



CBC Newsletter

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

Volume 67

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December 2021

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOL FOR WINTER BIRDING WEEKEND AT OBX AND OTHER INFO FOR ATTENDEES

Covid Safety - Our next in-person meeting will take place in Nags Head, North Carolina from January 13–16, 2022. The Executive Committee of the Carolina Bird Club (CBC) unanimously voted to require full vaccination against COVID-19 in order to attend future CBC meetings starting with the Nags Head meeting, until the pandemic is clearly in check. The Carolina Bird Club defines “fully-vaccinated” as 2 weeks after the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after the single-dose Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine. No “booster” vaccines will be required to attend the Nags Head meeting. Members who wish to attend our first meeting in two years will be asked to indicate their status as fully-vaccinated in order to be able to register for the meeting.

In order to make registration as fast and smooth as possible, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND that an image of each meeting registrant's COVID-19 vaccination card be sent in advance to Carol Bowman, the club's headquarters secretary, by email at hq@carolinabirdclub.org, prior to January 8, 2022. It will be acceptable to obscure your date of birth in the image if you prefer. However, if this is inconvenient, you can wait and present your vaccination card (or a photograph thereof) in person during registration at the meeting, but DO NOT FORGET to bring it! All individuals understand and acknowledge by their registration for the meeting that they will not be allowed to participate in any meeting activities until proof of vaccination is satisfied; ergo, if you choose not to send Carol Bowman proof of vaccination, DON'T FORGET YOUR CARD! The CBC will be unbending about this requirement.

For all indoor group activities, ventless masks that completely and snugly cover the nose and mouth must be worn, unless actively eating a meal. If you intend to carpool with others, unless everyone in the car agrees beforehand to not wear them in the vehicle, masks must be worn. Masks need not be worn during outside activities, though individual members who feel more comfortable wearing theirs may choose to do so.

Individuals who are immuno-suppressed and cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19 may not register for CBC in-person meetings until such time as the CDC declares an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proof of full-vaccination is required of all attendees. There will be no exemptions for any reason.

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Thanks for your cooperation in making the meeting safe for everyone. It will be great to see everyone again!

Updates – Due to low response to the trip titled “A Pursuit for 100 Birds” it has been removed from the trip schedule and replaced with 4 one-half day trips. Please see the online registration section on the website for trip offerings.

Steve Shultz is our Keynote Speaker at Saturday evening’s festivities. His light yet highly informative presentation is entitled “*The Origin of Species: Birds of the Galapagos Islands.*”

CBC Executive Committee Elections

By Paul Dayer - Chairman of the Nominating Committee

Just like the rest of the world, our CBC Executive Committee member terms and election process have been thrown just a bit off kilter by the Pandemic. We have been busy planning, cancelling and replanning Seasonal Meetings and are confident that we are **finally** getting back on your calendar in January. We have a number of Executive Committee member positions that would normally have expired at our regular Spring Meeting in May 2021, had we actually held such a meeting. We have finally assembled a complete slate of nominees for terms that will now commence at the conclusion of our 2022 Winter Meeting at Nags Head. The terms for these new nominees, normally elected for one, two or three-year terms (as noted below) commencing in May, will have an extension of their term adding the period from January 2022 to May 2022.

Members of the Executive Committee guide the CBC by setting our club’s operating strategies and policies, develop club programs, seek and respond to members’ ideas and oversee the safekeeping of our operating and endowment funds. Our Members-at-Large lead the planning committees for each of our seasonal meetings. If you are interested in serving the CBC in the future as a member of the Executive Committee, please send an email to hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

Once again, we will hold our election virtually. In January 2022, during the week before our Winter Meeting in Nags Head, each CBC member will receive an email that will provide instructions on how to vote for our proposed slate of new Executive Committee members.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:

Treasurer - Jared Miles - Charlotte, NC (First of three one-year terms)
Secretary - Karaleah Reichart - Raleigh, NC (First of three one-year terms)
SC Vice-President - Cathy Miller - Charleston, SC (One three-year term)
Western NC Member-at-Large - Barbara (“Kitty”) Reynolds - Asheville, NC (First of two two-year terms)
Eastern NC Member-at-Large - Betsy Kane - Washington, NC (First of two two-year terms)
SC Member-at-Large - Richard Hayes - Charleston, SC (First of two two-year terms)

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are listed below. The eligible term for re-election is listed following the incumbent’s name:

President - Steve Tracy - Gastonia, NC (Final one-year term)

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

Welcome New CBC Members!

Upgrade to Life Membership - Stephen & Barbara Thomas New Life Member - Jeremy Wrenn, Wake Forest, NC

Stella Schick Durham, NC	Marianne Mooney Joseph Sasfy Asheville, NC	Kenneth Ward Box Elder, SD
Katie Maddox Myrtle Beach, SC	Angela & Marty Rosenberg Pittsboro, NC	Cameron Williams Lewisville, NC
Sally Siko Fuquay-Varina, NC	Ian and Janelle McDonald Hickory, NC	Teresa Moazed New Bern, NC
Thomas Simpson Jacksonville, NC	Elisha Wall – Youth Member Genevieve Wall – Youth Member Greensboro, NC	Clayton Gibb Asheville, NC
Patricia Rice Southern Pines, NC	Marcelle & Nick Ross North Myrtle Beach, SC	William & Anita Hooker Cherryville, NC
David Southwick St. Albans, VT	Micah & Mary Clark Fayetteville, NC	Susan Isley Donna Zorn Asheville, NC
Pam Palmer John Holmes Mount Gilead, NC	Amy Tomcho Burnsville, NC	Judy & James Ward Raleigh, NC
Jeanette & William Van Tassell New Bern, NC	Mark Remick Carol Stephenson Asheville, NC	Helen & Daniel Medford Zara & Lana Yousef Denver, NC
Edmund Welch Columbia, SC	Laura Eason Cary, NC	Albert Crownover Arden, NC
Deb Aronson Ben Williams Merritt, NC	Cynthia & Chuck Darling Jupiter, FL	Daniel Crownover Arden, NC
Michelle, RaShawn, Mckenzie, Kenneth & River Arnold Siler City, NC	Liling Warren Apex, NC	Lynn & Jon Randolph Graham, NC
Karen Natoli Fripp Island, SC	Cheryl Day Tryon, NC	Ron, Cindy, Finn and Noell Boling, Cary, NC
Steve Dearman Statesville, NC	Kade Lockhart – Youth Member, Shelby, NC	Dr. Sarah Zimmerman New York, NY
	Cathryn Greenberg Arden, NC	Sara Schwendimann Fayetteville, NC
		David Schroder Davidson, NC

CBC Members Enjoy a December Bonus Trip to the Outer Banks

By Steve Shultz - Editor of The Chat

Photos by Lori Arnet

December on the Outer Banks of North Carolina... Nor'easters, blowing salt and sand, hand warmers and hot chocolate after a wonderful day of birding? Or is it spring-like temperatures, calm wind, t-shirts, sunscreen, and a cold beverage after a wonderful day of birding?

In a La Nina year like the winter of 2021-2022, the latter was the case as coastal North Carolina bathed in a pool of warm air. In no way was this not appreciated by 22 members of the Carolina Bird Club who explored refuges, beaches, and marshes north and south of Oregon Inlet on the first two weekends of December.



The first in-person field trips sponsored by the Club in nearly two years due to the rapidly-becoming-endemic-pandemic were a big hit. Originally scheduled for the weekend of December 4-5, overwhelming response led to an “encore” the following weekend in order to accommodate all those who wanted to experience the Outer Banks in early winter.

Members met in the shadow of Bodie Island’s historic 1872 lighthouse before traveling to the remnant inlet at what has affectionately become known as “Split Pea” (since it split Pea Island into two). Here, under calm, early morning conditions, each of the three maritime sparrows (Nelson’s, Saltmarsh, and Seaside) perched up for inspection while hordes of Marsh Wrens chattered away. Shorebirds tottered back and forth on sandy flats, Palm Warblers and Savannah Sparrows vied with meadowlarks to stake

prime territory on lightly vegetated ground, and overhead, fighter-like harriers and Cooper's Hawks could be compared with the United States Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier II aircraft shooting along the coast.

Leaving the sparrows to their morning routine, we moved north to the conjunction of New Field and South Ponds. Here was the star of the show, the "rarest", although not necessarily voted as favorite, bird of the weekends, Hudsonian Godwit.



One of the great attractions of North Carolina's coastal refuges in early winter is the sheer number of birds on the impoundments. Tens of thousands of ducks, geese, and swans made for an impressive sight, especially under sunshine

and favorable weather. From time to time an eagle or other irritant would spook hundreds or thousands of birds into the air at once, always a jaw-dropping experience.

And while an earnest sea watch across from South Pond revealed little in the way of migrating ducks, sea or other, gannets put on a show, displaying nearly every possible plumage while harassing otherwise innocent schools of baitfish. And the entertainment extended onto the beach where a recently alive, but by then very much deceased, thresher shark allowed for close inspection. Staying in the carcass vein, we used the handy bodies of a young gannet and pelican to point out salient features, providing visual reinforcement to field marks often studied from afar.



Pushing north to Oregon Inlet, birders enjoyed the new "Bonner Fishing Pier", all that remains of the Bonner Bridge now that big brother Basnight Bridge soars over the sea. The pier may well become a prime birding spot in this and future winters, as it provides heretofore unavailable views of the new and old bridge abutments that often act as magnets for uncommon sea ducks. And instead of waiting for a Purple Sandpiper to decide on making a public appearance, folks can now look directly down on the haunts of these northern visitors. Indeed, "purps" were seen well on both trips. This also appears to be a great spot for Great Cormorant, just a great little bird that can be hard to find

along the coast, but was rather easy to locate these weekends.

In addition to acting as an ad hoc picnic area, the spot ponied up an Audubon's form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler for first weekend's attendees, this form being quite uncommon in the state. First trippers also enjoyed a stunning, sunning bittern and somewhat casual walkabout from a Clapper Rail. This was followed by the main event, a slap-down, smackdown, titanic clash of Clappers. Two rails battling for marsh dominance. Who would reign supreme? Actually we don't know, they both looked the same.

Jennette's Pier always offers something, even if, as we experienced, that something is mainly scenic. Shrimp trawlers plied trade just offshore, grackles examined spotting scopes hopefully, and we continued to wonder why Rock Pigeon continues to have a red circle in eBird when there is a permanent residency of some two dozen birds.



Optional evening dinners were well-attended, one at Blue Water Grill and the other at Basnight's Lone Cedar. Here, over aperitifs and appetizers, birds were catalogued, considered, and debated. Each member offered their "top bird of the day", and more than a little amount of reportedly-local seafood was enjoyed.

Sundays followed Saturdays, as they often do, with more birding. Clean-up runs along the coast helped to fill in missing, but expected, species. Rolls of film went to memorializing avocets, Tundra Swans with landing gear engaged, and other avifaunal wonders. After lunching at White's Service Station, often an experience in and of itself, the groups repaired to Alligator River NWR for a drive through and around the fields and impoundments, although in this drought-stricken season, fields often doubled for impoundments. On the first weekend Black Bears frolicked in the sole accessible corn field, while on the second they were strangely absent.

But present at the end of both trips was agreement that early winter along the coast of northeastern North Carolina is indeed a magical time, full of whirring wings, wind-up toy shorebirds, skulking sparrows and, so important in this day, a chance to get together and enjoy what we all share, a love of the outdoors and birdlife that make North Carolina a great place to live, visit, and bird!



Spring 2022: Back to the Mountains

Déjà vu? You bet! Hopefully the third time is the charm. The spring 2022 meeting will be the third attempt at a return to the mountains. Fingers crossed! As was planned in 2020 and 2021, the Spring CBC Meeting will be in Black Mountain, NC about 10 miles east of Asheville, so it will be time to brush up once again on those mountain warblers and other neotropical migrants that typically breed or travel through the mountains of WNC.

Black Mountain is close to the entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway, so many of the trips will be on or near the parkway both north and south of Asheville as well as in the adjacent Pisgah National Forest, all great places for migratory songbirds. Expect typical mountain breeding species such as Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Canada, Worm-eating, Blackburnian, Swainson's, Cerulean, and many other warblers as well as many tanagers, grosbeaks, thrushes, vireos, and possibly the always unpredictable Red Crossbills. Other sites visited will be along the Blue Ridge Escarpment and at local parks, good places for many other species, and at Max Patch, a historically reliable spot for Golden-winged Warblers and many other warblers.

Meeting dates are Thursday, May 5th to Sunday, May 8th. This slightly later date than the typical spring meeting should mean many more breeding species will be back. It's also a great time to find some of the more northerly species coming through. For those who wish to get a head start on warbler identification, we hope to have a trip leader from Ventures Birding Tours available to provide a warm-up class on Thursday evening, so you'll be ready to head out with confidence on Friday morning. On Friday evening Simon Thompson will be discussing something with which we are all familiar, "Pandemic Birding." More on that in the next issue. On Saturday evening John Carpenter of the Wildlife Diversity Project, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, will discuss the progress on the long awaited North Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas, why it was started, participation, and some early results. It is never too late to get involved as 2022 is only the second year of this five year project.

The meeting will be held at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly at the Blue Ridge Center, a hotel-like facility, but not a for-profit hotel, on a large, beautiful, wooded property with miles of walking trails and good birding on-site. As this is not a hotel, reservations will be made through CBC. Total cost for single rooms for three nights including three breakfasts (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and two dinners (Friday and Saturday evening) will be \$374, and double rooms for three nights including three breakfasts and two dinners will be \$225 per person (there is no tax as this is a non-profit facility). All meals are buffet style and include gluten free and vegetarian choices.

Those not staying at the facility can purchase tickets in advance for meal/meals only. For those staying only two nights the rate will be reduced accordingly. There may also be an opportunity to purchase bag lunches for those going out on all-day trips if planned sufficiently ahead. All rooms have two queen beds and include access to Wifi, but have no TV's or refrigerators. Bring a cooler if you need to keep something cold. Ice will be provided on-site. As this is a YMCA facility, alcoholic beverages must remain out of sight of the public and can only be consumed inside guest rooms and meeting rooms.

More in-depth information and trip descriptions will be provided in the next newsletter, but will be basically identical to the information provided in the spring 2020 newsletter if you'd like to look back and refresh your memory now. Updates on any potential medical regulations for attendance such as vaccinations or mask wearing will be provided in the next newsletter. Here's hoping all will be well and we will be able to meet again this coming spring. See you there!



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and additional mailing offices**

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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stevepath1@aol.com

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

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Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45,
25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

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