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Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 61

December 2015

Number 6



Register Now for the Litchfield Beach Winter Meeting!

Lewis Burke

Circle the dates of February 5th and 6th on your 2016 calendars and make plans to attend the new year's first CBC meeting at Litchfield Beach in Georgetown County, South Carolina. Registration is open, and like the early bird gets the worm, early registrants have the best selection of available field trips.

This will be the first winter meeting in South Carolina since 2008, and will give us an opportunity to explore favorite sites as well as some new birding locations. In 2008 we enjoyed 169 species including 27 types of ducks and geese. During the first week of February in 2015, one of our main venues, Huntington Beach State Park, hosted Long-tailed Duck, Common Eider, Razorbill, Purple Sandpiper, and Eared Grebe. While there is no guarantee as to what might show up this go-round, the possibilities are exciting!

In addition to always-favorite Huntington Beach, we are offering a Long-billed Curlew trip out of McClellanville. This all-day boat trip will allow up to 40 birders to explore Cape Romain N.W.R. in hopes of finding one of the state's least common regularly wintering shorebirds. Perennially birdy Bulls Island should provide for excellent land and water birding, and joining the boat trip tailor-made for the CBC is one of the best ways to enjoy this wild, wonderful coastal site. We plan to offer all-day trips to Santee Coastal Reserve W.M.A. and Santee Delta W.M.A., both of which are normally restricted at this time of year. Also, thanks to SCDNR, we are being granted two birding trips to the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. This preserve was left to the state by the late Tom

Yawkey, owner of the Boston Red Sox. It is not open to the public as per Yawkey's restriction that limits use of the islands to the preservation of wildlife.

We are planning trips to new locations including Lewis Ocean Bay. This Carolina Bay offers the chance to spot endangered birds as well as plants. We also plan to visit Brookgreen Gardens, which will allow us to bird in one of the most important statutory gardens in the country. Not your cup of tea? How about an ocean watching trip to Cherry Grove Pier? Or a visit to Rocky Point Plantation where you will be among the first to bird the site and help start the Nature Conservancy property's new bird list? Rocky Point, along the Great Pee Dee River, is a new preserve that the CBC helped purchase through a substantial grant.

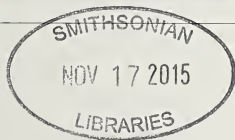
Another new field trip entitled "How to Tell the Gulls from the Buoys" led by Dr. Chris Hill talks to the finer points of gull identification and precedes an outing to apply newly-honed skills. This unique program is limited to 15 birders, so sign up early.

Our host for the meeting is the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, which some may recall as the same location we enjoyed at the 2013 fall meeting. Special CBC meeting rates are \$66 for rooms and \$88 for suites. To make your reservation, call (888) 734-8228 or (843) 237-3000.

Plans are underway for a Friday evening reception, with cash bar, that features a program on young

(Continued on page 2)

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CBC Winter Meeting Schedule

Friday, February 5

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 1: Bulls Island - 6:30
- Trip 2: Huntington Beach SP w/ Jetty - 7:30
- Trip 3: Santee Coastal Reserve - 7:00
- Trip 4: Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center - 7:45
- Trip 5: Gull Workshop/Field Trip - 8:00

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 6: Cherry Grove Pier & Marsh - 7:00
- Trip 7: Rocky Point Plantation - 7:15
- Trip 8: Huntington Beach SP w/o Jetty - 7:45
- Trip 9: South Tibwin - 6:45
- Trip 10: Myrtle Beach State Park - 7:30

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

- Trip 11: South Tibwin - 1:00
- Trip 12: Huntington Beach State Park Jetty - 1:15
- Trip 13: Brookgreen Gardens - 1:25
- Trip 14: Huntington Beach SP w/o Jetty - 1:30
- Trip 15: South Litchfield Beach - 1:20

Saturday, February 6

All Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 16: Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center - 7:45
- Trip 17: Huntington Beach SP - 7:15
- Trip 18: Santee Coastal Reserve and Delta - 7:00
- Trip 19: Long Billed Curlew Boat Trip - 6:45 from hotel; 8:00 departure from McClellanville

Morning - Half-Day Trips (all times a.m.)

- Trip 20: Lewis Ocean Bay - 7:15
- Trip 21: New Birder Workshop - 8:00
- Trip 22: Cherry Grove Pier & Marsh - 7:45
- Trip 23: South Tibwin - 6:45
- Trip 24: Myrtle Beach State Park - 7:30
- Trip 25: Rocky Point Plantation - 7:45

Afternoon - Half-Day Trips (all times p.m.)

- Trip 26: Brookgreen Gardens - 1:25
- Trip 27: Huntington Beach State Park Jetty - 1:15
- Trip 28: South Tibwin - 1:00
- Trip 29: South Litchfield Beach - 1:20
- Trip 30: Huntington Beach SP w/o Jetty - 1:30

Essential Planning Notes

The times listed above are when the cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists at the registration table, or show up at the meeting place and tell the leader.

All trips depart from the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort. Look for the placard with your trip number. You will receive a sheet with directions for all your trips in your registration packet. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down, and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the birding site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.

Food for purchase during field trips may be somewhat limited. Accordingly, plan to take snacks and beverages with you, and be sure to pack a lunch for the all day trips.

We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips in order to save fuel, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling.

(Continued from page 1)

birders, their mentors, and the CBC's grants program. The main attraction of the evening might be a bird calling contest. If you think you have the best screech-owl call, phish, warbler chip, Black Rail whinny or other call, we invite you to participate! At least three former CBC presidents are going to compete, as seems appropriate for an election year!

On Saturday evening we again offer the popular banquet dinner. The price, inclusive of tax and gratuity, is \$30 each, and a vegetarian option will be available. Our keynote speaker will be Julie Hovis, an endangered species biologist at Shaw Air Force Base who is also a devoted Purple Martin "landlady". You won't want to miss her program entitled "Tracking South Carolina's Purple Martins to Brazil and Back". Lake Murray, in the midlands of SC, hosted what was reported to be the largest Purple Martin roost in the country, but the birds essentially disappeared two years ago. Julie helped track down the missing birds and will enlighten us as to what she found.

So don't delay, register today!

We'll see you at Litchfield Beach!



Litchfield Beach Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 1 - Bulls Island

Bulls Island is a full-day boat trip with an additional fee of \$45 per participant. The fee will be collected on board, and you may pay with cash, check, or credit card. The pearl of Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Bulls Island offers mud flats, saltwater marshes, beaches, freshwater impoundments, ponds, and upland habitats. This place is on anybody's list of the top five birding spots in South Carolina. We have arranged for the boat to land at the island's north end to reduce the long walk from the regular landing. Here we will look at the massive shorebird roost at high tide, scope the ocean for interesting birds, and then check out Jack's Creek impoundment. Target birds include Canvasback and Redhead, Red-necked Grebe, potentially thousands of shorebirds, Piping Plover, Peregrine Falcon, American White Pelican and more. Prepare for a full day of walking and bring a packed lunch and water. No facilities available.

Travel time: 90 minutes

Activity level: Walking all day, boat trip to and from the island.

Trips 2 & 17 - Huntington Beach State Park with Jetty

This trip will cover the jetty at Huntington Beach State Park along with nearby tidal creeks and flats, plus the causeway, Mullet Pond, the Education Center, salt marsh boardwalk and Sandpiper Pond. The jetty is one of best places in the state to find wintering Purple Sandpiper, Common Eider, Razorbill, Long-tailed Duck, Northern Gannet, and scoters. Be prepared for a 3-mile walk round-trip along the beach from the north parking lot to the jetty. Bring a packed lunch and water, however some food is available in the park store. There is a \$5 per person entrance fee to the park. Facilities available.

Travel time: 15 minutes

Activity level: Walking all day

Trip 3- Santee Coastal Reserve

Our tour of the Santee Coastal Reserve's mainland area will cover acres of former rice fields, river frontage along the South Santee River, magnificent cypress-tupelo swamp, upland fields, and mixed forest. Expect lots of waterfowl and wading birds, American White Pelican, Wood Stork, sparrows, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, and if we are lucky,

Barn Owl, Golden Eagle, and rails. No facilities. Travel time: 90 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking all day

Trips 4 & 16 - Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center

This area is a SC Heritage Preserve administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Public access can be rather limited, so we are excited to offer two full-day trips to this fantastic birding area just 20 minutes from Georgetown. Target birds include American Avocet, American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, Barn Owl, lots of waterfowl, shorebirds, rails, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, sparrows and more! Observation towers provide a panoramic view of the south Santee River Delta and surrounding area. This trip seems to be the one to get it all, in one long day! Note that space will be limited, so if you are hoping to go on this trip, register early! We will take a short ferry ride to reach the Center. Bring food and water. Facilities available.

Travel time: 60 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking

Trip 5 - Gull Workshop or "How to Tell the Gulls From the Buoys"

After an indoor presentation on gull identification taught and led by Dr. Chris Hill, we will visit local gulling spots that may include the Conway Wastewater Treatment Plant and Horry County Landfill. This will be a great opportunity to learn about gulls! Be prepared to carpool, or possibly van pool, for the field trip. The field portion of this trip is limited to 15 people, and participants must carpool, however the indoor workshop is open to room capacity. Facilities available during the indoor presentation.

Travel time: TBD based on location of gull flocks

Activity level: Likely minimal walking

Trips 6 & 22 - Cherry Grove Pier & Marsh

We will ocean watch for pelagics, sea ducks, and more from the Cherry Grove Pier, the northernmost publicly accessible pier in the state. We will also visit Heritage Shores Nature Preserve in Cherry Grove for marsh birds and Vereen Memorial Gardens at the state line, just north of Cherry Grove, for winter passerines, Bald Eagle, and marsh birds. There is a \$2 fee to access the pier. Facilities available.

Litchfield Beach Field Trip Descriptions

Travel time: 60 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking

Trips 7 & 25 - Rocky Point Plantation

This trip is to the Nature Conservancy's newest preserve, for which Carolina Bird Club was a major financial contributor. The tract is located on the Great Pee Dee River. This will be one of the first times it has been birded, so we will be starting the bird list for the property. No facilities.

Travel time: 45 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking

Trips 8, 14, & 30 - Huntington Beach State Park w/o Jetty

Even if you don't go out to the jetty, a trip to "HBSP" can yield great birding and photography opportunities. This trip will cover the causeway, Mullet Pond, Education Center feeders, salt marsh boardwalk, and an overlook on the marshy end of Sandpiper Pond (good for rails and bitterns). The trip will also briefly visit the beach, but will not make the trek to the jetty. We hope to see ducks, American Bittern, rails, wading birds, wintering passerines, and raptors. There is a \$5 per person entrance fee to the park. Facilities available.

Travel time: 15 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking

Trips 9, 11, 23 & 28 - South Tibwin

Located in the Francis Marion National Forest, South Tibwin features mature pine forest and waterfowl impoundments. The impoundments are usually closed during mid-winter, but the Forest Service has given us permission to bird here. We hope to find a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, rails, American Bittern, and wintering passerines. No facilities. Participants should plan to carpool.

Travel time: 60 minutes

Activity level: 3 miles of walking

Trips 10, 24 - Myrtle Beach State Park

We begin at the pier to look for loons, cormorants, gannets, Horned Grebe, gulls, terns and hopefully some alcids. The pier offers restrooms, coffee, snacks etc. Next, we will bird the maritime forest and ponds, which may yield Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler and other wintering passerines. The pond may house waterfowl including Hooded Merganser and Blue-

winged Teal. We will also look for American Bittern, rails, and sparrows. There is a \$5 per person entrance fee to the park. Facilities available.

Travel time: 20 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking

Trips 12 & 27 - Huntington Beach State Park ½-Day Jetty

These afternoon trips will walk to the jetty and nearby tidal creeks and flats. The jetty is one of the best places in the state to find wintering Purple Sandpiper and scoters. Rarities are regular here, and with luck we may find species like Common Eider, Razorbill, or Long-tailed Duck. There is a \$5 per person entrance fee to the park. Facilities available.

Travel time: 15 minutes

Activity level: 3 miles of walking on beach to jetty

Trips 13 & 26 - Brookgreen Gardens

Participants will spend the afternoon exploring beautiful statuary gardens and wonderful open woodland habitat for a variety of birds including ducks, rails, American Bittern, wading birds, wintering passerines, Great Horned Owl, Bald Eagle and more. There is a \$15 per person entrance fee to the Gardens. Facilities available.

Travel time: 15 minutes

Activity level: Moderate walking

Trips 15 & 29 - South Litchfield Beach

Located near our hotel, this beach is located south of Huntington Beach SP. We will bird the causeway leading to the beach, which is an excellent place to observe Clapper Rails. From the parking lot we will walk along the shore where we may see a variety of shorebirds, Northern Gannet, loons, grebes, sea ducks, cormorants, gulls, terns and more. On the western side of the island we'll search for shorebirds and waders. No facilities.

Travel time: 15 minutes

Activity level: Up to 3 miles of walking on the beach

Trip 18 - Santee Coastal Reserve and Santee Delta WMA

Our tour of the Santee Coastal Reserve's upland area will cover acres of pine, hardwood, mixed pine/hardwood forest, grasslands, planted fields,

(Continued on page 5)

Litchfield Beach Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 4)

and the Washo Reserve. Woodpeckers, including Red-cockaded, raptors, and wintering passerines can be found, with chances of some wading birds and waterfowl in the Washo Reserve. The Santee Delta should be good for waterfowl, wading birds, rails, hawks, and wintering passerines. Facilities along Hwy 17 between the reserves.
Travel time: 90 minutes
Activity level: Moderate walking all day

Trip 19 - Long-billed Curlew Boat Trip

This is a full-day boat trip with an additional fee of \$45 per participant. The fee will be collected on board, and you may pay with cash, check, or credit card. This trip visits Raccoon Key and Lighthouse Island in a covered boat with windows that lower. The boat holds up to 40 passengers. Our target birds include the curlew along with Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, American Oystercatcher, waterfowl, Peregrine Falcon, and more. We usually see all three maritime sparrows. No facilities.
Travel time: 75 minutes
Activity level: All-day boat trip may be very cold, wet and windy

Trip 20 - Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve

This 9,000-acre preserve includes 23 Carolina Bays (shallow, circular lakes). The preserve is classified as an Important Bird Area by Audubon. Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bald Eagle will be the chief target birds. The state's largest population of Black Bear occurs here, as well as numerous rare plants including the Venus Flytrap. No facilities.
Travel time: 60 minutes
Activity level: Moderate walking

Trip 21- New Birder Workshop

This trip is for those new to birding or those who just want a refresher! We'll visit Huntington Beach State Park looking and listening for birds in a variety of habitats. Additional focus will be placed on bird behavior and identification techniques. There is a \$5 per person entrance fee to the park. Facilities available.
Travel time: 15 minutes
Activity level: Moderate walking

Trip X - Sunday Morning Hotspots

Depending on interest and the location of birds found on Friday and Saturday, we may offer a "hotspot tour" Sunday morning. More information will be provided at the Saturday evening meeting.

High Country Audubon Supports Young Birders

High Country Audubon Society (HCAS) recently announced a scholarship opportunity to support a young birder who wants to attend a Carolina Bird Club seasonal meeting, but lacks the necessary funds. HCAS is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society and Audubon North Carolina that serves Watauga, Ashe, Wilkes, Alleghany and Avery counties.

The HCAS Birding Scholarship awards up to \$300 to a college student or recent graduate to defray the costs of attending a CBC meeting in North or South Carolina during the 2016 calendar year. Eligibility requirements include current school registration (or graduated within one year of the CBC meeting), age 24 or younger at the time of the meeting, and live in the

five-county HCAS area.

In 2015 two anonymous HCAS members donated \$250 to HCAS. These funds were used to allow Alexandra Vlk, a recent college graduate and intern on the Blue Ridge Parkway, to attend the CBC winter meeting at Nags Head.

Grant information and application are available on the HCAS website at:

<http://www.highcountryaudubon.org>



A Warm Reception in Hickory

Irvin Pitts

Members attending our fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club in Hickory, North Carolina on September 18 and 19, 2015 enjoyed a weekend of warm, beautiful weather, fine birding, fellowship, and entertaining presentations. These are the ingredients for a successful meeting! CBC planners did an excellent job of organizing an exciting array of field trip destinations for the 139 registered participants. Though migration seemed light, most folks enjoyed memorable moments of birding, and overall we tallied a grand total of 128 species.

My weekend highlight was our Friday trip to Ridge Junction on the Blue Ridge Parkway and Mount Mitchell State Park with expert leaders Marilyn Westphal and Mark Simpson. Ours was the early trip and we departed the hotel parking lot at 5:00 AM and travelled to our first destination, Ridge Junction, located just south of Mount Mitchell State Park. We arrived before 7:00 AM with the glow of dawn on the horizon and Venus shining bright in the sky. The weather was cool and the winds light, with overall conditions feeling very pleasant. Our first bird of the morning was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak we heard calling downslope.

We enjoyed an exciting morning of birding as migrant wood warblers moved across the gap in good numbers. For nearly two hours we observed constant activity under excellent, sunlit conditions, affording us great opportunities for species comparisons. Those most common were Tennessee Warblers, with nearly thirty being observed, along with 12 to 15 Cape May Warblers and 8 to 10 Black-throated Green Warblers. We also got great looks at Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, and Black-and-White Warblers, Northern Parula, and a Common Yellowthroat. Also present were several Swainson's Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, Scarlet Tanagers and more than twenty Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. To cap this off, a short excursion down the nearby Bald Knob Ridge Trail produced a nice variety of higher elevation species such as Common Ravens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets and our prized target bird, the Red Crossbill, of which we got distant but satisfactory looks at three. This was followed by a memorable visit to nearby Mount Mitchell. What a great day!

Other organized field trips to such fine destinations as Riverbend County Park, Baker Mountain County Park

and the Lenoir Greenway, to name a few, also yielded exciting results. Some participants were treated to an awe-inspiring flight of migrating Broad-winged Hawks, while others encountered Ruffed Grouse, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo and an impressive total of 27 species of wood warblers, with these being highlighted by Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and many others.

Following our two full days of birding, we enjoyed socializing with friends old and new, a delicious buffet dinner, and entertaining evening programs. Our Friday night program was highlighted by Lori Owenby's excellent presentation on Catawba County Parks, and our Saturday night's keynote speaker, Curtis Smalling, delivered an intriguing and informative talk on Golden-winged Warblers and migration. It was great seeing everyone in Hickory, and thanks to those who made the weekend's meeting such a fun success. We hope you will join us at the next seasonal meeting in Litchfield Beach, South Carolina!



Did You Enjoy This Year's Fall Meeting in Hickory?

We are soliciting your input, via an online survey, on where you would like to have a fall meeting in the future. Go to the main web page at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org> and find the link to the survey. Because meeting planning has to begin so far in advance, the survey responses probably won't affect next fall's meeting, but we'll incorporate the results into planning another future meeting.

(Note that you need to login in order to complete the survey, so if you have not yet set up a login account, do that first on the Member Services page, which you can also find linked from the main page.)

Rocky Point Project Funded

As described in the February edition of the CBC Newsletter, the CBC initiated the process to utilize the Haymaker Reserved Fund, a bequest to the CBC to be used for the conservation of land for the protection of birds.

After reviewing a number of options, the CBC Executive Committee decided that the Rocky Point Project was the best opportunity to utilize the funds in the

manner detailed by the donor.

On October 14th the fund transfer occurred, as described in the letter below.

Look for a special opportunity to bird the Rocky Point property during the upcoming CBC winter meeting in Litchfield Beach, SC.

October 14, 2015

Emma Gerald Boyer
Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER@
A Program of Winyah Rivers Foundation
Center for Marine and Wetland Studies
290 Allied Drive
Conway, SC 29528-6054

Dear Ms. Boyer:

The Carolina Bird Club is pleased to support the Rocky Point Project. Enclosed is a check of \$68,066.31 from the "Haymaker Reserved Fund" that our club committed to support the acquisition of this key conservation tract on the banks of the Black River in Georgetown County, South Carolina. Our coastal plain river forests provide exceptional value for wildlife, including that of migrating songbirds, and are critical breeding habitat for such key species as the state endangered swallow-tailed kite. In addition, public access is very important for folks to have the opportunity of enjoying the experiences of our natural world.

Please send us a letter of receipt and acceptance of our check for the Rocky Creek Project. In addition we would appreciate updates on the final closing of this project as well as being copied on any press releases. The Carolina Bird Club is excited for having the opportunity to partner in this significant conservation effort.

Sincerely,

Irvin Pitts
Carolina Bird Club, President

cc: Katherine Malloy
Assistant Director of Land Protection, South Carolina Chapter of the Nature Conservancy

The Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website, and you can elect either electronic or paper delivery. The most recent electronic editions of each are only accessible to CBC members.

To access the "members only" content, you must first create a login and password.

This can be done at the Member Services page at:

[http:// www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/)

Welcome New Members!

The Carolina Bird Club warmly welcomes the following new members:

Thomas Sherratt
Durham, NC

Joyce & John
Strachan
Morganton, NC

Ted Stevens
Southern Pines, NC

Charlotte Morley
Fort Mill, SC

Jim & Lynn Criswell
Hampstead, NC

Barbara & Jerry
Taylor
Burlington, NC

Sheryl & John
McNair
Blowing Rock, NC

Matt Spangler
Pittsboro, NC

Elizabeth Anderegg
Sullivan's Island, SC

Mark & Mandy
Johnson
Georgetown, SC

David & Katrina
Engel
Simpsonville, SC

Anna Marie Wood
& Steven Frazier
Durham, NC

Gordon Hicks
Granite Falls, NC

Clay Fennell
Hemingway, SC

Jerry Bourdeaux
Pittsboro, NC

Nathan Shipley
Clemson, SC

Juliana Boucino
Mooresville, NC

Teresa Scoggins
Wellford, SC

Ulf & Ilene Karlsson
Pine Knoll Shores,
NC

Brad Dolak &
Abby Nelson
Fuquay-Varina, NC

Stacy & Natalie
Barbour
Raleigh, NC

New Life Members

Nancy Swan
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Mike Patrick
James Island, SC



H. Douglas Pratt



Lynne Mattocks Lucas

Hickory Meeting Moments



What a glorious fall weekend!
Ridge Junction, September 18
Photos by Jesse Pope



CBC Bonus Trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Nags Head, February 13-14, 2016

The Carolina Bird Club is offering a chance to bird two of the more interesting sites along the mid-Atlantic coast, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) and the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The CBBT complex's four manmade rocky islands act as a magnet for sea ducks, gulls, and other birds. With luck we should be able to leisurely study each of America's three scoter species (birds more often than not seen in distant, fast-moving lines), enjoy the spectacularly plumaged male Long-tailed Duck, search for shorebirds (including Purple Sandpiper) on the rocks, compare the various plumages of Great and Double-crested Cormorants, and hope for a rarity or two like Common Eider, Common Goldeneye, King Eider, or one of the uncommon gulls.

After spending the morning birding the islands we will head south through Virginia Beach, stopping for lunch and birds, before continuing to Nags Head, NC. Sunday morning will be devoted to visiting Bodie Island, Pea Island, and Alligator River NWRs in search of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, and whatever else we can find.

Dates: Saturday/Sunday, February 13-14, 2016

Cost: \$50

Limit: 13 participants

Logistics: The trip will begin at 7:15 a.m. Saturday at the south toll terminal at the CBBT in Virginia Beach, VA. The \$50 registration fee covers the police escort on the CBBT and guided birding throughout the weekend. Not included are lodging, meals, tolls, or fuel expenses. Participants will likely wish to spend Friday night in Virginia Beach. Reservations should also be made for Saturday night in Nags Head, NC.

Detailed, additional information will be provided upon registration.

Please note that the CBBT authorities require picture identification upon arrival and perform background checks on all birding program visitors prior to arrival. For this reason, the registration form requests driver's license (or equivalent state issued identification card) information including license number and expiration date. The CBC only collects this information to forward to the CBBT and will not retain or share the information with any other entity. If you prefer not to provide this information, we regret that we cannot accommodate you on this bonus trip.

To Sign Up: E-mail Steve Shultz for a registration form (sshultz@nc.rr.com) or if you have questions. You can also call 919-608-2069. The form and trip fee must be sent to the CBC HQ Secretary no later than 4 weeks prior to the trip in order to provide the Bridge Tunnel Authority with a listing of participants.

The CBBT, and Outer Banks are can be great places to bird! If you've never been, it is a rewarding experience. Even if the birding is slow (which is usually not the case) the possibility of seals, seagoing ships, lighthouses, wild ponies, and spectacular scenery make the trip worthwhile.

Participation is limited to CBC members (but you can join at the same time as you register for the trip!)

Please let Steve know of any questions and look forward to seeing you there!

Did You Know?

The 2015-2016 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (a.k.a. "the Duck Stamp") features a pair of Ruddy Ducks. The \$25 stamp offers an excellent way for conservation-minded birders to contribute to purchase of land for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge system. The stamp may be purchased individually, or affixed to a small card that features additional artwork.





Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
 1809 Lakepark Drive
 Raleigh, NC 27612



Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2016 - Litchfield Beach, SC
 Spring 2016 - TBA

CBC Board Members

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 pittsjam@windstream.net

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*Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February,
 April, June, August, and October.*

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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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