



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 67

February 2021

Number 1

## Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting & Birding Weekend

by Mac Williams

Dear Carolina Bird Club Members,

COVID-19 has made our triannual gatherings of club members at awesome birding locations dangerous. Our meetings have become impossible to do as we have normally done. The chance to bird with others, to get permission to bird locations with restricted access, to socialize with one another, to hear from great guest speakers, and to participate in the countdown are some of the highlights of the sense of belonging that our seasonal meetings provide.

The Executive Committee weighed the information provided to us by governmental agencies about the timeline for vaccinations, the risks of large gatherings, and the likelihood of further measures to limit the virus's spread. With all that in mind, we considered the ramifications of what could happen if someone were asymptomatic and unwittingly spread the virus to others. The potential suffering and lasting consequences far outweigh the fleeting recreation of a weekend of birding. Therefore, we must cancel our *in-person* Spring Meeting.



**BUT!** Notice that we said "in-person." We are going to try something innovative instead. We ask all CBC members to bird as much as they can from 6PM on Thursday April 29th (for owling or woodcocking) until 6PM on Saturday May 1st anywhere in North and South Carolina, putting all your observations into the eBird website or phone app. You may bird with others if you like, but the CBC asks that you respect the wisdom of countless medical professionals and researchers about social distancing and proper preventive measures like not riding in the same car as someone not in your family (or your "pod" as people call them). We also ask that you limit the size of any groups you put together to sizes within the limits recommended by the state health departments of the state in which you reside. Above all, be prudent!



For some additional fun, the Carolina Bird Club maintains a club eBird account (username: Carolina Bird Club), and we ask everyone to share their checklists with the CBC account, so that we can get a scope of how much birding gets done by our membership that weekend. If you are unsure how to share a checklist with someone, or how to use eBird, check out the article in our next newsletter entitled, "New to eBird? Let us Make It Work for You!"

Starting at 7:30PM on Saturday May 1st, the CBC will invite all members to attend a Zoom meeting in which we'll have a guest speaker (we're still working on that!), after which we'll conduct the countdown and see how many species we will have seen at our virtual meeting, anywhere in the Carolinas, on land, sea, or air.

We hope that by Autumn the COVID situation will have improved enough so that we will be able to have our annual Fall Meeting in-person, like normal. But, for now, please join us in our first-ever Spring Virtual Meeting! We hope to see you "there."

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## Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting & Birding Weekend *(continued from page 1)*

by Mac Williams

To provide some additional motivation, the Executive Committee is offering prizes for CBC members, along with separate prizes for CYBC members, for eBird lists from the 48-hour Virtual Meeting with the:

1. Highest number of photographs of correctly-identified species (photographs must be taken during the meeting, and metadata can be used to confirm eligibility).
2. Highest number of sound recordings of correctly-identified species. The recordings must be made during the meeting. (.WAV files will be the only acceptable format for sound recordings, as they are the only ones accepted by eBird).
3. Highest number of complete checklists from the greatest number of different eBird hotspots, (only checklists submitted via the eBird app are eligible).

Finally, we are trying something new: starting with our virtual meeting, anyone who submits correctly-identified photographs **AND** sound recordings to eBird of all four Vireos that can normally be found in the Carolinas shall earn the coveted title of *Carolina Vireo Detective* (and accompanying patch), with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereunto. You do not have to obtain all the photos and recordings during the meeting, but once you do, you can apply for the title via an email (with the eBird lists attached) to [hq@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org).

We will talk more about the virtual meeting in the April newsletter, but until then we wanted to let all CBC members know what the plans are and encourage everyone to remember COVID guidelines while birding with others, so we can all be healthy and ready to go when we can have our next in-person meeting.

## Rufous Hummingbird Banding

by Deborah Roy



My winter visitor was identified as a male Rufous Hummingbird and was banded earlier this winter by Susan Campbell, who is the lead hummingbird researcher in North Carolina with the NC Hummingbird Research Program, a non-profit through the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science Friends. Susan is also a very active CBC member.

As part of the banding, Susan does a feather check and takes lots of measurements. She then adds a tiny dot of temporary paint on top of the bird's head to identify him. I then got to hold the bird in the palm of my hand as it flies back out to freedom.

The study of wintering hummingbird species is a very important component of what the NC Hummingbird Research Program does. They have only scratched the surface on their quest to learn more about these truly amazing creatures known as hummingbirds. The only way to preserve all species of birds for future generations is to know what they require for survival. The best way to accomplish this is to learn as much about them as possible. Banding is one of the tools in that effort.

The banding did not deter him from returning to his feeder.

The more I read about these little jewels, the more I am in awe of them and nature in general.



## Newsletter Editor Needed ASAP

CBC is currently looking for a newsletter editor. Our current editor, Deborah Roy, will assist the next editor in coming onboard. They will also have assistance and support from the current executive board. If you are interested, please send an email to the CBC secretary at [hq@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org)



## Welcome New CBC Members!

Thomas Cooney  
Harrisburg, NC

Steve Taylor & JoAnn Jacoby  
Washington, NC

Anne & Robert Kinter  
Folly Beach, NC

Carolyn, Virginia, & Alan Ward  
Fairview, NC

Strummer Edwards  
Charlotte, NC

Patty Tikkala  
Oriental, NC

Robin & Frank Tingley  
Burnsville, NC

Jenny Swofford  
Charlotte, NC

Beth Measley  
Cranston, RI

Scott, Kelly, Cash, & Clyde  
Clackum  
Mount Pleasant, SC

Ed Vigezzi  
Germantown, MD

Kelly Mieszkalski  
Durham, NC

Marilyn Racine  
Pittsboro, NC

Will Younts  
Asheville, NC

Susan Mitchell  
Raleigh, NC

Aaron Edmonds  
Lillington, NC

Steve Pollock  
Wilmington, NC

Melanie Jerome  
Johns Island, SC

Dale & Barbara Reynolds  
Roaring River, NC

**Upgrade to Life Membership**  
Jim Buxton  
Mount Pleasant, SC

Joseph Turk  
Oriental, NC

Chris Bame  
Summerfield, NC

Charlotte Leidy  
Chapel Hill, NC

**Upgrade to Life Membership**  
Nathan Gatto  
Winston-Salem, NC

Ronan Nicholson  
Candler, NC

Jennifer Hemric  
Winston-Salem, NC

Ronald & Nancy McFarlane  
Raleigh, NC

Charles Edwards  
Lumberton, NC

Amy Schaaf  
Davidson, NC

Emily Reid  
Winston-Salem, NC

Joe Williams  
Efland, NC

Riley Heath  
Dunn, NC

Chuck Toney  
Southern Shores, NC

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org).



### Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)



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Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Pinehurst, NC 28374  
and additional mailing offices

### Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2021– *Cancelled*

Fall 2021- TBD

Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022

Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

#### CBC Board Members

##### **President**

Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC  
stevepath1@aol.com

##### **Vice Presidents**

Colleen Bockhahn, Clayton NC  
Guy McGrane, Deep Gap, NC  
Craig Watson, Mount Pleasant, SC

##### **Secretary**

Jill Midgett, Charleston, SC

##### **Treasurer**

Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

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

Lester Coble, Ernul, NC  
Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC  
Julie Lee, Nebo, NC  
Michael Clark, Durham, NC

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

Ed Blitch, Charleston, SC  
Mac Williams, Hartsville, SC

**Immediate Past President:** Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC

**Editor of The Chat:** Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

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

**Headquarters Secretary:** Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC,  
**hq@carolinabirdclub.org**

**CBC Newsletter Editor:** Deborah McDougall Roy, Charlotte, NC,  
**newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org**

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

**[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://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, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

**Membership dues** include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

**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 © 2020.