



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 67

Issue 5

October 2021

CBC Outer Banks Trip, December 4 - 5, 2021

This event currently has a waiting list for sign-up! Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other “hotspots”.

The trip will focus on waterfowl and shorebird identification as well as building a broad trip list including everything from grebes to sparrows. The trip starts Saturday, December 4, at 7:30 a.m. in the Bodie Island Lighthouse parking lot. Saturday will be devoted to birding along the immediate coast. Sunday will include a stop at Alligator River NWR and potentially Mattamuskeet NWR.

Detailed information including directions, lodging choices, dining opportunities and more will be provided to registrants. Birds that you can expect to see include loons, numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, most of the dabbling ducks that winter in eastern North Carolina, chances to see sea ducks including all three American scoters, gulls, wintering passerines, and winter shorebirds including American Avocet and possibly Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Piping Plover. Alligator River NWR may provide an opportunity to see Black Bear, raptors, shorebirds (if water levels are right) and numbers of Tundra Swan and waterfowl.

Logistics: The fee for this field trip is \$45 and advance registration is required. Participation is limited to 12. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. A number of motels, hotels, and other lodging are available in Nags Head north through Kitty Hawk. We will attempt to carpool in order to reduce the number of vehicles caravanning to the birding sites. Spotting scopes are useful if you have one. Dress for the weather and in layers. If we are enjoying a warm early winter, mosquito repellent may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will likely either be at a seafood restaurant or Subway. If you prefer, bring a bag lunch. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner.

To register for this field trip contact Steve Shultz sshultz at nc.rr.com or (919) 629-7226. Upon confirmation of your slot on the trip you will be sent a registration form/waiver that can be submitted with your trip fee. Note that there is a modest fee to walk out on Jennette’s Pier.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2021, Volume 67, Number 5 Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to CBC Newsletter, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Welcome New CBC Members!

Roberta Manian
Brooklyn, NY

Jared & Jeffrey Crump
Cary, NC

Christy Hyman
Lincoln, NE

Maxwell Ramey
Vilas, NC

Michael Paravyan
Fayetteville, NC

Rosalind Niederbuehl
Washington, NC

Jim & Kathy Dollar
Davidson, NC

Tim Wilson
Morehead City, NC

Randy Hart
Snow Hill, NC

Moira Maus
Jacksonville, NC

John Divine
Pittsboro, NC

Pam Holliday
Beaufort, NC

Sharon Takacs
Asheboro, NC

Denise Nepveux
David Hill
Durham, NC

Christopher Butterfield
Durham, NC

Megan Gore
Raleigh, NC

John Wellborn
St. Helena Island, SC

Kathryn Mason
Morehead City, NC

Jim & Catherine Nesbit
Wilmington, NC

Finley Monahan – Youth
Member
Greenville, SC

Katie Maddox
Myrtle Beach, SC

Deceased Member - Terry Moore, Roswell, GA



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

CBC Winter Birding Weekend – Outer Banks ([OBX](#)), NC -yOur place to Bank on the eXpected & unexpected- Thursday through Sunday, January 13-16, 2022

Host Hotel-Comfort Inn on the Ocean, 1601 S Virginia Dare Trail, NC 27948(reservations: 252-441-6333)
Check-in time 4pm, Check-out no later than 11:00am

Find Your Inner Birder - at the Outer Banks



Short-eared Owl by David Alan, Flickr Creative Commons

The Outer Banks are separated from the mainland by immense bays. Here the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, fueled by the not-too-distant, warm offshore Gulf Stream allows both water and air temperatures on this chain of sandy barrier islands to moderate the winter climate here and on the inner banks. The OBX area is a natural magnet for wintering birds. Over-wintering waterfowl find the area ideal as feeding opportunity abounds. Wading birds and passerines, too, arrive for brief stop-overs or over-winter. Yes, these barrier islands' relatively warm conditions provide habitat niches that allow migrating birds to linger, some remaining as they find the area has sources of fuel to survive the winter months. Air temperatures on the NC barrier islands in winter

can be 5-10 degrees warmer than a few miles inland of the bays. Couple these conditions with the amazing variety of habitats and the setting is ever-present for high daily bird counts. Bird several habitats and daily counts can mount to over 100 on an all-day expedition.

National Wildlife Refuges along the OBX have significant area for migratory waterfowl and wintering resident species but most protected area is impossible to access except by boat, or restricted to the ocean shoreline. However, on the OBX Pea Island NWR provides the quintessential opportunity to explore a section of the remaining undeveloped wilderness in earnest, and just a short distance from our host hotel. Nearby Alligator River NWR and Mattamuskeet NWR provide additional opportunities for seeking access to habitats for both expected and always hoped-for unexpected species. Almost 180 species was recorded at the last OBX Weekend in 2019. A Golden Eagle always seems to tease at Alligator River NWR. In the winters of 2020 and 2021 a Rough-legged Hawk and Ash-throated Flycatcher were seen for several months. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds can over-winter along the OBX!

The CBC Board is proud to invite you to the OBX. Our host hotel and the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce also extend a warm welcome to members and guests to join us for a fun-filled weekend of birding. There is much information that follows. Please read carefully.

The northeast coastline of North Carolina is probably at its best birding in winter. Your CBC Board has planned Sunday Morning trips with the more unusual specie(s) that have been observed the goal of at least one trip.

Four ½ day trips have been planned specifically with wheel chair users in mind. All birding locations have trails designated for wheel chair users or the walk goes to boardwalks. These boardwalks will allow access to sound side and ocean side viewing. These trips are available to all attendees and would be beneficial for those seeking good footing.

Brian Patteson will lead a pelagic trip to the Gulf Stream on Friday, with Saturday as the backup day in case weather is a factor Friday. Brian has been leading these trips for years and is very well known for serendipity birds on all his Seasonal routes. The registration desk will know the morning of the trip if it is cancelled to Saturday due to weather. Contact Brian for cost and to make your reservation. **Sign up early for this trip as Brian will offer it to the general public in December.** The departure point will be Hatteras or Wanchese depending on weather conditions and recent sightings. The departure location will be announced and communicated to those registered with CBC. On this winter trip you may see Northern Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Red Phalarope, Great Skua, Black-legged Kittiwake, Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Dovekie among others. This time of year the Northern Gannets put on quite a show when on a school of fish and are frequently close at hand for the chum provided, making excellent photo opportunities.



Our host hotel - The Comfort Inn on the Ocean



Jennette's Pier – "Pelagic" Birding from "Shore"

Please send your per-person payment, by check, directly to Brian Patteson, P. O. Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943. For more information about Brian's trips and the cost for this trip, and preparation for your day, see www.patteson.com. Brian can be reached at 252-986-1363 or by email at cahow1101@gmail.com. **Please remember to indicate on your CBC Registration Form that you plan to do the pelagic trip, even though Brian is handling the reservations.**

Pea Island NWR Is the primary Hotspot at all OBX Weekends, seemingly the year-round site for those expected and unexpected birds. We will bird favorite sites and new sites from the Currituck Banks Forest at Corolla to Cape Hatteras, and inland in Hyde, Tyrrell and Dare Counties.

For so much more see the Trip Descriptions and plan for a full weekend of birding. A whole day of birding in groups of 4 birders can be planned as you participate in a trip called a Pursuit of 100 Birds. A "century" of birds is easily possible and you can gain experience at many habitats that harbor the possibilities.

The [Comfort Inn on the Ocean](http://www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/kill-devil-hills/comfort-inn-hotels) will be CBC headquarters for the meeting. This Inn boasts amenities that include private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave, as well as a heated pool and Jacuzzi to chase away those January winds. Go to <https://www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/kill-devil-hills/comfort-inn-hotels> for more information about the welcoming hotel.

*The CBC rates for this meeting are truly outstanding at \$69 per night for an ocean view room or \$49 per night for the street side. This cost does not include tax of 12.75%. When you call **(252) 441-6333 to make your reservation**, let them know you are with the **Carolina Bird Club – January 2022** to receive the special rate. **This rate will be guaranteed until December 13, 2021.** Check-in time is 4 PM and check-out 11 AM. Please guard the check-out time.

The hotel rate **does include breakfast starting early for attendees at 5:30 Mon, Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning is a “late” breakfast at 6:30 AM. As of 7/1/21 breakfast is limited to pre-packaged and pre-sealed items only. You may very well wish to use your room’s microwave to round out your breakfast. If Covid conditions allow then breakfast will be changed to include the normal hot offerings of meats and eggs and waffles with which you are familiar at today’s hotels basic morning buffets. For all-day trips a brown bag breakfast will be available.*

*Please sign up for the banquet buffet dinner on Saturday evening on the CBC website when you complete your trip selections. Sign-up attempts at the Registration Table will be too late. Advance reservation is required for the banquet. The buffet cost, including gratuity, is \$35 per person, again due with your meeting registration.

*Deadline for hotel and banquet reservations is December 13th. Room reservations after this date cannot be guaranteed the CBC conference rate. Be sure to visit the Conference Registration table as soon as you check-in at the hotel, and sign in for the meeting. Your meeting packet will include a confirmed event schedule and driving directions for each birding trip, plus any meal tickets you have purchased.

We will have a presentation each evening. (Signs will be posted regarding masks and Covid as it applies to the presentations.) These informative talks are shown in the agenda below. Each presentation is preceded by a Social with cash bar. Aimee Tomcho of NC Audubon will update us on the extensive efforts to develop and improve habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler, a bird we expect will be a highlight on trips at the Spring Birding Weekend at Black Rock, NC in May 2022. John Gerwin of North Carolina’s Museum of Natural Sciences will enlighten us on birds in the Carolinas with gaps in their breeding territories. Have you heard of Wayne’s Warbler? Yes, it is a NC and SC nesting species.

This Birding Weekend’s catered buffet dinner will be on Saturday evening. The banquet will be at 6:30 PM after the Social. The evening keynote speaker presentation will begin at 7:30 PM. Our Keynote Speaker will be the affable Steve Shultz.

Online registration begins Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM, and closes December 30, 2021 at noon.

Please note that December 30, 2021 at noon is the last date for any refunds for CBC registration or dinner cancellations. Also, very important, if you have to cancel please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list. Walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting

All trips will leave from the hotel. Please reserve your room and thank them for their hospitality. CBC greatly appreciates your use of the host hotel. The rate is exceptional and you actually save CBC costs by staying with us.

Registration packets will also contain directions to the locations of the field trips offered during the course of the weekend. The [North Carolina Birding Trail—Coastal Plain Trail Guide](#) can be used to study up on the Outer Banks sites you will be visiting, as well as planning your trip to and from Kill Devil Hills. John Fussell's [A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina](#) and Mike Tove's [Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic](#) are standards for birding this area of North Carolina.

Important note: South Pond (south of the Visitor’s Center) at Pea Island NWR, other than viewed from the NC12 shoulder, is ABSOLUTELY off-limits to casual birding. Please do not enter posted areas at South Pond or any other site unless you possess specific, explicit permission. Trespassers are being charged and fined. Our event is registered with the NWR to allow management of the entire NWR and permission into areas limited to the general public. Your leader will know where you are permitted access. If you are unsure do not enter.

<p>Thursday January 18 4:00-9:00PM Opening Registration</p> <p>Dinner on your own</p> <p>6:00-6:45PM Cash Bar/Social Hour</p> <p>7:00PM-7:45PM Evening Program. “The Golden-winged Warbler” by Aimee Tomcho of NC Audubon</p>	<p>Location: Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p>
<p>Friday January 19</p> <p>Field Trips (1/2 and full-day trips)</p> <p>Dinner on your own.</p> <p>6:00-7:00PM Cash Bar/Social Hour</p> <p>7:00PM Evening Program. “What is a species? What is a subspecies? Who decides? What does it mean for birds of the Southeast?” by John Gerwin, NC Museum of Natural Sciences</p>	<p>Location: Start at Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p>
<p>Saturday January 20</p> <p>Field Trips (1/2 and full-day trips)</p> <p>5:30-6:30PM Social Gathering. Cash Bar.</p> <p>6:30-7:15PM Banquet Dinner</p> <p>7:15-7:30PM Announcements.</p> <p>7:30-8:30 PM Evening Presentation, by Steve Shultz</p> <p>8:30PM Species Countdown</p>	<p>Location: Start at Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel. Pre-registration required for the banquet dinner)</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p> <p>Location: Host Hotel</p>

Finally, our trip leaders help the Board before the Weekend with important planning assistance. So please thank them for the personal goals of a trip that helps you locate, identify and learn the rich bird life in the area.

Registration: Lobby at entrance to Ballroom.

January 14th, Thursday 4:00pm – 9:00pm, January 15th& 16th Friday and Saturday 6:45 – 7:45am and 12:30 – 1:30pm

Field Trip sheets will be in the registration room. After picking up your registration packet, please put a check mark by your name on each of your trip sheets, so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name, so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Departure Times: The field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. **Please arrive minimum 10-15 minutes early.** Look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cell phone numbers will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip, make every effort to advise one of the following: trip leader, meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you.

All Day Trips: Please bring a lunch, snacks, water. Many of the sites are remote with no nearby restaurants.

Hotel Returns: Morning trips should be back to the hotel by noon; afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 PM.

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.



2022 CBC OUTER BANKS MEETING FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 1 – Owl Prowl at Alligator River NWR

Want to start birding officially and early with this winter's edition of CBC's OBX Weekend? Sign up to meet this tour on your way to Nags Head. The leader will meet participants at the entrance to Alligator R. NWR at Milltail Road at 5 PM. Short-eared Owl is the primary target, followed by stops for possible Great Horned, Barred and Screech Owls. Plan for approximately 2 hours.

Conditions: Along the gravel roads of the refuge. A waterless toilet is at the entrance to ARNWR.

Trip 2 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve & Futch Game Lands

We will look among the possible seven species of woodpeckers for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search we should see a good assortment of woodland and edge species. Learn more about P3 by visiting <https://www.conservationfund.org/projects/palmetto-peartree-preserve>. After birding here the group will travel to the Futch Game Lands where the flooded fields and catfish ponds hold ducks as well as other waterbirds and shorebirds.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour

Conditions: Vary from uneven trails to roadside surfaces. There is a service Station at Mann's Harbor; otherwise, plan on no restrooms.

Trips 3, 23 & 31 – Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk

Audubon Preserve is a remnant of maritime sandy forest and brush along Currituck Sound. The varied habitats and boardwalk will provide opportunity for land and water birds, and raptors are often identified as they hunt over the woodlands. Duck Town Boardwalk is a 0.4 mile gem. We will scope the sound for loons and ducks. Orange-crowned Warbler is often found along the Boardwalk as well as winter sparrows.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to Pine Island

Conditions: Vary from wet turf to gravelly trails to a boardwalk. Restroom at Duck.

Trip 4 & 24 – Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Road)

The east side of ARNWR has woodland but also many wet fields. We will travel Rt. 264 as far as Stumpy Point Bay, targeting Sound waterbirds. Then the drive will go west into ARNWR to Milltail Road's boat ramp area seeking woodland species, and finishing at the fields across from the Maintenance Buildings or the trail at the Rt. 64 intersection. Uncommon birds in the area have included Golden Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk.

Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes

Conditions: Gravel roads. Restroom options will be quite limited.

Trip 5 – Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)

4 HC Accessible Trips are scheduled this weekend, and several others of our trips are partially HC Accessible. There should be space available for non-HC attendees – same great birding but with good footing. This trip will visit both public and privately owned boardwalks to the Sound at Currituck Banks Forest Trail Preserve, the OBX Center for Wildlife Education and Duck Town Boardwalk.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour

Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at Duck only, or a stop at a service station.

Trips 6 & 27 – Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike

In the morning the pond behind the PI Visitors Center is lit by the rising sun. Resting and actively feeding birds are in the best direction for viewing field ID clues. The adjacent dike affords views of North Pond and Newfield Pond, capped by a 2-story platform that also overlooks the inland waters and marsh.

Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes to the Visitors Center

Conditions: Wide grassy trail to the viewing platform. Restroom at the Visitor's Center

Trips 7,30& 37– Jennette's Pier (Nags Head) Ocean Watch. (\$3 entry fee)

A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter near-shore birds and occasional pelagic species that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will scan the ocean with you as you watch the action for Loons, grebes, scoters Razorbills, Gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or Shearwaters.

Approximate Travel Time:15minutes

Conditions: Boardwalk. Restroom in the Pier Entry Building.

Trip 8 -WaterfowlID Workshop/FieldID

This workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as profile, foraging behaviors, and habitat. The leader will provide clues to field ID features or activity which can aid birders on all levels to describe a species. The field trip location(s) will be as determined by the leader.

Approximate Travel Time: TBD

Trip 9 – Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette's Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)

The forested sandy dunes of the Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Preserve are home to woodland species, some of which curtail migration for the warmer zone of the OBX. Their Handicap Accessible Trail offers opportunity for chair users, and other participants, to search for birds in mixed foraging flocks. See Trip 6 for a description of Jennette's Pier. (\$3 fee to the pier)

Approximate Travel Time: 10 minutes to Nags Head Woods

Conditions: Packed trail and boardwalks. A restroom is in the Pier Access Building.

Trip 10 – Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier (\$3 Entry Fee)

Several protected woodlands at Kitty Hawk will provide opportunity for wintering landbirds. A Sound view stop is planned and special permission has been acquired with the Pier at the Hilton Garden Inn at Kitty Hawk for ocean viewing. This final stop will fully and truly round out the birding opportunities. If access is unavailable at the pier due to hotel events the Regional Beach Access will be used.

Approximate Travel Time: 20 minutes

Conditions: The pier or Beach Access has a restroom.

Trip 11 & 35 – Pea Island NWR North Pond and Visitor's Center

North Pond is open to the public year-round. Simply enjoy the thousands of ducks and other waterbirds. Know we have a great opportunity to be a part of yet another tour to see the expected and unexpected at PINWR. A stop in the Oregon Inlet area may be included as time permits.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes

Trip 12 & 28– Oregon Inlet and Bodie Light

It seems every winter an unexpected bird spends the season in the dunes overlooking the ocean on the south side of Oregon Inlet. The local Peregrine Falcon never reveals it's night time roost but who looks for it at those hours? On the north side of the bridge is the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, where we will scope the inlet for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. We'll continue on to Bodie Lighthouse Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform traverses marsh that is good for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as the evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl. Note Trip 25 is the morning option for these sites.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes to Oregon Inlet

Conditions: Sand paths on the south side of Oregon Inlet, pavement on the north side and where a restroom is available. A restroom is also located at the Lighthouse.

Trips 13 - Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marshes

Habitats will include woodland edges for winter land species, marsh birding and water views over the sound. We will tailor the visit based on local observations but likely start at the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. The impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl. Then we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village and scan the surrounding water and marina, interesting for the numerous gulls and landbirds that roam about oyster piles. Just south of the harbor is a road across the marsh ending at the Sound.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min.

Conditions: Grassy trails at the Roanoke Marshes to gravelly roads around the harbor. Use service stations for a restroom.

Trip 14 & 33– Alligator River NWR (Buffalo “Camp” Road to Milltail Road)

Alligator River NWR holds miles of huge impoundments with THOUSANDS of ducks, and often shorebirds. The trail at the end of Buffalo Road affords opportunity for landbirds easily missed with so much flooded impoundments demanding viewer attention. The Buffalo Soldiers during the civil war resided here, the source of the namesake. Not a part of the tour is an option to stay in the Refuge at dusk after the tour at the intersection of Sawyer Lake Road and Milltail Road, the place to be for Short-eared Owl, Red Wolf and Black Bear.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes

Conditions: Gravel roads. Restrooms are limited. There is a waterless toilet at the entrance to ARNWR (Rt. 64 at Milltail Rd.)

Trip 15 & 36 - Photo Workshops. This is an opportunity to glean tips that will help you hone your skills in the field. There is one morning and one afternoon trip affording differing light conditions. Bird with your lenses and binoculars.

Approximate travel time: TBD

Conditions: Sites will be selected by the leader.

Trip 25 & 47 – Birding Basics – Field Identification

This trip is designed for those new to birding, or even less comfortable describing a sighting, but anyone can come along! Birding techniques will be discussed including how to view a bird, what are diagnostic marks, how to “pish”, the importance of habitat, how to act, and even what to wear. The leader can help you with what to look for in binoculars, scopes, and field guides. The leader will decide the destination(s).

Approximate Travel time and conditions :TBD

Trip 26 – Duck Town Boardwalk and Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip),

The almost 1/2 mile boardwalk at Duck is a viewing platform for both wintering landbirds and waterbirds. It is located along a brushy shoreline and the Sound. As time permits other Sound view locations may be included. The trip also includes the great opportunity granted to CBC for ocean viewing at the Hilton Garden Inn Pier (\$3 fee). Scopes are the best tool for this last stop. If the pier is closed due to an event at the hotel the nearby Regional Beach Access will be our site for ocean viewing.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to Duck

Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at both sites.

Trip 29 – Northern Roanoke Island - Fort Raleigh Area

The northern area of Roanoke Island has several birding sites visited by the locals. Habitats range from manicured turf to woodlands and Sound viewing. If Elizabethan Gardens is used by the leader a fee is required (\$8). The trip may go as far south as the Roanoke Island Marshes.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min.

Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trip 32 – Futch Gamelands & River Road (ARNWR)

There are hundreds of acres of impoundments at the Futch Game Lands. Ducks move about the artificially flooded cells of ag lands. Shorebirds and marsh sparrows round out the impoundment birds and brushy woodland edges offer a variety of passerines. River Road can be a bonanza when rains flood the field.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to the Game Lands

Conditions: Gravelly roads and grassy paths along dikes. Plan on no facilities available.

Trip 34 – Pea Island NWR Visitor’s Center and Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)

The PI Visitors Center viewing windows and area within the parking lot offer excellent birding on North Pond, especially for ducks, with chances for Brown & White Pelicans a distinct possibility. We will then travel to the Boardwalk at Bodie Light where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the lower portion of the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform cuts through marsh that is excellent for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to PINWR

Conditions: A restroom is available at both sites.

Trip 45 – Alligator River NWR or uncommon/rarities seen

Trip 46 - Search for Uncommon & Rarities Seen

FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 16 – Pelagic Birding Adventure.

Extensively experienced, world renown pelagic birder, Brian Patteson, will lead a day trip on Friday for intrepid, life-bird-seekers with a full day afloat out toward the Gulf Stream. Bring your lunch, drinks, and fowl weather gear for this adventure. We will leave from a port determined by Brian just before the weekend. Note the trip is scheduled for Friday but Saturday is the rain date for this trip.

Approximate Travel Time: TBD

Conditions: Pelagic waters: Restroom onboard the vessel.

Trip 17 & 38–A Pursuit for 100 Birds

Rules for this Full (up to 12 hours allowed) Day of Fun Birding address the scoring. Bird wherever the team decides. The scoring method requires a team to win. Teams of 4 with varying experience levels will vie for 100, or more, species in 12 hours. You do not have to be an experienced birder to join in this fun. The team gets a score of up to 4 points at the end of the day for each bird tallied. The points per bird is based on how many members saw or heard the bird. (4 points for 4 members, 3 points 3 members, but only 1 point for 2 members. If only 1 member sees a bird the team gets 0 points but the bird counts toward the species total.) The team has all day for all members to see each bird. Full rules available at registration check-in. 4 teams maximum each day.

Approximate Travel Time: Start at Host Hotel as early as 5 am. Return promptly by 5pm.

Trip 18 – Lake Pungo and Phelps. (Pocosin Lakes NWR). Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese lifting off at sunrise, a spectacle in itself. We will look through flocks of blackbirds with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles as this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include waterfowl species, and farm field and edge species, such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. There is a

lot of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back in the Mattamuskeet NWR area.

Approximate Travel Time: 1.5 hours

Conditions: Roads, boardwalks and dirt paths. Restroom sites will be available but very few.

Trips – 19&41 - Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island,

A full day that just has... well... promise. We will bird the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach, sorting through the gull flocks in search of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should be common. We will scan the ocean for alcids or other rarities. The salt pond usually hosts good populations of birds. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and a Sprague's Pipit may be present. Your leader may plan a stop at a local woodland area or some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north. **Please note:** We will be walking the sandy beach to Hatteras Point, about two miles round trip.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Trip 20 & 44 – Fort Raleigh to Wanchese

This is the all-day trip to discover the many hotspots on the north end of Roanoke Island and have adequate time to search the Roanoke Marshes and the marshes at Wanchese.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min.

Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trips 21 & 43 - Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

As an all-day trip you will have more valuable time to scan the area habitats and increase those chances for life birds, or to study the posture and feeding habits that are guides to shorebird ID. The trip also goes south of the Visitors Center to the Newfield Platform (NOT the dike) and the Oceanview Trail for pelagic species hopefully near shore, and may possibly travel further south to the marsh area at Split Pea Bridge. A stop at Oregon Inlet will be considered dependent upon time. DO **NOT** WALK THE DIKE BEYOND THE NEWFIELD PLATFORM.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes

Conditions: Sandy road shoulders and path to the ocean, grassy trails. Restrooms at Oregon Inlet and the PINWR Visitors Center.

Trip 40 - Mattamuskeet NWR.

A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible. We will bird the Lake Landing area for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines and at other sections of the refuge where passerine habitat abounds. The entrance road follows the main viewing impoundment.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Conditions: Restroom at Lake Landing and in the Refuge Visitors Center at the end of the entrance road.

Trip 42 – Habitats from North Corolla to Kitty Hawk (\$3 Fee)

It takes more than a day to fully explore the area between Corolla and Kitty Hawk. However, the pace of this trip and stops will allow multiple opportunities to see landbirds and waterbirds along this coastal area. The trip starts at the Currituck Banks Coastal Forest Trail, not on previous OBX itineraries, visiting the 4000+ feet of boardwalk at Duck, the Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary, Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve and ending at the Kitty Hawk Pier. The variety of habitats boosts opportunities for many species.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour

Conditions: Boardwalks primarily. Restrooms at Duck and the ocean viewing site. Service stations may be nearby.

Thursday, January 13

Trip 1 – 5:00 PM Owl Prowl at Alligator River NWR

Friday, January 14 Morning Half Day

Trip 2 – 7:00am Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Futch Game Lands
Trip 3 – 7:00am Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary and Duck Boardwalk
Trip 4 – 7:00am Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 5 – 7:15am Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)
Trip 6 – 7:15am Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
Trip 7 – 7:30am Jennette’s Pier Ocean Watch
Trip 8 – 8:00am Waterfowl ID Workshop

Friday, January 14 Afternoon Half Day

Trip 9– 1:00pm Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette’s Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)
Trip 10 –1:00pm Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier
Trip 11 –1:15pm Pea Island NWR North Pond & Visitors Center
Trip 12 – 1:15pm Oregon Inlet & Bodie Light
Trip 13 –1:15pm Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marshes
Trip 14 – 1:00pm Alligator River NWR (Buffalo “Camp” Rd. to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 15 – 1:30pm Photo Workshop

Friday, January 14 All Day

Trip 16 – 5:30am Pelagic Birding Adventure (Rain date is Sunday 1/15/22)
Trip 17 – 5:00am A Pursuit for 100 Birds
Trip 18 – 6:15am Pocosin Lakes (Pungo and Phelps) NWR
Trip 19 –6:15am Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island
Trip 20 –6:30am Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh to Wanchese
Trip 21 –6:45am Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

Saturday, January 15 Morning Half Day

Trip 23 – 6:45am Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 24 –6:45am Alligator River NWR (RT. 264 to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 25 –7:00am Birding Basics – Field Identification
Trip 26– 7:00am Duck Town Boardwalk & Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible)
Trip 27– 7:15am Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
Trip 28– 7:15am Oregon Inlet & Bodie Light
Trip 29– 7:30am Northern Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh Area
Trip 30– 7:30am Jennette’s Pier Ocean Watch

Saturday, January 15 Afternoon Half Day

Trip 31– 1:00pm Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 32 – 1:00pm Futch Game Lands & River Rd. in Alligator River NWR
Trip 33 – 1:00pm Alligator River NWR (Buffalo “Camp” Rd. to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 34 – 1:15pm Pea Island NWR Visitors Center & Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)
Trip 35 –1:30pm Pea Island NWR North Pond& Visitors Center
Trip 36 – 1:30pm Photography Workshop
Trip 37 – 1:30pm Jennette’s Pier Ocean Watch

Saturday, January 15 All Day

Trip 38 –5:00am A Pursuit for 100 Birds
Trip 16 – 5:30am Pelagic Trip (**Rain Date**)
Trip 40 – 6:15am Mattamuskeet NWR
Trip 41 – 6:15am Hatteras Point& Hatteras Island
Trip 42 –6:30am Habitats from North Corolla to Kitty Hawk
Trip 43 – 6:45am Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)
Trip 44 - 6:30am Roanoke Island – Fort Raleigh to Wanchese

Sunday, January 16

Trip 45 – 7:30am Alligator River NWR or uncommon/rarities seen
Trip 46 – 7:30am Search for uncommon & Rarities seen
Trip 47– 7:30am Birding Basics – Field Identification

A Pursuit for 100 Birds

This is a count to encourage seeing as many species as practical in a designated 12 hour period by as many members of the both minimum and maximum 4 member team as possible. Some members will be less skilled and are encouraged to be members to learn more details about birds they see regularly, rarely see or have never seen.

Rules for this Full (up to 12 hours allowed) Day of Fun Birding address the scoring. Bird wherever the team decides. The scoring method requires a team to win. Teams of 4 with varying experience levels will vie for up to 100, or more, species in 12 hours. You do not have to be an experienced birder to join in this fun. The team gets a score of up to 4 points at the end of the day for each bird tallied. The points awarded per bird is based on how many members saw or heard the bird. (4 points for 4 members, 3 points 3 members, but only 1 point for 2 members. If only 1 member sees a bird the team gets 0 points but the bird counts toward the species total.) The team's Tally Sheet will be available on the morning of the walk.

Approximate Travel Time: Start at Host Hotel as early as 5 am. Return promptly by 5pm and immediately give the count sheets to the Birding Weekend Coordinator. Les Coble, 410-829-5501.

1. Counting

A. Count only full species as indicated by the current ABA Checklist and Supplements.

B. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Use common sense: if in doubt about the bird's identity, don't count it. Identification may be confirmed after the original observation if that identification is based solely on field notes made while the bird was living and unrestrained. A photo taken may also be used. The team must ID the bird, not a birder met after the observation who is reviewing the info/photo. A bird identified to one of a species group (i.e., scaup, small alcid, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common/Arctic Tern) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.

C. An introduced species may be counted if its status in the Count area meets the criteria for the ABA Checklist.

D. Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Birds attracted to tape-recorders or feeders may be counted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Dead birds cannot be counted.

2. Time

A. All counting must be within the 12-hour period between 5 AM and 5 PM on either Friday or Saturday of the CBC Birding Weekend.

B. The team may designate a time-out for gas, food, rest, or separate motorized travel. A bird first seen or heard during a time-out may be counted.

3. Area – Any geographic area may be covered.

4. Travel

A. Travel may be by any means, provided that all participants remain within direct voice-contact distance during all travel except timeouts.

B. When motorized vehicles are used, all participants must travel in the same vehicle.

5. Participants

A. A minimum and maximum of 4 participants constitutes a team.

B. Nonparticipating companions may accompany the team and may record or may drive the vehicle. A companion may not aid in identification of, nor in any way indicate to the participants the presence of any bird not previously identified by every participant.

6. Conduct

Each participant must:

A. remain within direct voice-contact distance of all other participants at all times, except during time-outs.

B. Make every reasonable effort to identify personally and to help other team members identify every species counted by the team.

C. Count only birds personally and unquestionably identified.

D. Review the Rules before the start of the Count.

7. Outside Information

A. During the Count, teams must make every reasonable effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from nonparticipants. Phone and radio contacts and pre-arranged field encounters are not permitted. Participants may not travel with or walk any substantial distance with non-participants, except with companions, as provided in Rule 5B. When other birders are encountered accidentally, participants may not solicit bird-finding information and should avoid receiving any information from them, to the extent that common courtesy allows. If despite all precautions information is received during an accidental encounter, the team may use it.

B. Any information received prior to the Count may be used during the Count.

8. Ethics – Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times.

9. Eligibility for “Champion”

A Count will be eligible for “Champion” if all of the foregoing rules have been observed.





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**Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
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Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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