasure to meet and talk with Pearson in 1938-40, on his frequent trips from New York and the National Audubon Society. Pearson's book, *Adventures in Bird Protection* (1936), is a classic joy, detailing the major national efforts at bird protection and wildlife conservation of the teens, twenties, and thirties, when ecology and environmental management were first becoming of public concern.

The last, but not the least, of the great ornithologists I found living and working in Raleigh was Roxie Collie. Roxie was born in eastern North Carolina in 1912, graduated from Meredith College, and joined the State Museum in the thirties as a preparator, where she did fantastic mounts. She was famous there, among other things, for "Roxie's Boys"—teaching, voluntarily, groups of young people about watching birds. Roxie was soon taken up to the Smithsonian in Washington D.C., where she became one of the foremost ornithologists of all time. She perfected the technique of identifying all 9,000+ species of birds in the world by the microscopic structure of the feathers. She was the first to identify the species of birds that got into airplane motors and brought them to earth. She starred in forensic cases and was eagerly sought after by the airlines. Roxie died this year, age 92, but not before she had trained many experts in her techniques and methodologies.

Tom was Associate Editor of The Chat, 1940-42 and Editor of The Chat, 1950-52.

Editor's note: I'd love to hear more stories like this one that shares a part of the ornithological history of the Carolinas. If you have a story (or photo) to share, send it to my address or email on the back of this newsletter. Thanks! KB

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world" - John Muir

CBC Bonus Trips

CBC Field Trip to Burke's Garden, Virginia - January 22

Join us as we travel to Burke's Garden in the southwestern mountains of Virginia. Burke's Garden is a high elevation "bowl", in which cold air is trapped, therefore making it very attractive to bird species that normally winter further north. Species that we might expect to see include Rough-legged Hawk (both morphs), Golden Eagle, other various raptors, Black-capped Chickadee, woodpeckers, and wintering waterfowl. **We will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Elkin, NC at 8 am and carpool from there.** If you need overnight lodging, hotels in the Elkin area include Holiday Inn Express, 336-835-6000; Days Inn, 800-695-8284; and Hampton Inn, 336-835-1994. Cost is \$10 and limited to 15 birders. The inclement weather date is February 5th. Be sure to dress warmly as it can be very cold at Burke's Garden. We will stop at the country store to have lunch and warm ourselves by the pot-bellied stove. Contact leaders Lori Martin (828-638-1193 or loriannkayaker@charter.net) or Dwayne Martin (828-312-1064) before mailing your registration money.

CBC in Northern Minnesota

Winter Weekend February 17 - 21, 2005

Yes, it is cold—VERY COLD. But the rewards can be high for visiting birders in search of some of those hard to find lifers, while experiencing bogs and huge coniferous forest in the middle of winter. Snowy Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Thayer's and Glaucous Gulls, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Snow Bunting, and Common Redpoll can go on the expected list. Decent chance for Harlequin Duck, Sharp-tailed and Spruce Grouse, Northern Goshawk, Northern Hawk and Great Gray Owls, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, White-winged and Red Crossbills, and Hoary Redpoll. Long shots would be Gyrfalcon and Boreal Owl. Total trip species list probably around 30 - 40 species, but what a list!

Most birding will take place along roadsides, in or near the warmth of the vehicles. Expectations at this point would be to use Duluth as a base of operations. Field trip leaders are Stephen Harris and Simon Thompson. Price \$495 from Duluth includes lodging, group van, and guide service. Single supplement \$170. Limit 20 people. If you are interested in the trip and registration information please contact Stephen Harris at srharris@mindspring.com or 910-791-9034 to reserve your spot. An information and registration packet will be mailed to you, so please be sure to include complete name(s) and mailing address.

Augusta Recap

CBC members Lois Stacey, Anne Waters, and Caroline Wyatt (pictured at right) are birding at the "gorgeous" Phinizy Swamp during the Augusta meeting in September. Birders counted 134 species of birds, including Wood Stork, Virginia Rail, Barn Owl, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 12 species of shorebirds, and 19 species of warblers. Special thanks go to **Paul Koehler**, coordinator of the meeting, and to **members of Augusta-Aiken Audubon**, for planning and hosting the fun, well-organized weekend!

Photo by Dan Chambers



2004-2005 Christmas Bird Counts

Take part in National Audubon's 105th Christmas Bird Count this season. Counts run from December 14, 2004 through January 5, 2005. Counts with a TBA after the count name had not been announced by the time the newsletter went to press. You can also find the list of counts on the Carolina Bird Club website. This could be a good year for Red-breasted Nuthatches since many have been reported in the Carolinas in October. Look through the list of counts below and have fun birding!

Tuesday, December 14, 2004

Pamlico Co., NC	Liz Lathrop	252-249-2646	harbinger@cconnect.net
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Thursday, December 16, 2004

Highlands Plateau, NC	Edwin Poole	828-526-2775	kaywick@principia.net
Winyah Bay, SC	Lex Glover	803-438-9855	bglvr@clemson.edu

Saturday, December 18, 2004

Augusta, GA	Anne Waters	706-793-2788	birdannelady@earthlink.net
Columbia, SC	Robin Carter	803-782-8820	rcarter@sc.rr.com
Guilford Co., NC	Herb Hendrickson	336-288-0271	HHendrickson@triad.rr.com
Hilton Head, SC	Barry Lowes/Nan Lloyd	843-671-3537	nan@nanhiltonhead.com
Kitty Hawk, NC	Jeff Lewis	252-473-1086	jlewis_obx@yahoo.com
Raleigh, NC	John Connors	919-755-0253	John.Connors@ncmail.net
Raven Rock, NC	Paul Hart	910-893-4888	Paul.Hart@ncmail.net
Rocky Mount, NC	Marshall Brooks	252-985-5245	mbrooks@cwcc.edu
Tryon, NC	Simon Thompson	828-253-4247	Travel@birdventures.com
Wayne Co., NC	Eric Dean	919-736-7264	wolfpackdeans@earthlink.net
York/Rock Hill, SC	Bill Hilton, Jr.	803-684-5852	hilton@hiltonpond.org

Sunday, December 19, 2004

Congaree Swamp, SC	Robin Carter	803-782-8820	rcarter@sc.rr.com
Durham, NC	Josh Rose	919-451-0803	jsr6@duke.edu
McClellanville, SC	Nathan Dias		diasn@yahoo.com
Moorehead City, NC	John Fussell	252-240-1046	jfuss@clis.com
Southern Lake Norman, NC	Taylor Piephoff	704-532-6336	PiephoffT@aol.com
Southern Pines, NC	Susan Campbell	910-949-3207	susan@ncaves.com

Monday, December 20, 2004

New Bern, NC	Bob Holmes	252-633-3003	
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Friday, December 24, 2004

Aiken, SC	Calvin Zippler	803-642-2264	zipplerc@bellsouth.net
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Sunday, December 26, 2004

Chapel Hill, NC	Will Cook	919-382-9134	cwcook@duke.edu
Henderson Co., NC	Wayne Forsythe	828-697-6628	wforsythe@earthlink.net

Monday, December 27, 2004

Cape Hatteras, NC	Patricia Moore	252-995-4777	topatneal@aol.com
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Tuesday, December 28, 2004

Bodie-Pea Island, NC	Paul Sykes	706-769-9436	paul_sykes@usgs.gov
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Wednesday, December 29, 2004

Mattamuskeet, NC	Allen Bryan	804-740-8953	nshrike@mail.com
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Thursday, December 30, 2004

Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC	Jack Peachy	843-347-5810	ppaw@scoast.net (contact Jack by Dec. 15)
Spartanburg, SC	Lyle Campbell	864-585-1228	LCAMPBELL@uscupstate.edu
Ocracoke Island, NC	Peter Vankevich	202-468-2871	pmva@loc.gov (252-928-2539 after Dec. 26)
Pettigrew SP, NC	Sid Shearin	252-797-4156	Sid.Shearin@ncmail.net

Friday, December 31, 2004

Cleveland Co., NC	Jo Ann Martin	828-453-7400	jamloon@bellsouth.net
Portsmouth, NC	Peter Vankevich	202-468-2871	pmva@loc.gov (252-928-2539 after Dec. 26)

Saturday, January 1, 2005

Balsam, NC	Bob Olthoff	828-627-2546	robcar@asap-com.com
Santee NWR, SC	Lex Glover	803-438-9855	bglvr@clemson.edu
Wilmington, NC	Sam Cooper	910-799-3825	samwilm@aol.com
Winston-Salem, NC	Linda G. Davis	336-924-1751	davisl@mindspring.com

Sunday, January 2, 2005

Alligator River NWR, NC	Jeff Lewis	252-473-1086	jlewis_obx@yahoo.com
Buncombe Co., NC	Marilyn Westphal	828-891-9896	mjwestphal@unca.edu
Greenville, NC	Dr. Veronica Pantelidis	252-758-7828	pantelidisv@mail.ecu.edu
	John Wright	252-756-5139	johnswrighthsd@earthlink.net
Jordan Lake, NC	Carol Williamson	919-383-2364	cncbrdr@yahoo.com
Southport, NC	Greg Massey	910-383-3639	gregmassey@bellsouth.net

Monday, January 3, 2005

Falls Lake, NC	Brain Bockhahn	919-676-1027	cbockhahn4@earthlink.net
Lake Wateree, SC	Donna Slyce	803-951-7122	dslyce@earthlink.net

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Kerr Lake, NC	Brian Bockhahn	919-676-1027	cbockhahn4@earthlink.net
Gaston County, NC (TBA)	Steve Tracy	704-853-0654	StevePath1@aol.com
Greenville Co., SC (TBA)	J.B. Hines		jb.hines@kosa.com
Mt. Jefferson, NC (TBA)	Peter Zwadyk	336-982-8062	pzwadyk@fastransit.net

Just Outside the Window *By Donna Slyce*

Gone Country Although familiar to most as a confiding and calm member of the usual host of birds found in suburban backyards, where it can be seen leaning eagerly over manicured lawns, apparently listening for the movements of its favored summer prey of earthworms, the American Robin leads something of a double life. Spring and summer will find many American Robins in backyards, nesting in trees and shrubs on suburban lawns, and feeding their spot-breasted young, while plainly visible to anyone nearby.

As breeding season winds down, robins undergo a change in habits. As high summer gives way to late summer and the earliest of the migrants begin to move, American Robins lose their confiding ways. They disappear one by one from summer lawns and can be found in wilder places, consuming berries of various sorts, not allowing close approach, and acting much more like other members of their family, the reclusive thrushes. They begin to accumulate in large groups composed of adult males and the young fledged in the early summer, even as the adult females raise second broods of young. Later in the summer, the adult females and the second brood of young join the group.

The most notable feature of this accumulation in large groups is the number of American Robins who roost in communal roosts at night. At points north of North and South Carolina, the literature discusses this phenomenon as "peaking" in late

summer. Here in the South, where the number of robins increases during the winter months with winter resident birds, it has been mine and others' personal experience that this behavior "peaks" in mid-winter, at least in the number of birds that can be found utilizing a single nocturnal roost. While living in Fairfield County (South Carolina), a neighbor told me about the large number of American Robins using their non-working pastures at night for roosting in late January. The habitat was much as Arthur C. Bent describes as the type of habitat used by robins for nocturnal roosts—dense growths of largely deciduous trees in a swampy or wet area surrounded by open fields or retired pastures. It was with some pleasure that I began to note a large number of robins over flying the house within a few days of hearing about the roost, which was located near me. Amazed at the number of birds, I began block-counting the passing robins each evening. The first evening I counted 3,350 robins; the next evening I counted 3,950 robins. Most interesting was the count I got the very next night. I counted 50 birds on the third night. Such is the nature of roosts, apparently. The location of the roost is mobile, dependent in part on proximity to food sources. As food sources are exhausted, the roost moves. My numbers were amazing to me, but Bent mentions a winter roost in Florida that contained 50,000 birds. Summer roosts in the North have contained an estimated 2,000 birds.

So the robin that comes bob-bob-bobbing along beside the sidewalk in spring and summer has a secret—he lives a double life of urbane suburbanite and backwoods hermit.

MOUNTAIN, HURRICANE BIRDING

By Wayne K. Forsythe

The summer and fall shorebird migration was proceeding at an agonizingly slow pace in the mountains of western North Carolina. My traditional hot spots, Hooper Lane, Jeffress Road, and the Mills River area of Henderson County were very quiet. Traditionally, you can expect shorebirds anytime after July 4th, assuming we get some good thunderstorms, and Super Sod is beginning to harvest sod. Often, after an afternoon thunderstorm, I head out to Hooper Lane and go through the shorebirds that drop out of the sky and are feeding in the new puddles. This fall, I have gone out to Hooper Lane countless times after a heavy rain, and there were very few or no birds at all. This was beginning to get very frustrating, indeed.

Suddenly, in the beginning of September, things began to change. Hurricane Francis was being forecast to hit the mountains of western North Carolina. This storm was forecast to be very serious with very heavy rains and flooding predicted for Henderson County. On September 7th, I was heading back from Durham and drove through heavy rains for four hours. As soon as I got home, I headed out to Hooper Lane, in search of a fallout. Of course, isn't that what is suppose to happen when a hurricane hits? Much to my dismay, due to heavy flooding, Hooper Lane and Jeffress Road were under water and impassable. I headed back home feeling rather dejected.

Finally, at about 3 pm on September 8th, I again headed out to the Hooper Lane, Jeffress Road area of Henderson County. Prior to heading out, I checked my rain gage and found that I had 8.21" of precipitation from the storm. Other areas of the county had up to 12" of precipitation from this storm. Flooding in Henderson County was very severe. Hooper Lane and Jeffress Road were still impassable, but I was able to get on Jeffress Road via Butler Bridge Road off of Route 280. The flooding in the area was by far the worst I have seen in my 18 years in Henderson County. The river had covered about 90% of Super Sod and was up to the base of Jeffress Road. Some areas of the sod farm were under six feet of water. Prior to the storm, most of the fields along Jeffress Road were recently tilled and ready for new seed. Only a very small area of these fields were still above water.

As I pulled off the road, I began to scan with my bins and was truly amazed at what I saw. Conservatively, I would estimate at least 1000-1500 shorebirds littering the edges of the fields. I immediately called Ron Selvey and told him he needed to come right away. I felt that this was an historical event in the making. I also called Marilyn Westphal as well. As I hung up on Ron, I told him jokingly, "I'm going to look for some Phalaropes." As I scanned the edges, there were unprecedented numbers of peeps including Least, Semipalmated, and Western Sandpipers. There was a flock of 30+ Dunlin, at least 30 Stilt Sandpipers, 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and a few Baird's Sandpipers as well. As we continued to scan, we saw a few Sanderling, both Black-bellied and American Golden Plover, as well as at least 30+ Semipalmated Plovers. There were good

numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, many Short-billed Dowitchers, and Pectoral Sandpipers as well. Interestingly, I only saw one Spotted Sandpiper and NO Solitary Sandpipers. Approximately 30 terns were flying overhead, Forster's, Black and Common Terns.

As we continued to scan the edges, I saw three, large, very gray birds with prominent, white, supercillium eye lines and long upturned bills. After some discussion and a quick look at the field guide we settled on probable Hudsonian Godwits. I was able to get a few digi-scoped pictures. As we continued to scan, there were four Wilson's Phalaropes feeding along the waters edge. Overhead, a Peregrine Falcon began to shop for an easy meal.

As Ron, Marilyn, and I continued to scan, two large cinnamon colored birds dropped in. They too had long, upturned bills that were very pink at the base with black tips and their backs were heavily mottled with black. Surely these were not the same Godwits we saw earlier. Could the heavy overcast and poor lighting be playing tricks on us? No, we were actually seeing two species of godwit, Hudsonian and Marbled, in the mountains of western North Carolina. Again I took some digital shots to document these wonderful rarities. As light began to fail, we grudgingly had to leave. While I feel that we saw most of the rarities that were present, I can't help but feel we probably missed some other good birds, it was overwhelming for us mountain birders. I can't help but wonder what Simon Thompson or some of the other big guns down the mountain could have found if they were present and had time to go through all the birds present.



Red-necked Phalarope, Wayne Forsythe

The next morning, several of us went out to the Hooper Lane, Jeffress Road area again. We could only get limited access to Hooper Lane since most of it was under water.

Several of us walked the waters edge out into the sod field. Danny

Swicegood arrived and asked if the Wilson's Phalaropes had been seen today as they would be lifers for him. I relid, "no, not today," and within moments we found 2 Red-necked Phalaropes swimming and feeding in the tall grass at the waters edge, another new county bird and a lifer for Danny! A few Black Terns were overhead as well as the Peregrine Falcon. We headed back to Jeffress Road and again saw many of the birds present the day before, plus a Willet.

The following week, Hurricane Ivan hit the mountains of western North Carolina. This time, we had severe winds, but not as much rain. I recorded 5.57 inches of precipitation at my home. Henderson County was hit hard, with many trees and power lines down and 50,000 folks with no power for up to a week.

Again, we had many good birds come in with the hurricane.

Continued on next page

Mountain, Hurricane Birding continued

On Rt. 191/280 the fields were flooded. Some of the birds seen were American Golden, Black-bellied, and Semipalmated Plovers. Again, 2 Red-necked Phalaropes showed up, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpipers, both yellowlegs, Pectorals and several peeps. We headed out to Hooper Lane, which was still flooded, and sitting out on a little spit of grass were 5 Laughing Gulls, another Henderson County first. I took a few pictures and Jon Smith asked me what the tern flying over head was. Due to very heavy overcast, I told Jon that it was probably a Forster's Tern. Jon and Glenda both told me they felt it was a Gull-billed Tern. After viewing the tern for a while, I could not see an ear patch which a Forster's should show at this time of year and the bird had a very large, thick, black bill and dark legs. Overall the bird was white/light gray and the primaries were a darker shade of gray. I told Jon and Glenda I felt they were right, another new mountain bird, assuming the Records Committee accepts the sighting as valid.

A week later, Hurricane Jeanne arrived. Boy, this weather was beginning to get very old, but the birding was sensational! We only received a few inches of rain and almost no birds. On Saturday morning, September 25th I was birding the Hooper Lane area. As an after thought, I walked all the way out to the back of Super Sod and set up my scope to scan some far out puddles. What I found was truly amazing—a Black-necked Stilt! I took a few photos for documentation and got on the

phone. Within an hour, at least 15 other birders were treated to this wonderful rarity. Also present were both yellowlegs, Pectorals, a few peeps, several Stilt Sandpipers, and a Peregrine Falcon.

This three week period of very unusual weather was truly historical for the birding community of western North Carolina. I cherished every moment and every bird I saw during this period. I daresay, it will be a very long time before we have a similar event.

Membership Corner

New Members

Tim Allison-Lancaster, SC; **Melissa E. Barth**-Blowing Rock, NC; **Dr. & Mrs. Sanjukta Ghosh & Arunabha Sengupta**-Durham, NC; **Kathleen Hart**-Moncks Corner, SC; **Imtiaz & Mary Hoque**-Clemson, SC; **Paul R. Jones**-Anderson, SC; **Ruth Mead**-Augusta, GA; **Elizabeth & Douglas Ward**-Cary, NC; **Kathy & John Steele**-N. Augusta, SC; **Jacki Tylka-Garner**, NC; **Kathy Watkins**-Charlotte, NC; **Jean M. Yarsawich**-Martinez, GA; **Charles & Patricia Youngblood**-Bear Creek, NC; and **Eugene Zielinski**-Augusta, GA.

Deceased Member

Peter Manigault-Charleston, SC

Life Member

Judith A. Fortney-Durham, NC

Atlantic Beach Field Trip Schedule

Please note the meeting locations, directions, and times in the field trip descriptions on the following two pages. Many trips have the option of leaving from the Sheraton, or meeting at the site, shopping center closer to the site, or ferry. Also note all trips have a limit (10-15) of how many can attend. Carpool when possible. You may want to bring drinks and snacks for half-day trips and will need to bring lunch for all-day trips. *Field trip descriptions by John Fussell.*

Friday, January 28

No All-day trips

Half-day morning

- Trip #1 Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson—7:15 am at Sheraton or 8 am at ferry
- Trip #2 Ft. Macon/Piers/Sparrows—7:30 am at Sheraton
- Trip #3 Open Ground Farm—8 am at Beaufort Square

Half-day afternoon

- Trip #4 Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson—12:30 pm at Sheraton or 1:15 pm at ferry
- Trip #5 North River Farms—1 pm at Beaufort Square
- Trip #6 Calico Creek/Morehead—1 pm at Sheraton

Saturday, January 29

All-day trips

- Trip #7 Onslow Co.—8 am at Jim O'Donnell's house

- Trip #8 Down East—7 am at Sheraton
- Trip #9 Cape Lookout—7:30 am at Sheraton or 8:30 am at Local Yokel Ferry
- Trip #10 Clancy's Farm—7:15 am at Sheraton
- Trip #11 Croatan NF & New Bern—7:15 at Sheraton

Half-day morning

- Trip #12 E. Shackleford Banks—7 am at Sheraton or 8 am at Local Yokel Ferry
- Trip #13 Kayak to Carrot Island—8 am Beaufort boat ramp
- Trip #14 Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson—7:15 am at Sheraton or 8 am at ferry
- Trip #15 Ft. Macon/Piers/Sparrows—7:30 am at Sheraton
- Trip #16 North River Farms—8 am at Beaufort Square

Half-day afternoon

- Trip #17 Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson—12:30 pm at Sheraton or 1:15 at ferry
- Trip #18 North River Farms—1 pm at Beaufort Square
- Trip #19 Calico Creek/Morehead—1 pm at Sheraton

Sunday, January 30

Half-day morning

- Trip #20 E. Shackleford Banks—7 am at Sheraton or 8 am at Local Yokel Ferry
- Trip #21 Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson—7:15 am at Sheraton or 8 am at ferry
- Trip #22 Ft. Macon/Piers/Sparrows—7:30 am at Sheraton
- Trip #23 North River Farms—8 am at Beaufort Square

Atlantic Beach Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 1. Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve.

Good variety of shorebirds. Possibility of Long-billed Curlew. Leave from Sheraton at 7:15 am (or be at Outer Banks Ferry—directly across from N.C. Maritime Museum—on the Beaufort waterfront at 8 am; this is about 30 minutes from the Sheraton). Limit: 15. **Cost \$8, payable at ferry. Be prepared to wade through ankle-deep water.**

Trip 2. Fort Macon SP/Ocean Piers/Marsh Sparrows. Will check Fort Macon jetties, do some birding from ocean piers, and check the active spoiling site for gulls. At high tide, we'll bird the Morehead-Beaufort causeway marshes for marsh sparrows. Limit: 15. Leave from Sheraton at 7:30 am. **Boots are desirable for last site.**

Trip 3. Open Ground Farm. Will hope to see Brewer's Blackbird and look for other open country birds. Limit: 15. Meet at Beaufort Square Shopping Center on US 70 East in Beaufort. Park next to the Dairy Queen. (This is about 0.4 mile past where NC 101 branches off from US 70.) Meet at 8 am. (Site is about 30 minutes from Sheraton.)

Trip 4. Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve.

(See description, cost, etc. under Trip 1 write-up. Leave from Sheraton at 12:30 pm or be at Outer Banks Ferry at 1:15 pm.)

Trip 5. North River Farms. Site is typically quite birdy. Will look for raptors and other open country birds, a variety of sparrows, and maybe a few marsh birds. Limit: 15. Meet at Beaufort Square Shopping Center on US 70 East in Beaufort. Park next to the Dairy Queen. (This is about 0.4 mile past where NC 101 branches off from US 70.) Meet at 1 pm. (Site is about 30 minutes from Sheraton.)

Trip 6. Calico Creek/Morehead City area. Bird Calico Creek tidal bay at various sites, which is a good place for good looks at Clapper Rail. Will hope for something interesting at Morehead sewage treatment plant. Limit: 15. Leave from the Sheraton at 1 pm.

Trip 7. Onslow County—Jacksonville Sewage Treatment Plant, New River Inlet-North Topsail Island, Permuda Island Estuarine Reserve.

At the treatment plant, will look through ducks and gulls, and hope for specialties like Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Eared Grebe. The ocean off North Topsail is typically very birdy, with large numbers of gannets and loons. Limit: 12. Leader: Jim O'Donnell. **This trip will begin at Jim O'Donnell's house, which is about one hour from the Sheraton. Be at Jim's house at 8 am.** To get to Jim's house, take NC 58 North (west) down the island and on to the mainland (at Cape Carteret). Turn left on NC 24 and continue through Jacksonville. Continue on NC 24/US 258 and turn left on NC 111 (following signs to Jacksonville airport). Go 2.8 miles down NC 111, and turn left on to Fire Tower Road at Catherine's Lake community. At 2.6 miles down Fire Tower Road, look for brick house on right.

Trip 8. The Real Down East. An easy tour of various habitats in the scenic Down East area of Carteret County, ending up at the Cedar Island ferry terminal. We'll see a variety of species, including some waterfowl. Limit: 15. Leave from the Sheraton at 7 am.

Trip 9. Cape Lookout. Trip will be to the cape point. There will be gulls, and we'll hope for a rarity. The cape is wonderfully desolate in winter. Limit: 15. Leave from the Sheraton at 7:30 am (or meet at Local Yokel Ferry Service on Harkers Island by 8:30 am). To get to Local Yokel, take US 70 East. In Beaufort, note fork with NC 101, and continue on US 70. About 9.3 miles past NC 101 fork, look for Harkers Island Road. Take road on to Harkers Island, and look for Local Yokel sign on right. Allow almost an hour to get from the Sheraton. **Cost \$12, payable at ferry. Be prepared to get feet wet when getting off boat at the cape. Will have to walk a couple of miles through sand. Be prepared for spray and low wind chill values.**

Trip 10. Clancy Ballenger's Farm. A tour of CBC member's farm, which is being managed for ducks, sparrows, and other birds. Clancy will show how he is managing his farm for birdlife. Limit: 15. Leave from Sheraton at 7:15 am.

Trip 11. Croatan National Forest/New Bern area. In the Croatan National Forest, will look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (and Henslow's Sparrows if any have been staked out). Then will check various sites—lakes and ponds, a treatment plant, and the Neuse River estuary—for a variety of waterfowl. Limit: 15. Leave from the Sheraton at 7:15 am.

Trip 12. East Shackleford Banks. Area is good for shorebirds; may see Long-billed Curlews. Wonderfully desolate in winter; shelling often good on ocean beach. Limit: 15. Leave from the Sheraton at 7 am (or meet at Local Yokel Ferry Service on Harkers Island by 8 am). To get to Local Yokel, take US 70 East. In Beaufort, note fork with NC 101, and continue on US 70. About 9.3 miles past NC 101 fork, look for Harkers Island Road. Take road on to Harkers Island, and look for Local Yokel sign on right. Allow almost an hour to get from the Sheraton. **Cost \$10, payable at ferry. Be prepared for some wading in sticky mud and for spray and low wind chill values.**

Trip 13. Kayak trip to Carrot Island-Horse Island/Rachel Carson Reserve. Kayak trip through protected waters to oyster rocks where large numbers of shorebirds roost. Limit: 10. Leader: Dennis Chadwick. Meet 8 am at public boat ramp at east end of Front Street on Beaufort waterfront. To get to site, take US 70 into Beaufort, and turn right at first stoplight (onto Turner Street). Continue to end of street and turn left on Front Street. Continue to end of Front Street (about 2 miles) and look for boat ramp. **Cost \$20, payable at the boat ramp. Kayaks provided. Be prepared for low wind chill values.**

Trip 14. Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve. (See description, cost, etc. under Trip 1 write-up.)

Trip 15. Fort Macon SP/Ocean Piers/Marsh Sparrows.
(See description under Trip 2 write-up.)

Trip 16. North River Farms. (See birding and meeting place under Trip 5 write-up. Meet in Beaufort at 8 am.)

Trip 17. Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve.
(See description, cost, etc. under Trip 1 write-up. Leave from Sheraton at 12:30 pm or be at Outer Banks Ferry at 1:15 pm.)

Trip 18. North River Farms. (See description under Trip 5 write-up.)

Trip 19. Calico Creek/Morehead City area. (See description under Trip 6 write-up.)

Trip 20. East Shackleford Banks. (See description, cost, etc. under Trip 12 write-up.)

Trip 21. Bird Shoal/Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve.
(See description, cost, etc. under Trip 1 write-up.)

Trip 22. Fort Macon SP/Ocean Piers/Marsh Sparrows.
(See description under Trip 2 write-up.)

Trip 23. North River Farms. (See description under Trip 5 write-up. Meet in Beaufort at 8 am.)

Birding on Own. See Birding on Own hand-out with registration.

[Note that the Outer Banks ferry is also available to take persons to the west end of Shackleford Banks (no organized trip is going to this site)].

Executive Committee Update

Meeting Registration Increase

Registration for CBC meetings will increase beginning with the winter meeting in Atlantic Beach. For members the pre-registration cost will be \$15; non-members, \$20; and \$25 for everyone who pays at the meeting. The Executive Committee voted on this change at the August retreat due to an increase in operation costs. The new fees are included in the registration form below.

List of Committee Members

Grants: Bob Ellis (chair), Shelly Theye, and Bob Holland.

Finance: Stephen Harris (chair), Ben Smith, Edith Tatum, Lucy Quintilliano, and Bob Wood.

Bird Records Committees: NC – Harry LeGrand, (chair), Keith Camburn, Sam Cooper, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Wayne Forsythe, and Russ Tyndall. SC – Donna Slyce (chair), Giff Beaton, Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, and Steve Wagner.

Nominating: Steve Patterson (chair), Lori Martin, and Dana Harris.

Have fun participating in Cornell's annual Project FeederWatch, which begins November 13, 2004. Sign up by contacting Cornell at 1-800-843-2473 or <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw>.

Carolina Bird Club Registration Form

Atlantic Beach January 28-30, 2005 and Bonus Field Trip

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ ____ for ____ member (\$15) registration(s) and/or ____ nonmember (\$20) registration(s). Registration at the door costs \$25 for everyone.

Friday field trip choices # ____ / ____ Saturday field trip choices # ____ / ____ Sunday field trip choices # ____
AM PM AM PM AM

Registration for bonus field trip costs \$10/pp paid in advance.

Enclosed is my check for \$ ____ for ____ member(s) to join the **Burke's Garden, VA - January 22 trip.**

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to: CBC, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 22601-1029.



Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

11 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1029



3 9088 01117 4224

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Post Office
Raleigh, NC
Permit No. 1654

Upcoming CBC Bonus Trips

November 13-14, Lake Mattamuskeet
January 22, Burke's Garden, VA
February 17-21, Northern Minnesota

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES
NHB 25-MRC 154
BOX 37012/SERIALS
WASHINGTON DC 20013-7012

20013-7012

CBC Board Members

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803-475-5660

wood29020@comporium.net

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Ricky Davis, Rocky Mount, NC

Simon Thompson, Asheville, NC

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Charlotte Goedsche, Weaverville

Lori Martin, Maiden

Judy Murray, Chapel Hill

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Marcia Watkins, Columbia

Steve Patterson, Pickens

Immediate Past President, Van Atkins, Charleston, SC

Editor of *The Chat*, Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Website Editor, Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Editor of *CBC Newsletter*, Karen Bearden

1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612

919-844-9050, chickadeebirders@earthlink.net

Submission deadlines are due the 1st of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Headquarters Secretary, Tullie Johnson, Raleigh, NC

919-733-7450, Ext. 605, tullie.johnson@ncmail.net

Rare Bird Alert: 704-332-BIRD

CBC Website: 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, \$20; Associate (in household with individual), \$5; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$400; Sustaining & businesses, \$25. Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$1.75, 25@\$5, 50@\$9.50, 75@\$12.75, and 100@\$16. Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029. Copyright © 2004. Printed on 100% recycled paper.