



Carolina Bird Club  
www.carolinabirdclub.org

# CBC Newsletter

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

Volume 63

June 2017

Number 3

## CBC's New President and Executive Committee



**Christine Stoughton-Root**  
President

I really enjoyed serving as the Carolina Bird Club Eastern North Carolina Member-at-Large, meeting and working with some incredible people. I wish to thank all past presidents, board members, volunteers and members that have built the foundation of the club. That foundation has grown for 80 years, and now I am honored to serve and build on that history.

I was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. In 1997, my husband and I retired after careers in State Government. We sold all our possessions and boarded a Passport 40 sailboat named "Twelfth Night." We sailed 60,000 miles through the Atlantic and Pacific, stopping at every conceivable island and continent that was safe and welcoming. This was when my birding really became, well, as my husband might say, "an issue."

We came back to land in December 2010. Our home is on the inner banks of the Pamlico Sound. On my return to birding in the USA, I was surprised that I had to become reacquainted with the birds I had known as a child. I met local expert Liz Lathrop of the Pamlico Birders, who became a mentor and dear friend. I joined the Lower Neuse Bird Club, which provided a source of extremely knowledgeable local birders. Then I attended a seasonal meeting of the Carolina Bird Club, and was hooked.

My vision for the CBC is to continue to pursue the goals of support for conservation and education; maintain the high quality of Carolina bird records; and enable future generations to enjoy the observation and study of birds.

I believe in direct communication, and am accessible for any input a member may wish to share. Please feel free to contact me at [cssrbdr@gmail.com](mailto:cssrbdr@gmail.com). And as Liz Lathrop would say, "Don't forget to look up."

Have a great summer,  
Christine

**President - Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC (first one-year term)**

**Eastern NC Vice President - Sherry Lane, Wilmington, NC  
(previously appointed and now eligible for a three-year term)**

**Treasurer - Paul Dayer, Durham, NC (first one-year term)**

**Secretary - Jeri Smart, Rolesville, NC (first one-year term)**

**Western NC Member at Large - Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC (first two-year term)**

**Eastern NC Member at Large - Lester Coble, Goldsboro, NC (first two-year term)**

**Eastern NC Member at Large - Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC (first two-year term)**

**SC Member at Large - Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC (second two-year term)**

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# CBC's Outstanding Young Birders

## Carolina Young Birders Club Scholarship Recipients



### **Juliana Boucino**

from Mooresville, NC was awarded the 2017 Young Birder Scholarship.

Juliana, age 14, will be attending Camp Avocet in Delaware

Camp Avocet is based at the University of

Delaware's stunning Virden Retreat Center in historic Lewes, Delaware, only minutes away from two major National Wildlife Refuges and a short ride to six, ecologically-based birding regions.

**We are a club for any young person aged 8-19 who has a interest in birds and lives in the Carolinas.**

**It's free to join- All that we ask is to stay in contact with us and participate!**

### **Bailey Eichhorn**

from Lexington, SC was the 2016 CBC Young Birder Scholarship recipient and also attended Camp Avocet.

Bailey, age 13, took on the American Birding Association (ABA) Challenge for young birders and won ABA Young Birder of the Year.

For more information

[http://  
youngbird-  
ers.aba.org/2017/02/2017-  
aba-yby.html](http://youngbirders.aba.org/2017/02/2017-aba-yby.html)

**For Young Birders Scholarship Applications Visit [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)**

**If you are a young birder interested in joining the club or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail**

**[mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org](mailto:mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org)**

**Also, if parents or relatives are interested in helping with the club they can become adult facilitators aiding with the logistics of the club.**

# CBC Winter Field Trip to the CBBT and Nags Head with Much Better Weather

By Steve Shultz

The Carolina Bird Club's bonus field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) and the Nags Head area ran the weekend of December 17th. Although the weather was forecast to be quite a bit less than optimal, this was one of those times when actual conditions were much better than anticipated. Temperatures ranged from a low of 42 leaving the hotel for the CBBT Saturday morning to a high of 81 on the drive back toward Raleigh. While precipitation was feared to be a big part of the weekend, sunshine was more the rule, and other than a brief shower that occurred while participants were thinking of sugarplums and mistletoe in the wee hours of Sunday morning, not a drop of rain fell.

And the birds! I don't think I've ever seen as many birds along the Banks as this winter.

We started off on the CBBT, visiting islands one through four. All three North American species of scoter showed well, joined by the always impressive Long-tailed Duck. Highlights on the bridge-tunnel were a stunning pair of Harlequin Ducks and a close-by Red-necked Grebe. While most of the harlies spotted on the CBBT are female-plumaged, the crisp male accompanied by a female was quite the treat! Purple Sandpipers lurked among the rocks while Great Cormorants sunned on concrete blocks. Mammals tried to take some of the spotlight away from birds as well, with Inshore Bottle-nosed Dolphins nearby, Harbor Seals bobbing in the water, and most surprisingly, a pair of River Otters miles "out to sea". I knew they were quite happy in estuarine habits, but seeing a pair swimming in the salty Atlantic miles from shore was a complete surprise. The aircraft carrier *George Washington* passed through the islands 1-2 channel as we arrived, always an impressive sight.

After lunch we found our way through Mackay Island NWR toward the Currituck Ferry, spotting American Bittern in the roadside ditch, Snow Geese and Tundra Swans in the sound, and ducks flying by in neat chevrons. Again non-birdlife tried to steal the show as we found a gorgeous Coastal Plains Milk Snake on the 0.3 mile loop trail at the south end of the "big causeway" in Mackay. The snake allowed for brief handling and an impromptu photo session.



*Birding on Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Island #3*

**/Continued P. 4**

## CBC Winter Field Trip to the CBBT and Nags Head /continued

A golden sunset across Currituck Sound accompanied our boarding of the ferry, and the end to a beautiful day (although the silver moon rising from the Atlantic a few hours later tried to steal the show).

Sunday started at Jeanette's Pier where once again three Common Eider put on a show. Interestingly these were not the same eiders as the prior weekend (2 females and 1 immature male versus 2 immature males and a female earlier). The eiders fed on small, white silver dollar-sized crabs, and paid zero attention to the surfers paddling out with a few yards of their activity.



*Knotts Island Sunset*



*Cold front blows across Chesapeake Bay*

The eiders were as close as ten yards to shore. The pier also hosted the continuing Black Scoters, with adult male, immature male, and female feeding directly below us and posing nicely for photos.

Also at the pier were a Parasitic Jaeger and an estimated 1,500 Northern Gannets showing pretty much every plumage imaginable from all black young birds through birds with black wings and white head and tail, to adults, with everything in between.

Pea Island was absolutely packed with waterfowl, the most birds I think I've ever seen. Rafts of Redhead must have numbered in the tens of thousands. Highlights included a Long-tailed Duck in New Field Pond. But again, non-birds stole the show. Since we spent quite a bit of time ocean watching in the morning, I did not plan to do any at Pea Island, but while some of the folks were cycling through the restroom, I bopped across the street to look at the ocean. While scanning behind the boiler, a Humpback Whale performed a full breach... and then two more! Most of the trip participants got over to see the whale perform repeated lunge feeds where it would come straight up out of the

ocean with gaping jaws (and fish flying out of the way) to crash down with pleated throat pouch full of water and food. From time to time a long-white pectoral fin would wave back and forth, almost as if the whale were acknowledging the big smiles watching from shore. As one of the folks on the trip said, it was like that Pacific Life commercial!

After a stop at Bodie Island, and CSI on Roanoke Island to twitch the Lark Sparrow (sitting nicely in the scope for all to see) we ended the trip at Alligator River with Bald Eagle soaring overhead in the 80 degree sunshine (!) and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs foraging side by side at River Road.

So for a weekend forecast to be windy, wet, and grey, we ended up with just at 101 species, incredible looks at scores of highlights, impressive mammal sightings, a reptile and amphib list that exceeded three, and great weather. Not a bad way to spend a pre-Christmas weekend!

*Right -Morning at Jeanette's Pier  
in Nags Head*



## **In the August Issue -**

**Ron Clark's** Fully Booked 'Big Bend National Park Bonus Trip' in central and southwest Texas. Ron reports on species of western birds including a few only seen in the area. The birders top priority species are the Golden-cheeked Warbler, Colima Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. "May," says Ron, "is a great month for birding in Central Texas."

CBC Member **Steve Compton** headed to South Florida in May, traveling there for seven days with a fellow birder and will report back on his trip in time for the August issue.

**Share your sightings, adventures, outings, trips and photographs with other CBC members through the newsletter.**

**Submissions can be sent to: [newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org)**

# Pickens County Mountain Birding

By Steve Compton

For an excellent Spring birding spot, try the bridge at the Eastatoe Creek in Pickens County. I visited there April 21, arriving at pre-dawn.



*The Bridge at Dawn*

The valley cut by this creek lies south west of Sassafras Mountain, north of Highway 11, reached by Cleo Chapman Highway from US 178. Look for the colorful "Bob's Place" for the obscure turn left from 178.

The creek runs along the road through rugged mountain terrain, where I heard Whip-poor-will, Wood Thrush, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

**After a few miles the road crosses Eastatoe Creek in a pocket farm valley.**

The bridge makes a convenient vantage spot for observing a variety of migrants and breeding birds. Migrating birds use the creek for navigation and are attracted to the dense tangle brush and trees along the stream.

This morning did not produce many migrants, but a good variety of breeding birds were in full song, led by a persistent Indigo Bunting.

**/Continued P. 7**



*Indigo Bunting*

## Pickens County Mountain Birding/Continued

You can combine a visit to this site with a trip to the summit of Sassafras Mountain further up 178, or cross Highway 11, taking Eastatoe Creek Road to E. Preston McDaniel Road to the Nine Times Preserve.



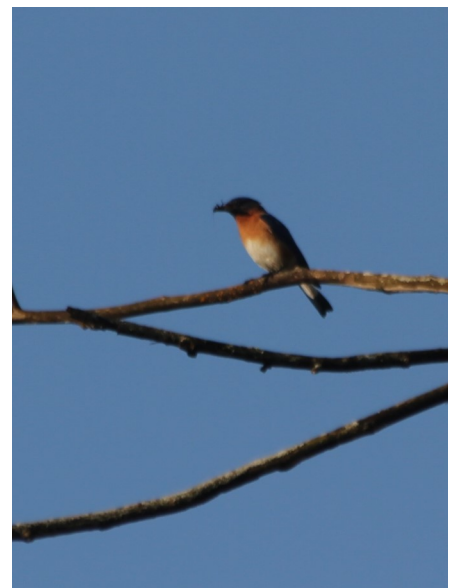
*Farm Shed Near the Bridge*



*Chipping Sparrow*

Chipping Sparrows, a migrant Palm Warbler, and Blue Grosbeaks were active in the fields.

A Broad-winged Hawk sliced through the valley on a direct line, while Gnatcatchers, a White-eyed Vireo, a Catbird, and Common Yellowthroats stuck to the brushy creek bank.



*Eastern Bluebird*

Credit goes to Nathan Dias for drawing attention to this interesting spot. It is a designated eBird hotspot. <http://www.visitpickenscounty.com/nature-outdoors/>

# American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas

Reviewed by Steve Shultz

***American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas***  
**Nate Swick ISBN 978-1-935622-63-5, 331 pages, Flexibound**  
**2016, Scott & Nix, Inc., \$24.95**

As you walk by your bookshelf, likely sagging from the weight of collected field guides, you may ask: “Do I really need another book? After all, I have the Peterson Guide, the Sibley Guide, and an old copy of Potter and Company’s *Birds of the Carolinas*... what more do I need?” I will try and convince you that making a space for Swick’s recently released effort will be money well spent.

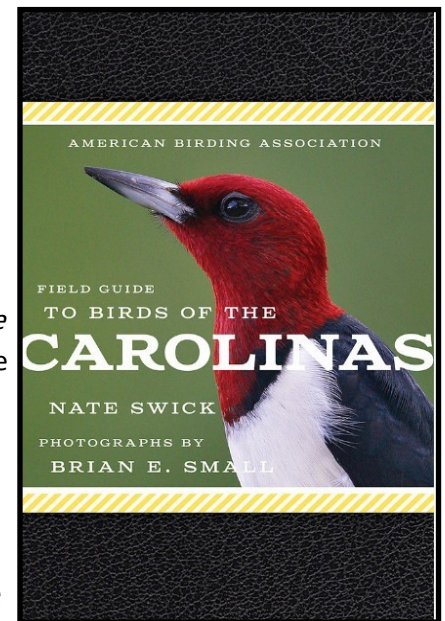
The *American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas* (hereafter referred to as “the book” for brevity) finds a niche and fills it nicely. 290 species regularly encountered in the Carolinas form the tome’s backbone. The goal is to provide quick, correct identification of species encountered in the Carolinas while providing essential distribution and abundance information. Birds rarely seen, or not likely to occur in the Carolinas, are not treated, making this a very handy reference for beginning birders, visitors to the states, or someone wanting to know what that cute little black, white, and grey bird is at the feeder. Since Carolina Chickadee is right there on page 201, there’s no mistaking the bird for a Black-capped Chickadee (though, for that one person who has a feeder at 5,000 feet in the Balsam Mountains of NC, Black-capped is covered in the text). And this is one of the book’s strengths. By not treating all of the vagrants, occasionals, and rarities (though all are listed in the appendix), the book focuses on which birds are likely to be seen, and thus improves the usability of the guide for much of the target audience.

This approach necessarily requires some level of culling, so while Buff-breasted Sandpiper is included in the shorebird section (and is arguably the least common sandpiper covered) the equally abundant, in terms of actual number of birds, Red-necked Grebe is omitted. But in looking back over a typical birding year, I realize that I usually “get” a Buffie, and usually miss Red-necked Grebe, so the decision on what to include seems spot on.

And getting to the correct identification is much of the puzzle. Once one knows that the bird is an American Redstart or a Yellow-throated Warbler, a Sibley or Peterson can help identify age, specific plumage, and subspecies.

So why not carry the trusted Peterson and be done with it? Because a critical component of the book’s value proposition is the focused distribution and abundance information, which is of great value to visiting birders, as well as those wanting to increase their knowledge of avifauna in the Carolinas. Knowing, for example, that a birder wanting to add American Avocet to their North Carolina list needs to plan a trip to Pea Island NWR, since the species is uncommon to rare anywhere else in the state, is the equivalent of a gold nugget.

And if even that is not enough, then just get the book for pearls scattered throughout such as the mnemonic: “Eew Eew I-stepped-in-Pool!” Which Carolina bird repeats this phrase from moist tangles starting in mid-April? You’ll have to get a copy of the book and find out!





# Welcome New Members!

Joshua Austin  
Columbia, SC

Lori Black  
Myrtle Beach, SC

Joyce Brendel  
Newport, NC

Amanda Briggs  
Chapel Hill, NC

Maria de Bruyn  
Chapel Hill, NC

Pat Chappell  
Chapel Hill, NC

Rebecca Chick  
Bluffton, SC

Mary Lou Dickson  
Box Elder, SD

Bailey, Jeff, Mathis, Perry, Mamie, Emmie Eichorn  
Amy Roundtree  
Lexington, SC

David & Sandy Eslinger  
Hazel Benard  
Summerville, SC

Kristal Gauthier  
Greenville, NC

Ryan Griffith  
New Bern, NC

Teri Holland  
Berryville, VA

Carey Humphrey  
Raleigh, NC

Brenda Kramar  
Kyle Rice  
Columbia, SC

Alan Lenk  
Asheville, NC

Jimmy & Mary Long  
Taylorsville, NC

Terrie McDaniel  
Chapel Hill, NC

David McKay  
San Francisco, CA

Dana & Lisa Miller  
Kinston, NC

Paul & Mary Ellen Padula  
Okatie, SC

Barbara Reynolds  
Asheville, NC

Stephanie Rossi  
Bluffton, SC

Mary Rosenstein  
Bluffton, SC

Jane Rouse  
Raleigh, NC

Benjamin Smith  
Irmo, SC

Jenny & Fred Stengel  
Johns Island, SC

John & Teresa Virgint  
Troy, OH

Art Webster  
Marion, NC

Christopher Welch  
Chapel Hill, NC

Jackie & Eric White  
Leland, NC



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and additional mailing offices

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2017—Litchfield Beach, South Carolina

Spring 2018—Flat Rock, North Carolina

Winter 2018—Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

### CBC Board Members

**President**, Christine Stoughton-Root,  
Merritt, NC  
[cssrbdr@gmail.com](mailto:cssrbdr@gmail.com)

#### **Vice-Presidents**

Teri Bergin, Mt. Pleasant, SC  
Sheri Lane, Wilmington, NC  
Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC

#### **Secretary**

Jeri Smart, Rolesville, NC

#### **Treasurer**

Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

#### **NC Members-at-Large**

Lester Coble, Ernul, NC  
Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC  
Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC  
Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC

#### **SC Members-at-Large**

Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC  
Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC

**Immediate Past President** - Irvin Pitts

**Editor of The Chat**— Steve Shultz

**Website Editor**- Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

**Headquarters Secretary**- Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC,  
[hq@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org)

**CBC Newsletter Editor**- Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,  
[newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org)

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

**[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)—UPDATE**

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, \$30; Family, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

**Membership dues** include \$4 for a subscription to **CBC Newsletter** and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

**Join the CBC** at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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