



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 66

April 2020

Number 2



Spring in the Mountains: Black Mountain, NC

April 30 through May 3, 2020

by Marilyn Westphal & Karyl Gabriel, Meeting Planners

Who can resist a spring weekend in the Blue Ridge Mountains with the myriads of neo-tropical migrants, the wildflowers, the butterflies, the beauty of those mountain ridges overlooking the fresh greening of the slopes and valleys in springtime? The Blue Ridge Parkway is such a popular trip selection that this year there will be opportunities for both full-day and half-day trips both north and south of Asheville along the Parkway. These trips should provide everyone the opportunity to see some of those coveted spring migrants like Canada, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Cerulean, and Worm-eating Warblers, as well as Blue-headed, Red-eyed, and Yellow-throated Vireos, Wood and Hermit Thrushes, Least Flycatchers, Broad-winged Hawks, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and possibly Red Crossbills. In addition to these breeding species, other birds passing through the mountains and heading farther north such as Magnolia, Cape May, and possibly Bay-breasted Warblers might also be seen.



Chestnut-sided Warbler.
photo by Marilyn Westphal

Once again there will be all-day trips both days to Max Patch, the best local opportunity to see Golden-winged Warblers as well as many of the other migrants that are also seen along the Parkway. This year there will also be an all-day trip to Green River Cove Road and Lake Adger, a local favorite area for Kentucky, Swainson's, and Prothonotary Warblers as well as a very popular spot for Yellow-throated Vireos, Cliff Swallows, and one of the few Great Blue Heron breeding colonies in the mountain area.



Great Blue Heron Nest,
photo by Deborah Roy

In addition to half-day trips along the Parkway, there will be several trips to local parks where both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles might be seen, as well as some of the local breeding warblers common to lower elevations. Often these parks are also some of the best spots for seeing migrants that just pass through as they head farther north, like Blue-winged, Magnolia, and Palm Warblers.

Our meeting location will be something a little different this year. It will be held at

the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain amid more than a thousand acres of forest with several mountain streams and miles of trails. Even just driving in or out of the property you have a good chance of hearing a variety of warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other migrants, and you may want to spend some of your free time exploring the trails on the property. This is a conference center and not a conventional hotel, so reservations will be made through the Carolina Bird Club. All rooms have two queen beds and include access to Wifi, but none have TV's or refrigerators. Bring a cooler if you need to keep something cold. Ice will be provided on-site.

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CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), April 2020, Volume 66, Number 2 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.

Spring in the Mountains: Black Mountain, NC (continued from page 1)

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. 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 \$450 (there is no tax as this is a non-profit facility). For those staying only two nights the rate will be \$265.50 single and \$331 double and includes Saturday and Sunday breakfast and Friday and Saturday dinner. There is also pricing for Triple and Quad rooms. Please see the registration form or the website for pricing. NO single night stays are available at the facility, but there are a few hotels in Black Mountain and in East Asheville. Reservations should be made before April 8th. If any rooms are still available at the facility after that date they will continue to accept reservations, so check with CBC first before booking elsewhere. Any cancellations after April 8th will be for emergencies only.

All meals are buffet style and include gluten free and vegetarian choices. For those not staying at the facility there are two meal options available: the total meal package of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday breakfast and Friday and Saturday dinner at a cost of \$77 per person, or dinner only on Saturday evening for \$20.50 per person. No other mix of meal options is available. Please include meal payments with your registration. Those who sign up for all-day trips will have the opportunity to purchase bag lunches from the facility. These orders must be placed at least two weeks before the meeting, and payment will be due upon arrival at the facility. A menu will be sent to those who sign up for all-day trips when you register. For all others there is a grocery store in Black Mountain as well as a few fast food outlets and small restaurants.

Registration, guest rooms, and meeting rooms are all located in the Blue Ridge Center about 0.6 miles from the entrance to the property. The Center is on the downhill side of the parking area (not the tall building on top of the hill.) Thursday evening there will be a fun-filled opportunity to brush up on your skills identifying migratory songbirds with birder extraordinaire and owner of Ventures Birding, Simon Thompson; so, Friday morning you'll be ready to head out with more confidence. On Friday evening, Marilyn Westphal and Mark Simpson will be discussing their research project with breeding Northern Saw-whet Owls. This will include action photos and video from inside and outside active nest boxes as well as data on diet, nest success, banding, and predators caught on camera. Following a short business meeting on Saturday evening, John Carpenter of the Wildlife Diversity Project, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, will introduce plans for the proposed *NC Bird Atlas*. His discussion will focus on the purpose of an atlas, why we need one in North Carolina, and how NC birders can participate to make this project successful. This project requires a lot of interest from local birders to come together, but it is fun and, if you've ever read breeding bird atlases from other states you know that the results are well worth the effort.

Taking Flight

An International Juried Youth Bird Art Exhibition at Mass Audubon

The goal of this exhibition is to create a greater awareness and appreciation for birds while fostering the development of young artists and sharing their work with the public at a professional museum.

The *Taking Flight* contest is open to young artists **age 4 to 18** of all skill levels. The exhibition of winners will be displayed at MABA in the fall and/or winter.

Submissions will be accepted between January 15 and June 15, 2020. Juried art will be exhibited September 2020 - March, 2021

For more information, please visit the Mass Audubon website at www.massaudubon.org.



Secretary Birds © Noah Chan (age 8)



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



Welcome New CBC Members!

John Torgerson
Apex, NC

John & Amy Taylor
Beaufort, SC

Kyle Hudick
Kill Devil Hills, NC

Jane Settle
Johns Island, SC

Heather Marlowe
Charleston, SC

Bruce & Jon Maria Taylor
Concord, NC

Michael & Susan Clark
Durham, NC

Shelley, Kyle & Scarlett Keenan
Hanahan, SC

Pat Howel
West End, NC

Bernard Carr
Lewisville, NC

Barbara & Don Alexander
Hanahan, SC

Katherine Baucom
Clemson, SC

Mark & Lynda Dominovich
Murrells Inlet, SC

Richard Stuhr
Charleston, SC

Matt Malin
Aiken, SC

Donna Hollenbach
Raleigh, NC

Margaret Holmes
Arden, NC

Leanne & Smythe Richbourg
Durham, NC

Jane Fellows
Durham, NC

Thomas & Stella Wear
Greensboro, NC

Autrey Stephens
Hartsville, SC

Elizabeth Thomas
Charleston, SC

Wendy Addison
Kitty Hawk, NC

Molly Brugh
Charlotte, NC

Neil, Shannon, & Nathan Owens
Greer, SC

Christopher King – New Life Member
Rougemont, NC

Tandy Gosnell
Simpsonville, SC

Susan Strong
Southern Pines, NC

Chelesi White
Elkins, WV

James Burris
Raleigh, NC

Chacy SanFilippo & Janice Wakefield
Winston-Salem, NC

Marian Swinker
Winterville, NC

CBC Spring Executive Committee Elections

We have an urgent need to fill two vacancies for both Eastern and Western NC Members-at-Large for two-year terms on the Executive Committee. Members-at-Large, along with other members of the Executive Committee, guide the CBC by setting strategy and club programs, seeking and responding to members' ideas, and safekeeping the club's resources. In addition, Members-at-Large form the planning committee for Seasonal Meetings. If you are interested in serving your club in either capacity, please contact hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

The annual election for CBC officers will take place at the Spring Seasonal Meeting in Black Mountain, NC. We invite you to participate by reviewing the slate of nominees below and voting at the meeting. We will also take nominations from the floor to hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:

President – Steve Tracy – Gastonia, NC (First one-year term)
Eastern NC Vice President - Colleen Bockhahn – Raleigh, NC (Three-year term)
Western NC Member-at-Large – (First two-year term)
Eastern NC Member-at-Large – (First two-year term)
Treasurer – Paul Dayer – Durham, NC

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are listed below. The eligible term for re-election is listed following the incumbents' names:

Secretary – Jill Midgett – Charleston, SC (Third and final one-year term)
SC Member-at-Large – Mac Williams – Harstville, SC (Second two-year term)

CBC 2020 Spring Meeting

Field Trip Schedule

Meet your trip in the lobby of the Blue Ridge Center 10 minutes before the scheduled start time for each trip (shown below). Distances shown in the trip descriptions are in the locations where the actual birding will begin for each trip. Those not staying at the hotel may choose to meet at the trip start locations, but must notify the trip leaders ahead of time. Most trips have limited pull-off areas, so carpooling will be required.

Friday, April 30	Saturday, May 1
Friday All-day	Saturday All-day
Trip #1: Blue Ridge Parkway North - 6:30 a.m.	Trip #17: Blue Ridge Parkway North - 6:30 a.m.
Trip #2: Curtis Creek/Mt Mitchell, BRP - 6:45 a.m.	Trip #18: Curtis Creek/Mt Mitchell, BRP - 6:45 a.m.
Trip #3: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 6:20 a.m.	Trip #19: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 6:20 a.m.
Trip #4: Max Patch Road - 6:15 a.m.	Trip #20: Max Patch Road - 6:15 a.m.
Trip #5: Green River Cove Rd - 6:30 a.m.	Trip #21: Green River Cove Rd - 6:30 a.m.
Friday Half-day Morning	Saturday Half-day Morning
Trip #6: Chimney Rock Park/Lake Lure - 6:45 a.m.	Trip #22: Chimney Rock Park/Lake Lure - 6:45 a.m.
Trip #7: Charles D. Owen Park - 7:15 a.m.	Trip #23: Charles D. Owen Park - 7:15 a.m.
Trip #8: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary - 7:00 a.m.	Trip #24: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary - 7:00 a.m.
Trip #9: Blue Ridge Parkway North - 7:15 a.m.	Trip #25: Blue Ridge Parkway North - 7:15 a.m.
Trip # 10: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 7:00 a.m.	Trip #26: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 7:00 a.m.
Trip #11: Point Lookout Trail - 7:30 a.m.	Trip #27: Point Lookout Trail - 7:30 a.m.
Friday Half-day Afternoon	Saturday Half-day Afternoon
Trip #12: Charles D. Owen Park - 1:30 p.m.	Trip #28: Charles D. Owen Park - 1:30 p.m.
Trip #13: Birding Techniques for Beginners - 1:30 p.m.	Trip #29: Birding Techniques for Beginners - 1:30 p.m.
Trip #14: YMCA Assembly Trails - 1:20 p.m.	Trip #30: YMCA Assembly Trails - 1:20 p.m.
Trip #15: Blue Ridge Parkway North - 1:15 p.m.	Trip #31: Blue Ridge Parkway North - 1:15 p.m.
Trip #16: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 1:00 p.m.	Trip #32: Blue Ridge Parkway South - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday Half-day Morning	
Hotspots—TBD	

*****Some trips and plans may change depending on conditions and bird patterns.***

Registration begins March 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Register online at www.carolinabirdclub.org, for best availability of field trips.

Online registration closes April 25 at 8:00 a.m.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

Trip Descriptions

All-Day Trips

Trip #1 & 17: Blue Ridge Parkway North

This is a great trip for a wide variety of low and high elevation breeding woodland species of the Southern Appalachians. The trip begins at the Folk-Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Asheville and continues north to Mount Mitchell. Along the way a wide variety of warblers occur, including Black-and-white, Hooded, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided, as well as Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Veery; Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireo; and Eastern Wood Pewee. In the Mount Mitchell area look for Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and possibly Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill. Time permitting the trip will continue down Curtis Creek Rd for Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson's Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher.

Restrooms: At Craggy Gardens and at Mount Mitchell

Walking: Mainly along overlooks

Distance: 10.7 miles

Trip #2 & 18: Curtis Creek Road/Mount Mitchell/BRP

This is basically the reverse of the Blue Ridge Parkway North trip and the same species should be seen. Swainson's Warblers are common along Curtis Creek Road as well as Black-throated Green and Hooded Warbler and Northern Parula at the lower end of the road as well as Worm-eating, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Blue Warbler farther up the road. It will start at the lower end of Curtis Creek Rd and continue up to the parkway to Mount Mitchell, then south on the BRP to the Asheville exit. Along the parkway Blackburnian Warblers are common at several locations as well as the usual higher elevation species such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo, some Brown Creeper, and possibly Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill.

Restrooms: At Curtis Creek Campground and at Mount Mitchell

Walking: Easy to moderate

Distance: 13.8 miles

Trip #3 & 19: Blue Ridge Parkway South

The trip will begin at Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south to Mount Pisgah, Black Balsam Road, and Devil's Courthouse, thus covering both high and low elevation habitats and species. Some of the many expected species include Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Least Flycatcher, and possibly Red Crossbill, Peregrine Falcon and Ruffed Grouse, as well as other migrants just passing through.

Restrooms: At Pisgah campground and at Graveyard Fields

Walking: Easy to moderate

Distance: 10.7 miles

Trip #4 & 20: Max Patch Road

If Golden-winged Warbler is your target species this trip is your best opportunity, but it is also great for many other warblers and other songbirds such as Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, Least Flycatcher, and many more. Time permitting on the return journey there will be a stop at Lake Junaluska to check for lingering waterfowl and shorebirds.

Restrooms: None after leaving the group meeting area

Walking: Easy

Distance: 40.4 miles

Trip #5 & 21: Green River Cove Road/Lake Adger headwaters

This is a great area for species commonly found along the Blue Ridge Escarpment including Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson's, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, and Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and White-eyed Vireo. At Lake Adger in recent years, Prothonotary Warblers have been regularly found, Great Blue Herons nest in the trees near the road, Cliff Swallows nest under some of the bridges and Osprey and Bald Eagle can often be seen circling around overhead. This trip will require doubling up in vehicles as some stops have very limited parking.

Restrooms: Only at group meeting area and possibly at a park along the road if open

Walking: Easy

Distance: 40 miles

Trip Descriptions (continued)

Half-Day Trips

Trip #6 & 22: Chimney Rock State Park/Lake Lure

The stunning views alone make this trip a winner, but the park is also home to many wonderful birds and wildflowers. Breeding species include Worm-eating, Swainson's, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, and Hooded Warbler, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon and Broad-winged Hawk and you may also find a variety of migrants heading farther north. At Lake Lure you will likely add Yellow and Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, swallows, sparrows, and possibly lingering waterfowl. The entrance fee to the park is \$15/person, which is not included in the CBC meeting registration, so please have the exact amount ready.

Restrooms: Both at the park and at Lake Lure

Walking: Easy to moderate

Distance: 21.9 miles

Trip 7, 12, 23, and 28: Charles D. Owen Park/Swannanoa River

This county park is a popular spot for local birders. Both Orchard and Baltimore Oriole as well as Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireo nest along the river and/or the tree lined lake. Continuing the walk from the park to the farm fields at neighboring Warren Wilson College, birders frequently encounter shrub-edge and open-field birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Bobwhite, and a variety of sparrows including Grasshopper, Field, Song, and possibly some late-departing Swamp, Savannah, White-crowned, and White-throated.

Restrooms: At Owen Park

Walking: Easy

Distance: 7 miles

Trip #8 & 24: Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary

This 10-acre tract in Asheville is managed by the Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society. It consists of mixed hardwood and pine, along with early successional habitat, and includes a wetland that abuts Beaver Lake. It is often an excellent spot for migrating songbirds such as Blue-winged Warbler and Northern Waterthrush, but is also home to many breeding species such as Northern Rough-winged, Tree, and Barn Swallows; Green Herons; Yellow Warblers; American Redstarts; and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Also, look for lingering waterfowl on Beaver Lake.

Restrooms: Nearby, but not at the sanctuary

Walking: Easy

Distance: 18.8 miles

Trip #9, 15, 25, & 31: Blue Ridge Parkway North

This trip is similar to the all-day trip on the Parkway north and will also start at the Folk-Art Center but will end in the Craggy Gardens area. Many of the same species can be found as with the all-day trip such as Black-and-white, Hooded, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers. We could also find Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Veery; Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireo; and Eastern Wood Pewee.

Restrooms: At Craggy Gardens if trip goes that far

Walking: Easy to moderate

Distance: 10.7 miles

Trip #10, 16, 26, & 32: Blue Ridge Parkway South

The trip will begin at The French Broad River overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway and head south to Mount Pisgah Campground. Some of the many expected species include Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Least Flycatcher, and possibly Red Crossbill, Peregrine Falcon and Ruffed Grouse as well as some passage migrants.

Restrooms: At Pisgah Inn

Walking: Easy to moderate

Distance: 10.7 miles

Trip #11 & 27: Point Lookout Trail

From Ridgecrest this paved, forested trail, once US 70, but now closed to traffic, parallels US 40 going down the edge of the escarpment and is a fine location for mid to lower elevation forest species common to the escarpment. This includes Ovenbird, Black-throated Green, Hooded, Worm-eating, and Black-and-white Warblers, as well as, at times, Kentucky, Swainson's, and Cerulean Warblers. Also expect Scarlet Tanager, various Vireo species, Gnatcatchers, and other spring breeding species as well as possibly some forest migrants heading farther north.

Restrooms: Not on location, but there will be a gas station nearby at the start and end of the walk.

Walking: Largely downhill going out, and uphill coming back.

Restrooms: Only at group meeting location

Distance: 5 miles

Trip Descriptions (continued)

Trip #13 & 29: Birding Techniques for Beginners

This trip will dedicate a large amount of time to teaching various birding techniques including: locating birds, basic vocal and visual identification tips, group birder etiquette, and other useful birding tips. The trip is designed for any beginning to intermediate birder looking to enhance their birding skills. The trip leader will select the location. It may be on Assembly grounds or nearby. Beyond the development of these basic birding techniques and skills, participants will also be able to hone these skills while in the field looking at live birds. This trip will take a slower approach with time spent focusing on techniques and field marks rather than a complete species inventory of everything at the park.

Restrooms: Yes

Walking: Easy

Distance: Probably 0-10 miles

Trip #14 & 30: YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly Trails

With over 1000 acres of wooded property and miles of trails, there are many possibilities for a variety of species. The trails near the entrance to the property include stream-front woods with rhododendron thickets where Swainson's Warblers can be heard calling that often can be found close up. Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Hooded, and Pine Warblers, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush also all commonly occur along the trails. Around the pond look for swifts, swallows, phoebes, and a variety of other open-area birds.

Restrooms: At lodge and at trailhead at lower end of entrance road

Walking: Easy at lower end of property, steeper for trails at upper end of property.

Distance: On-site, one-mile drive to beginning of lower trails

Spring Meeting Notes on Fieldtrips

- All-day trips and BRP half-day trips have a limit of 12. All other trips have a limit of 15.
- Plan to bring water, snacks and lunch for the all-day trips since there may not be food available along the route unless otherwise noted in the field trip description. There are several restaurants and sandwich shops near the hotel so you can purchase takeout for lunch the night before.
- Water and snacks are also a good idea for the half-day field trips.
- All trips will leave from the hotel at the times indicated on the schedule. Look for the placard with your trip number. There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips e-mailed to you in advance. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the trip site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.
- If you prefer to meet the group at the site, be sure to inform the leader and make a notation on the field trip attendee list so the leader will not be looking for you at the hotel.
- The times listed on the sign-in sheets are when cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader. If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists on the registration tables or tell the leader. Please consider doing this in advance so others may use the open spot if desired.
- We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips to save gas, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling, and if you would like to drive and have room for new or old friends, please let your trip leader know.

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club.

For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

CBC Bonus Field Trip
Spring in the Sandhills

May 30 & 31, 2020

by Susan Campbell & Steve Shultz, Trip Leaders



Red-cockaded Woodpecker,
photo by Mary Sonis

Late spring is the perfect time to bird in the Sandhills of North Carolina. Breeding season is reaching its peak and temperatures are still comfortable. With over 70 species found in the area in May, we should have good looks at many of the Sandhills finest!

Targets will of course include endemic Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow. Other species found in the piney woods such as Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo, Summer Tanager and Eastern Wood Pewee should be easy to find. With some luck we should also encounter a pair or two of Loggerhead Shrikes. Also, Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Common Nighthawks, which tend to arrive later in the spring, will now finally be on territories as well. This is the best time to find Northern Bobwhite as they do not begin to call until mornings are a bit warmer. And last but not least, Mississippi Kite, now nesting throughout the region, should be visible in a spot or two foraging overhead later in the day as insect activity picks up.

The group will visit a variety of habitats over the course of the weekend. We plan to visit a selection of longleaf forests, bottomland hardwoods, open fields and pasture, as well as a couple local lakes along the way. A good bit of time will be spent on State property: Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve and the Sandhills Game Land are hotspots known for producing good looks at local species. But we will also stop at several good private locations that ought to be quite birdy. For those who are interested, there will be an optional foray for goatsuckers and owls on Saturday evening in Southern Pines. Also be prepared for a few surprises: depending on bird activity, we may have some very special opportunities to see a few feathered friends up close!

There will be light hiking during the trip, but the terrain in the area is quite flat and there are established trails at most of the places we will visit. There will be rest rooms, convenience stores and gas stations along the way. And although roads will be sandy (in areas like the Game Lands), we will not venture any place that two-wheel drive cannot handle.



Mississippi Kite,
photo by Jerry Kershner

Cost: \$25 (Trip Limited to 15 participants)

To sign-up, please contact Steve at sshultz@nc.rr.com or 919-629-7226.

Photos from the Litchfield Beach Trip

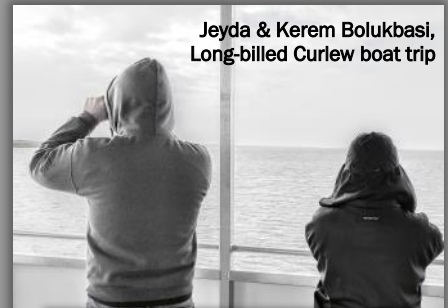
All photos by Jill Midgett



Spectacled Owl
at Center for Birds of Prey



Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk
at Center for Birds of Prey



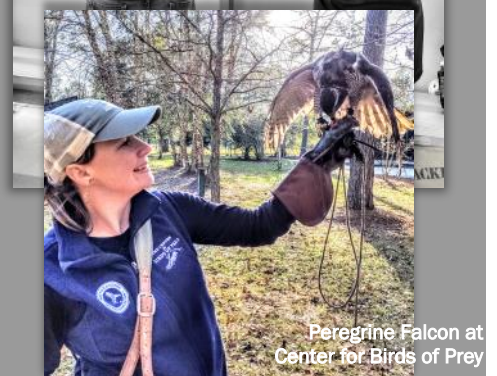
Jeyda & Kerem Bolukbasi,
Long-billed Curlew boat trip



Jeyda & Kerem Bolukbasi,
Long-billed Curlew boat trip



Sally & Alan Bolton



Peregrine Falcon at
Center for Birds of Prey

How I Got Into Birding

By Judith Davis



Judith Davis & her son Jamie birding at Beech Forest on Cape Cod in 2014

“Birding” was not in my vocabulary as a child growing up in the Piedmont section of North Carolina, and I would not become a “birder” until I moved to New England many years later. The best memory of my childhood birding, however, was that our elementary school participated in trying to restore Eastern Bluebirds to our area by having a Bluebird nest box-building competition at our school (a long time ago!). I so wanted to build that Bluebird house, and my Dad helped me. We won first prize and I was thrilled. We put the birdhouse up in our backyard on a pine tree and we had bluebirds the first year. I loved them so much. Much later, my Dad built wonderful feeders in his retirement. He made them for his friends and relatives. When they retired, my parents always had feeder birds, and Dad built a

few feeders for me over the years. Little did I know that I would become a Bluebird nest box monitor on Cape Cod about 50 years after building that nest box!

I majored in Biology and English in college but was unaware of the possibility of a career in Ornithology, especially for women in those days, and so I pursued medical sciences. But one thing I remember well from those early Biology days was how much I loved sketching and making field notes in Biology. A professor in graduate school said that I was more of a descriptive scientist than a quantitative one, and I always loved drawing in science. That would have to go on a proverbial back burner for about 30 years. I went on with my careers, first as scientist professor and later, an Episcopal priest—very diverse careers. When I went to seminary at Yale (the first time I lived in New England), I would go to the Long Island Sound where I noticed the shorebirds (always my favorites).



Bluebird nest box with female Eastern Bluebird on Cape Cod



Barred Owl at Acadia National Park

Fast forward a number of years to about 1995, when I served as a weekend priest at the Episcopal Chapel on Block Island (off the coast of RI). The vicarage and chapel were near a small wetland on the Island. I spent six weeks there the winter of 1995, and over the next 20 years I would go several times a year to serve the church. Early one morning, I heard an incredible sound from the wetland, and wondered what could make that sound. I looked out into the wetland (sans binoculars) and saw, perched on the reeds, a male Red-winged Blackbird, although I didn’t know its name then. I loved the “kon-ka-ree” sound and the bird was just gorgeous, displaying its red epaulets. It became my “spark bird,” and I was hooked for life. I had never seen anything quite so wonderful as the Red-winged, which I have continued to love, especially during the 17 years I lived in New England.

My Dad had an old WWII Army-issued pair of binoculars (which I still have) and I asked if I could borrow them for birding; I used them until 2014, when I finally got Nikon Monarch X, 8.5 x 45 binos, which I always keep in my car, just in case I might see a life bird. I have a magnet on the back of my car that says, “I brake for birds!” So, I began birding seriously in about 2008 when I moved to Cape Cod to be rector of an Episcopal parish. My son, Jamie Gilson (who has given two presentations at the Carolina Bird Club Winter meetings), loved to go to the beach in the afternoons, and we began to notice the shorebirds. I bought a Peterson field guide of birds of New England from the fabulous Bird Watchers General Store in Orleans, MA. Fast forward again to 2012. I suggested that Jamie and I go out every afternoon during Lent and study nature. I promised to keep a field sketchbook and record what we saw and experienced. And since I was particularly interested in pairing the Hebrew Psalms with nature images, I would reflect on the Psalms in my watercolor field sketchbook. I kept that sketchbook journal every day of Lent, except for a blizzard, and faithfully recorded the birds and creatures we saw (and took photographs). On Easter Sunday, Jamie, who was 9, said, “Do we have to quit our nature study since Lent is over?” I said, “of course not;” He and I were hooked by then, and so we continued.



Watercolor painting of Northern Pintail and Mallards on Cape Cod

That June, we attended a conference at Star Island, off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, in the Isles of Shoals. Every morning we went on the bird walk at 6:30 a.m. We had never been on a bird walk with a guide. We loved it (well, except for getting up early).

How I Got Into Birding (continued from page 5)



Great Black-backed gull with chicks on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals

One of the birders noticed how much Jamie knew about birds and suggested we find an adult bird club for him. That fall we joined the Cape Cod Bird Club, and we were officially birders for life. Jamie was one of two kids in the 400-member adult bird club. We became very active members. I was editor of *The Kingfisher*, the Club's newsletter for five years, and later became President. Jamie loved the club and birding

and received a scholarship to Hog Island's Coastal Marine Studies for Teens program. He and I went to Family Camp at Hog Island for two years and loved seeing Atlantic Puffins. We also go to Star Island every summer for a week and Jamie is now the bird guide for the bird walks.



Snowy Owl on Cape Cod

One of my best birding experiences was during 2014, when I was awarded a National Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lily Foundation for a four-month sabbatical. My grant proposal was to image the Psalms of nature in national parks and islands, and, of course, that meant four months of birding! Again, I kept a field journal sketchbook every day for four months, and recorded nature images and reflections on the Psalms. An

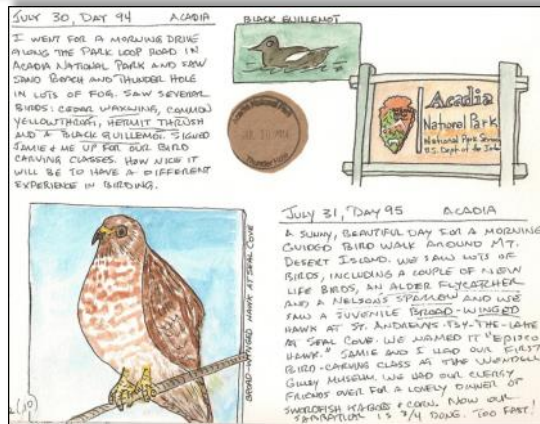
example is, "Praise the Lord from the earth, your sea-monsters and all deeps. . . wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds" (Psalm 148: 7, 10). Yes, birds are in scripture, luckily for me! The grant proposal title was "Beside the Living Stream: A Field Guide to the Psalms of Nature." "Beside the Living Stream" is a paraphrase from Psalm 23 by the great English hymn writer, Isaac Watts in the 18th century. Eventually, I hope to publish a book about that experience.

During my 2014 sabbatical for rest and renewal, we saw incredible life birds on Vancouver Island and Alaska, from Chestnut-backed Chickadee to Rhinoceros Auklet, Black Oystercatchers to Tufted and Horned Puffins, Rufous Hummingbirds and Willow Ptarmigans. In New England we saw Atlantic Puffins and Ring-necked Pheasants, Barred Owls and Nelson's Sparrows. We took a two-week bird carving class at the Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor, Maine; Jamie carved a Blue Jay and I, a Piping Plover. I saw my first Red-headed Woodpecker while on a retreat at the monastery of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and saw great birds at Presque Isle State Park there. My best bird of 2014 was the Snowy Owl on Cape Cod. I got an incredible photograph of it as my fingers froze on the shutter in the 15-degree weather that winter, even as I stood in snow to capture the image. That photograph would win second place in the Silver Arts contest in Transylvania County, NC, in 2019, and it was juried in for art and photography shows on Cape Cod.



Jamie feeding a Black-capped Chickadee at Beech Forest

When Jamie was about 10, after we had joined the Cape Cod Bird Club, we went on a warbler walk at Beech Forest in Provincetown, MA. Later we would lead those walks. The birder guide had brought bird seed and said if we held our hands out with seed and were very still, a Black-capped Chickadee would feed from our hands. I'll have to admit that one of the highlights of birding for me was when that tiny bird landed on my hand. It was one of the best memories of my life. One of my artist colleagues on Cape Cod did a pastel painting of a Black-capped Chickadee feeding from Jamie's hand from a photograph I was lucky enough to get.



Sketchbook from sabbatical



Barn Swallow fledgling at Star Island



Sketchbook from sabbatical

Want to share your own "How I Got Into Birding" story?

Black Mountain, NC Registration Form

Registration Begins March 21, 2020 @ 2pm

Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at www.carolinabirdclub.org

Please complete all information below:

Name	First Name:	Last Name:		
Address	Street:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Contact info	Phone Number:	Email Address:		
Emergency Contact	Name:	Phone Number:		
Member Meeting Registration	Number of members attending:	X \$30 each	= \$ _____ (total)	
Non-member Meeting Registration	Number of non-members attending:	X \$35 each	= \$ _____ (total)	
Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice	
Friday	/	/	/	
Saturday	/	/	/	

Meeting Registration at the door costs \$40.

Room Type - Reservation	Thursday Room	Friday Room	Saturday Room	Cost*	Make Room Selection ("X")
Single room (3 nights)	X	X	X	\$374	
Single room (2 nights)	X	X		\$265.50	
Single room (2 nights)		X	X	\$265.50	
Double room (3 nights)	X	X	X	\$450.00	
Double room (2 nights)	X	X		\$331.00	
Double room (2 nights)		X	X	\$331.00	
Three-person room (3 nights)	X	X	X	\$525.00	
Three-person room (2 nights)	X	X		\$473.50	
Three-person room (2 nights)		X	X	\$473.50	
Four-person room (3 nights)	X	X	X	\$700.00	
Four-person room (2 nights)	X	X		\$539.00	
Four-person room (2 nights)		X	X	\$539.00	

*The rates for rooms include breakfast on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and dinner on Friday and Saturday

If you are not staying in a room onsite but want meals, meal plans are available. Do not pay for meal plans if you are also paying for a room!
 Total meal package _____ x \$77.00 = \$ _____ Saturday dinner only _____ x \$20.50 = \$ _____ (free for trip leader or speaker)

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

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 _____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Pre-Registration ends at 8 a.m. on April 25, 2020

Cancellations will be refunded if received by 6pm on April 8, 2020

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org



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

Spring - Black Mountain, NC - April 30 - May 3, 2020

Fall - Beaufort, SC - October 1 - 3, 2020

Winter - Outer Banks, NC - January 14 - 17, 2021

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**Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
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www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are:** Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

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