



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

December 2017

Number 6

## CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Schedule

Friday, January 26 & Saturday, January 27

Register online at [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)

### Friday All Day Trips

- Trip 1** - Oak Island and Ft. Caswell—6:30AM
- Trip 2** - Bald Head Island—7:00AM
- Trip 3** - Holly Shelter Game Land  
and Topsail Beach— 6:45AM
- Trip 4** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:15AM
- Trip 5** - Southport and Boiling Springs Lakes—7:00AM
- Trip 6** - Brunswick Nature Park, Orton Lake,  
Funston Farm—7:15AM

### Friday Half-Day Morning Trips

- Trip 7** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:00AM
- Trip 8** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—6:45AM
- Trip 9** - Airlie Gardens—8:00 AM
- Trip 10** - Greenfield Lake and Hotspots—7:15AM
- Trip 11** - Carolina Beach State Park —7:30AM
- Trip 12** - Burnt Mill Creek —7:45AM

### Friday Half-Day Afternoon Trips

- Trip 13** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.— 1:00PM
- Trip 14** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—1:00PM
- Trip 15** - Carolina Beach State Park—1:00PM
- Trip 16** - Airlie Gardens—1:15 PM
- Trip 17** - Greenfield Lake and Hotspots—1:15PM
- Trip 18** - Novice Birders—1:15PM

### Saturday All Day Trips

- Trip 19** - Oak Island and Ft. Caswell—6:30AM
- Trip 20** - Bald Head Island—7:00AM
- Trip 21** - Holly Shelter Game Land and Topsail Beach  
6:45AM
- Trip 22** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:15AM
- Trip 23** - Southport and Boiling Springs Lakes -7:00AM
- Trip 24** - Brunswick Nature Park, Orton Lake,  
Funston Farm 7:15AM
- Trip 25** - Young Birders' Ramble 6:30AM

### Saturday Half-Day Morning Trips

- Trip 26** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:00AM
- Trip 27** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—6:45AM
- Trip 28** - Airlie Gardens—8:00AM
- Trip 29** - Greenfield Lake/Hotspots—7:15AM
- Trip 30** - Carolina Beach State Park—7:30AM
- Trip 31** - Burnt Mill Creek—7:45AM
- Trip 32** - Photography Workshop—8:00AM

### Saturday Half-Day Afternoon Trips

- Trip 33** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—1:00PM
- Trip 34** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—1:00PM
- Trip 35** - Carolina Beach State Park—1:00PM
- Trip 36** - Airlie Gardens—1:15 PM
- Trip 37** - Greenfield Lake/Hotspots—1:15PM

**Trip Descriptions on Pages 3-5**

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# Wrightsville Beach in the Winter

## By Katherine Higgins

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We have some beautiful beaches in North Carolina and many people vacation on them in the summer. But have you ever been to those same beautiful beaches in the winter time? If not, you are in for a treat. Wrightsville Beach is a beautiful, wide, bright-white sand beach and the CBC host hotel is ocean front. You will find that the beach is far less crowded in the winter and it is just as beautiful as it is in the summer. While you are enjoying your morning coffee, you can view Gannets fishing offshore or if you choose a sound-side room you may view a loon or two swimming among the docked boats in the Intracoastal. Our host hotel for the CBC Winter 2018 meeting is the Blockade Runner, located at 275 Waynick Blvd., Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480. Room rates are \$95.00 for ocean-front rooms and \$85.00 for sound-side rooms. These rates do not include taxes, but they do include a chef-cooked breakfast in the hotel dining room. You will also have access to the hotel's fitness center, sauna and hot tub areas. The hotel chef will also prepare our Saturday night buffet meal. The cost for the buffet is \$32.00. The web-site for the hotel is: [www.blockade-runner.com](http://www.blockade-runner.com). You can check out their amenities and their beach-cam, but **you must call the hotel to make your reservation in order to get our special CBC discounted rates. Call 910-256-2251.** Make sure you identify yourself as a CBC member when you call. The hotel will only hold our reserved block of rooms until January 3, 2018; so, reserve your hotel room early.

Our Friday night speaker will be professional nature photographer, writer and ecologist, Dr. David Blevins. He will be selling and autographing both of his new books. Dr. Blevins will be teaching a photography workshop on Saturday morning.

On Saturday night our speaker will be Laura Keene. Ms. Keene did a "Big Year" in 2016. She shattered the "species photographed" record, breaking Neil Hayward's 2013 ABA mark; and she even established a standard for the new ABA area including Hawaii. You might want to watch the movie "The Big Year" to get ready for her talk on Saturday night.

Wrightsville Beach is just across the Intracoastal Waterway from the city of Wilmington, NC. There are some activities that non-birding spouses and birders may want to take advantage of while visiting the area. If you love to ride bikes, check out the Gary Shell Cross City Bike Trail at <https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/gary-shell-cross-city-trail>. This mostly paved bike trail meanders for 15 miles from Wrightsville Beach all the way across Wilmington, passing through many of the city parks along its path. And birding can be good when you are riding bikes quietly along the trail.

Wilmington also has a downtown boardwalk along the Cape Fear River. The 1.8 mile River Walk passes historic sites, shops and some great river-side restaurants. While you are downtown, you can take a ride through some of the most historic parts of town in a horse-drawn carriage. **Check out [www.wilmingtonnc.gov](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov) or [www.wilmingtondowntown.com](http://www.wilmingtondowntown.com) for more information.** If you would like a ride down the Cape Fear River, boats are available for hire along the River Walk (weather permitting).

The field trip line-up covers the ocean, coastal fresh-water and salt-water marshes, ferry rides, islands, maritime forests, lakes and streams. Register for the meeting on-line and pick your field trips early to get your first choices. Hope to see you at Wrightsville Beach in January.

Directions to the hotel: take US 74 East until you cross the Intracoastal Waterway drawbridge onto Wrightsville Beach. After the drawbridge, stay right at the fork and proceed onto US 76 East. Cross a smaller bridge over another portion of the waterway and take an immediate right at the stop light onto Waynick Boulevard. The Blockade Runner hotel will be on your left about 0.3 miles south.

# CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

## **Trips 1, 19: Oak Island and Ft. Caswell**

From the beachfront of Caswell Beach to the lawns of Ft. Caswell and on to the salt marshes and woods of Fish Factory Road, participants will be treated to a broad mixture of seabirds, shorebirds, raptors, sparrows, winter songbirds, ducks, waders, terns, and gulls. This route, borrowed from the Southport Christmas Count, is very productive and usually yields a few surprises! Time permitting and if accessible, a quick stop at the Yaupon Beach Pier may be included. Individuals will be charged \$5.00 for a grounds pass at the Fort. There is a lot of walking on this trip. (Restrooms and lunch places are available.) **Travel time 60 minutes.**

## **Trips 2, 20: Bald Head Island**

Bald Head Island offers a fun day with more than just birds to look at. This trip may include the Fort Fisher ferry, weather permitting, on the way to the Bald Head Island Ferry. The BHI Ferry is a 20-minute ride with views of the wonderful homes on the island, and both the Cape Fear River basin and the ocean. The birding in winter can be very interesting. Northern Gannets are seen over the ocean, and there is always the possibility for scoters and the occasional jaegers. In the wooded areas of the island you can look for an Orange-crowned Warbler or Blue-headed Vireo. Bald Head Island has an environment unlike other places in North Carolina. Cabbage palmettos are common and this is their northern limit. The flora and fauna of the Island are similar to the coastal areas of South Carolina. The island also features the oldest lighthouse in North Carolina, fondly called Old Baldy. There are additional costs associated with this field trip. The cost of the trip at registration is \$60.00 per person. This price includes the BHI ferry, the golf carts and the cost of a BHI Conservancy guide on the Island. Additionally, participants will need to pay the parking at the BHI ferry terminal (\$10.00 per car) and the Ft. Fisher Ferry (\$5.00 per car). The fee paid during registration is subject to the same no-refund deadline (January 12, 2018) as the registration and banquet fees. (Restrooms available and bring lunch and water.) **Travel time 60 minutes to BHI Ferry Terminal or 45 minutes to Fort Fisher.**

## **Trips 3, 21: Holly Shelter Game Lands**

This trip will focus on longleaf pine-wiregrass habitats within the Holly Shelter Game Land. We should find Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and there is a good chance of finding one or more Bachman's Sparrows, even though they become very secretive and mouse-like in the cooler months. Maybe we will get lucky and find a Henslow's Sparrow, although finding this species will be more of a long shot. Walking in these habitats is fairly easy, but if there have been recent rains it will be wet. Participants should be prepared for some wet spots with up to an inch of water. Additionally, we will be checking some privately-owned property for Henslow's and LeConte's sparrows. (Limited restroom availability except at lunchtime, lots of walking in possibly very wet areas.) **Travel time 45 minutes.**

## **Trips 4, 7, 13, 22, 26, 33: Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.**

We have all-day and many half-day trips planned to Fort Fisher because these well-known hot-spots offer some of the best winter birding on the North Carolina coast. The ocean here is attractive to many birds because of the biologically-rich hard-bottomed areas just off shore. These trips also offer the chance to see winter passerines around the Fort area. At Federal Point we'll look for grebes, shorebirds, terns, gulls, and raptors. Kure Beach offers ocean views that should include gannets, loons and all scoter species. The ocean here has seen rarities including grebes, alcids, rare sea ducks, and possibly Purple Sandpipers. (Restrooms available and restaurants. Driving and limited walking).

**Travel time 45 minutes.**

**/Continued P.4**

# CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

## **Trips 5 and 23: Southport and Boiling Spring Lakes**

This trip will include the ferry from Fort Fisher to Southport so be prepared to pay the ferry fees (\$5.00 per car). The first stop will be The Nature Conservancy's Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve, known for overwintering songbirds, sparrows, and waterfowl. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and the other seven species of NC woodpeckers are possible. Afterwards, we will return to Southport and bird as many hotspots as time permits, including the waterfront/marina area, Smithville Burying Grounds, community ponds, and Shepard Road area fields. These sites host overwintering and resident raptors, sparrows, shorebirds, terns, and waterfowl. The exact stops on this portion of the trip will be dictated by Southport Christmas Count results. (Restrooms and lunch spots are available.) **Travel time 60 minutes.**

## **Trips 6 and 24: Brunswick Nature Park, Orton Lake, Funston Farm, etc.**

This route may offer Brunswick County's widest variety of winter birds. Winter specialties at Brunswick Town include Rusty Blackbirds, woodpeckers, owls, and many species of overwintering songbirds. Up to seven species of woodpeckers plus American Woodcocks and Winter and House Wrens are possible. Bald Eagles, Anhinga, and several varieties of ducks and scoters are likely on the Cape Fear River or on nearby Orton Pond. After the Brunswick Town stop, we will drive through the Funston Farms area searching for Eastern Meadowlark, Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit, and sparrows. This trip will end at Brunswick Nature Park on Town Creek where species observed may include Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, and Fox Sparrow. (Restrooms and lunch stops available.) **Travel time 30 minutes.**

## **Trips 8, 14, 27 and 34: Wrightsville Beach & Piers**

From Mason Inlet on the north end to Masonboro Inlet on the south end, this trip features ocean and jetty scanning for rarities. Targeted areas, observed from the beach or end of Johnny Mercer's Pier, include the legendary loon flock off the island's north end that extends to pier. There are no guarantees, but this flock has consistently produced writ-ins on the Christmas Count plus many rare winter bird sightings with birds such as Pacific Loon, Thick-billed Murre, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, and Razorbills. Shorebirds and water birds observed at the inlets and jetties may include Purple Sandpiper, Piping Plover, and Great Cormorant. There will be some walking on the beaches and it could be cold at the end of the pier. If you have a spotting scope, please bring it with you. (Restrooms and restaurants are available.) **Travel time 5 minutes.**

## **Trips 9, 16, 28, 36: Airlie Gardens**

Established in 1901, Airlie Gardens is a valuable cultural and ecological component of New Hanover County and North Carolina history. You'll have the opportunity to view 10 acres of freshwater lakes and the grandeur of the 462 year-old Airlie Oak. Waterbirds such as ducks, egrets, herons, kingfishers, cormorants, and Ospreys are common. Watch for winter passerines as you walk around the well-kept grounds. On any given day it is easy to spot more than 30 species of birds while traversing the gardens. Individuals will be charged \$5.00 for a grounds pass (the usual fee is \$8). Leisurely walking. (Restrooms available.) **Travel time 5 minutes**

## **Trips 10, 17, 29, 37: Greenfield Lake & Wilmington Winter Hotspots**

Wilmington has many great winter hotspots! Following routes that will include many sites on the Christmas Bird Count, we will visit places such as Greenfield Lake and Oakdale Cemetery. Each of the four trips may follow a different route depending heavily on what's being seen the week of the CBC meeting, time of day, and rare bird sightings. Some of the best birds regularly seen include Anhinga, Sora, Winter Wren, Rusty Blackbird, and maybe a rare winter sparrow. Expect extended walks, mostly on paved trails. (Restrooms available.) **Travel time 20 minutes.**

# CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

## Trips 11, 15, 30, and 35: Carolina Beach State Park

Carolina Beach State Park offers varied habitats and birding opportunities. The land is slightly more than a mile wide between the ocean and the Cape Fear River. The state park's unique setting will have you scanning the marina area to check out the Cape Fear River and the Intracoastal Waterway. There are shrubby spots to look for winter passerines. Waterfowl will be viewed at freshwater pond sites. You may have the opportunity for some ocean watching from the pier. With sites close together, you'll spend a lot of your time birding and less time driving between stops. (Restrooms available.) **Travel time 30 minutes**

## Trips 12 and 31: Burnt Mill Creek

This field trip will follow Burnt Mill Creek, a tidal creek located in the heart of urbanized Wilmington. The creek is bordered by widely variable habitat, including an intact cypress swamp, mowed open grass areas, several distinct historic neighborhoods, the Wilmington National Cemetery, and small engineered wetlands. This is an easy "out and back" walk along a City-maintained greenway, for a distance of 1.3 miles (one-way). We have a good chance to see Red-Headed Woodpecker, Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and a variety of raptors and sparrows. Painted Bunting, Baltimore Oriole and Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird have been recorded in adjacent neighborhoods in prior winters. Time permitting, we may detour to a nearby rugby field, retention pond, or backyard feeder if there is a visiting rarity. We will plan to meet and park at the Port City Java directly adjacent to the Creek, so there will be an opportunity to get a good cup of coffee before or after the walk. **Travel time 20 minutes.**

## Trip 18 Novice Birders

If you are a little intimidated by some of our fast-paced birding trips, you might want to come on this trip. You will be with an experienced birder who will give you some tips on finding the birds and seeing the birds. This will be an instructive trip and activities will be based on the skill levels of the attendees. **Limited Driving. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. And have fun!**

## Trip 25: Young Birders Ramble

This trip will be led by a young birder with great birding skills. Be prepared for some fast-paced chasing of special birds that have been seen so far during the meeting. The only thing I can promise about this trip is that you will have fun and you will see birds. Be prepared for anything and everything. **Be prepared to go anywhere.**

## Trip 32: Workshop for Photographing the Natural World

David Blevins will lead a discussion about nature photography and address the questions and interests of participants. This can include technical aspects of cameras and lenses, postprocessing, working with natural light, photography techniques for everything from landscape to bird photography, as well as broader discussions about the creative process, finding and working with subjects, and developing your own personal style. Bring one or two of your own images if you would like feedback on your own images. Depending on the size of the group, the workshop may include outdoor practice and experiences. **Photo workshop at the hotel.**

## **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

Would you like to rename our Seasonal Meeting? What are your favorite meeting sites for meetings? Two online membership surveys covering these and other topics are available at [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org).

Your responses to these surveys provide guidance to the Executive Board to develop the CBC's annual and long-term strategic plans. **Please respond to the surveys starting Dec 15 thru Feb 20. We value your input!**

# Central/Southwestern Texas Bonus Trip

## By Ron Clark

Eight of us flew into San Antonio on Friday, May 5, for eight days of birding. We started out early on Saturday morning, stopping near the hotel for Cave Swallows (Mexican subspecies) which had been found nesting in a parking garage, and Western Kingbirds, which were working on a nest atop a pole. Great-tailed Grackles and White-winged Doves were common in the area. On the way to our first stop, we saw Chihuahuan Ravens and Crested Caracaras along the roadside.



*Golden-cheeked Warbler. Photographed by Ron Clark.*

Kerr Wildlife Management Area was our first shot at Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. We searched for almost two hours in prime warbler habitat and found none. We did pick up Ash-throated Flycatcher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Zone-tailed Hawk, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (recent split from Western) and the ubiquitous Bell's Vireo, heard or seen at almost every stop for the trip. We drove to another spot and heard the vireo as soon as we got out of the van. After a bit of chasing, we got good looks at one and heard two more, but still no warbler. Black-chinned Hummingbird and Lark Sparrow were added to our list.

After lunch, we went to South Llano River State Park. It has four feeding stations. Western birds seen were Rufous-capped and Black-throated Sparrows and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, but we failed again at the Golden-cheeked Warbler. After a much-needed Dairy Queen stop in Junction, we had to put the warbler behind us as we were driving west out of its territory. There would be more chances later in the week. We finished the day with 63 species.

On the way to Balmorhea Lake, we saw Cassin's Kingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird and the first of nineteen Greater

Roadrunners. The lake is known for summer Western and Clark's Grebes. There were about 20 Clark's but we didn't see any Western. Along with a few ducks, we got Wilson's Phalarope, Curve-billed Thrasher, Pyrrhuloxia, Verdin, Say's Phoebe, Bullock's Oriole, Scaled Quail, and White-faced Ibis. The local state park proved to be poor for birds.

Arriving at Davis Mountains State Park, we stopped by feeders first and picked up Black-headed Grosbeak, Scott's Oriole, Canyon Towhee and Acorn Woodpecker. Later we added Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, Canyon Wren (heard) and Western Wood-Pewee. After dinner, we staked out a power pole known for Elf Owl. After a long time watching the hole, a couple were seen flying away from and back to the pole, but not from the hole. One was heard, so we checked the other side and saw they had a back door. It was getting dark by then so we decided to try again the next night and watch that hole. As we got out of the van at the lodge, a Common Poorwill was heard down near the campground. So, we got back in the van and drove there, but it was up a hill we couldn't get to. That was species 98 for the trip.



*Montezuma's Quail (Zoomies). Photographed by Ron Clark.*

One area of the campground has been better for Montezuma's Quail (Zoomies). As we gathered around 6:30 to get an early start looking for them, a Rock Wren was working its way down the sidewalk. There were two hanging around the lodge. We got to the campground before seven and split up, looking for Zoomies. After a while, two were seen. We gathered up and hurried to the area. There was a pair which all got to see. A Varied Bunting was found, but not great looks. Then we were off to breakfast in Fort Davis.

At Lawrence Wood Picnic Grounds, we added Hutton's Vireo, Gray Flycatcher and White-breasted Nuthatch (interior, soon to be split). A Canyon Wren allowed itself to be seen. The only other western bird added for the day was a distant Swainson's Hawk. That evening we were back to see the Elf Owls, in better light this time. The day finished with 109 species.



*Canyon Wren. Photographed by Ron Clark.*



*Swainson's Hawk. Photographed by Ron Clark.*

On Tuesday, we had Big Bend National Park in our sights, with a few stops on the way. The first was Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Try as we might, only one person could turn the mountain into an elephant. Near the entrance, we added Lillian's Eastern Meadowlark. A singing Cassin's Sparrow finally came near enough for all to see. A bit later, we seemed surrounded by Painted Buntings, at least five. Our next stop was a few miles down one of the worst dirt roads I've seen.

A resident of the Christmas Mountains welcomes folks to her feeders. We got great looks at Lucifer Hummingbird and Varied Bunting. She also showed us a Roadrunner on a nest. It was well worth the drive. After a nice Mexican lunch in Study Butte, we headed for Big Bend. On the way to our lodging in the Chisos Mountains, we picked up the first of many Mexican Jays. We also saw Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and Wilson's Warbler before dinner and finished the day with 116 species.

On Wednesday morning, we headed for Rio Grande Village, in the park, for nesting Common Black Hawks. As we pulled up, a birder had her scope on the nest. It doesn't get any easier. We watched both adults for quite a while. We then found Gray Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Inca Dove. After lunch at our lodging, we went to Cottonwood Campground and Santa Elias Canyon, dividing the U.S. and Mexico. A Western Tanager flew across the parking lot as we approached the van and luckily stayed in the brushy edge for a view. One participant saw a White-throated Swift as we got closer to our lodging, putting us at 123 species.



*Common Black Hawk. Photographed by Ron Clark.*

Thursday was the day for the ten-mile walk to look for the Colima Warbler. Three chose not to do it, so five of us set out at 6:30. Our first Spotted Towhee landed in a treetop and a Band-tailed Pigeon landed in the next tree. The bird gods were smiling on us as our first Colima was seen by the trail, about 30 feet away. We watched it for ten minutes as it slowly worked its way up the hill. The group decided to finish the walk instead of turning back. Another Colima was seen and a third heard before we got to the Colima Trail. Someone coming down said there was a black bear seen in the area where we planned our lunch. We never saw the bear, but decided to eat a little farther along. Going down the other side, we saw a Brown-crested Flycatcher and a Black-chinned Sparrow. Several more Western Tanagers were seen also. Our day ended at 129 species. **/Continued P. 8**

## Central/Southwestern Texas Bonus Trip/Continued By Ron Clark



*Mexican Free-tailed Bats. Photographed by Ron Clark.*

### *Additional Species Included:*



*Cave Swallows. Photographed by Ron Clark.*

Friday was a driving day as we were lodging in Uvalde. Lunch was planned for Sanderson, which showed three restaurants. Only one was still open. Our waitress was packing a pistol on her hip and had an attitude to go along with it. We stopped at Kickapoo Caverns State Park in mid-afternoon and missed out on the Golden-cheeked Warbler, again. After dinner in Uvalde, we headed for Frio Bat Cave. After waiting for about 45 minutes, watching Cliff Swallows, the 10-12 million Mexican Free-tailed Bats started emerging. There were two exits to the cave and we stood between them, so the bats were streaming out on both sides of us. If you stood under them, the stream was 3-15 feet over you. Some flew beside you. A Red-tailed Hawk made a couple of strafing runs with talons out, but I didn't see it get anything. We watched for 45 minutes to an hour and they never let up. It was quite amazing to see. Three Lesser Nighthawks were spotted above them. On the way out, two Chuck-Will's Widows were heard, taking us to 131.

We went the next morning to Lost Maples State Park. As we stood in the parking lot, watching feeders, a Golden-cheeked Warbler sang nearby. It was spotted low in a tree, so we finally got our last target bird. Two more were heard on the trail. We picked up more birds but not any western-only ones. After lunch, we tried Garner State Park, but it was filled to parking capacity. We did a short trail and found one more Golden-cheeked, before pointing the van toward San Antonio. Somehow, we found ourselves at another Dairy Queen in Bandero. The van just pulled in, all by itself!

We finished our trip with 139 species. All seven participants got lifers. We saw ninety degrees but not much more. Some of the mornings even had a chill to them.



*Scaled Quail. Photographed by Ron Clark.*



*Black-throated Sparrow. Photographed by Ron Clark.*

Early May is a great time to be there. The birds are back, some migrants are still passing through and it's not seriously hot yet. Thanks to all for making it a great and fun trip.



# CBC News and Announcements



**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).

**Seasonal Meeting Scholarship awarded to Young Birder Ian House (left). He attended the Litchfield Beach Fall meeting. Check out his blog at <http://iansbirdwebsite.blogspot.com/>**

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

## The Chat- Membership Notification

Beginning with the Winter 2018 issue, The Chat will be published online only. Discontinuing print publication will result in significant financial savings, a percentage of which will be deposited into the CBC Conservation Fund for future conservation efforts throughout North and South Carolina. This also of course saves trees by reducing paper consumption. The Chat has been optionally available online for several years and about a quarter of the membership has already chosen to receive it only online.

## Correction Notice:

### April 2017 CBC Newsletter

**The recommended dues schedule to be approved:**

**Business: \$30.00 the correct amount is \$35.00**

**Family and Business are within the same category listed within the By-laws.**

**Thank you, Christine Stoughton-Root, President, CBC**

## **Current Grants provided by CBC-**

Geotagging Painted Buntings and researching SC wintering grounds

Investigating spatial patterns of mercury and rodenticide burdens in raptors

Assessing breeding-season home ranges of Hermit Thrush in Black Mountain NC

Geotagging Seaside Sparrow, researching their seasonal breeding grounds

## **Conservation Efforts** Update on Rocky Point Community Forest in Georgetown County SC.

CBC participated, in 2015, in a unique conservation partnership that acquired land for public recreation and native forest restoration. Follow the link to read about the latest steps towards the opening of Rocky Point Community Forest. Winyah Rivers Foundation will monitor this community forest.

<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/southcarolina/newsroom/south-carolina-rocky->

## **CBC Spring Executive Committee Election**

**We will need candidates to fill spots for SC Vice President and SC Member at Large.**

**SC Vice President is for one three-year term.**

**SC Member at Large is for a two year term and eligible for a second two year term.**

**If interested please send an email to [hq@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org), so we can discuss further what is involved!**

# Welcome New CBC Members!

Tom Allen  
Randy McCarthy  
Charlotte, NC

Sean & Noah Borak  
Boynton Beach, FL

Ronald Britt  
Carolina Shores, NC

Steve & Diane Coggin  
Salisbury, NC

Charles Crispell  
Simpsonville, SC

Emily Davis  
Hanahan, SC

Bill Davison  
Fort Mill, SC

Toby Gordon  
Terry Schupbach-Gordon  
Tobaccoville, NC

Janet Kurz  
Southport, NC

Howdy Nicklas  
Johns Island, SC

David Palmer  
Greenville, SC

David Pennebaker  
Roxboro, NC

Mary Kay Robinson  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Dawson Smith  
Beaufort, SC

Leslie Sprigg  
Charles Golomb  
Matthews, NC

Andrea Stoney  
Chapel Hill, NC

Bill Tynan  
Candler, NC

Carol Vaughn  
Columbia, SC

John & Leslie Watschke  
Southern Pines, NC

Eric Willman  
Beulaville, NC

**Birds of North Carolina;  
their Distribution and  
Abundance**

The [Birds of North Carolina](#) is now hosted at [carolinabirdclub.org](http://carolinabirdclub.org)! This site aims to provide a compendium of all of the bird species recorded in North Carolina, with general information about their distribution in the state. It is a huge project by Harry LeGrand, with assistance from Nate Swick and John Haire, and technical wizardry by Tom Howard. Much of the data that underlies the project has come from Carolina Bird Club members, as published in Briefs for the Files and General Field Notes in *The Chat*.

# Online registration at [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)

## CBC Wrightsville Beach, NC Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Registration (Member) \_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) \_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Buffet Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$32 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	P.M. 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	All-day 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right. Meeting registration at the door costs \$40.

Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club  
and send to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374**

**Before sending in this form, check the website at [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org) to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled.**

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens. Register online for the best availability of field trips.

**Cancellations will be refunded if received by 1/12/2018**

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at [hq@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org). If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option, check here: \_\_\_\_\_ # persons \_\_\_\_\_



Carolina Bird Club  
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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

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

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2018—Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

Spring 2018—Flat Rock, North Carolina

### CBC Board Members

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

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**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 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 the CBCs two publications the **CBC Newsletter** and **The Chat**. Tax deductible as required 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 © 2017.

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