



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

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CBC President's Report

by William Burke

As you all know, the Executive Committee has had the difficult task of trying to lead the bird club during the most serious health crisis the world has faced in over 100 years. We have had to cancel our Spring and Fall Meetings. Also, discussions have begun about the advisability of conducting our Winter Meeting scheduled for the Outer Banks in January of 2021. We have scheduled the Spring 2021 meeting for Black Mountain, N.C., but even that meeting may be in doubt. I know of at least three of our Executive Committee members that have said they will not attend a meeting until there is a vaccine. While I cannot poll the entire membership of the club, I do believe we need your input. So please give me your thoughts. My email is lewisburkej@yahoo.com.



While our meetings have been the major activity of the club, the Executive Committee and other committees of the club have been busy. For example, the N.C. Records Committee is welcoming Martina Nordstrand to its membership. Martina is a young and excellent birder. Aaron Given has worked tirelessly to revise the by-laws of S.C. Records Committee. Under Steve Shultz, "The Chat," the ornithological journal of the club, continues to be an excellent publication. The Grants Committee, under Craig Watson, gave a full report in the last newsletter but they already have 3 outstanding grant requests under consideration. Also, under the leadership of Craig and Karyl Gabriel, the Executive Committee is evaluating a substantial conservation grant to preserve some important habitat in North Carolina.

The Nominating Committee of the Executive Committee has faced the challenge of the cancelled Spring Meeting which is our business meeting and the time when we elect new offices and executive committee members. We can hold an election if we have 40 members present or by having the proxy of 40 members. The Executive Committee normally holds a planning meeting in August. I will propose that we hold that meeting by Zoom and that we solicit the proxies of a sufficient number of members so we can elect our new Executive Committee members. I personally am in favor of holding this election by proxies so that I can step down as president. Dr. Steven L. Tracy of Gastonia has agreed to be nominated for the presidency.



Birding with Sunflowers

story & photos by Deborah Roy

During the month of July I visited 2 sunflower fields that were open to the public. One in Salisbury, NC that is on a farm that the homeowner opens to the public and the other at the Draper WMA. Because of the size of these locations, social distancing was very easy and was a great way to get outside and enjoy nature and get some exercise. The sunflowers are beautiful, but my true purpose was to look for birds who love sunflower seeds, nectar, or the plentiful insects on the flowers. The fields did not disappoint. During these visits I found many birds
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Birding with Sunflowers by Deborah Roy (Continued from page 1)

to include American Goldfinch, Indigo Buntings, Ruby-throated hummingbirds, Red-winged Black Birds, Eastern Phoebe, House Finches, Blue Grosbeaks, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, and Northern Cardinals. If you are thinking of heading out to locate and/or photograph the birds or sunflowers, do your research. Some fields peaked the first or second week in July and some will not peak until September. It all depends on when the seeds were planted and the peak bloom time for sunflowers is



only two weeks, so ensure where you are planning to go still has some blooms. However, it is when the flower begins to fade that is when the sunflower seed begins to form and the feasting begins. I found the best time of day was to get there right before sunrise and a couple hours before sunset. This is when I found the birds to be most active



and there were fewer people at the fields. During mid-day, the heat of the day seem to send them under cover of the trees that were closest to the fields. Also, with photography, the light can be very harsh at mid-day. However, if you want to get your fill of bees and butterflies, you may want to wait to go until late morning, when they seemed to be more active. Make sure you bring lots of water with you out into the fields, as well as wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen. Happy birding!

CBC 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 nominees for Executive Committee positions are:

President – Steve Tracy – Gastonia, NC (First one-year term)
Eastern NC Vice President - Colleen Bockhahn – Raleigh, NC (First 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)

Have you visited the CBC website lately? www.carolinabirdclub.org

Here you can find news and updates, trip information, past newsletters, The Chat, photo gallery, notable sightings in North and South Carolina, and so much more!



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!

Leslie Kennedy
Cary, NC

Dennis McCunney
Greenville, NC

Shawna & Saylor Pochan
Ryan & Arthur Ives
Durham, NC

Marie-Emeline McGee
Landrum, SC

Rachel Wood
Charlotte, NC

Beverly & Anders Gyllenhaal
Raleigh, NC

Evans Lodge
Chapel Hill, NC

Paula Teander
Pittsboro, NC

Tony Johnson
Hilton Head Island, SC

Peter Conway
Chapel Hill, NC

Matt Lawing
Durham, NC

Clarence Mattocks
High Point, NC

John Swan
Asheville, NC

Paul & Kathy Bridgeman
Fayetteville, NC

Cynthia Steffen
Mount Pleasant, SC

Anne & Blayne Olsen
New Life Members!
Cornelius, NC

Jeff Bruton
Raleigh, NC

Baxter McLendon
Brunson, SC

How I Got Into Birding

by Layton Register

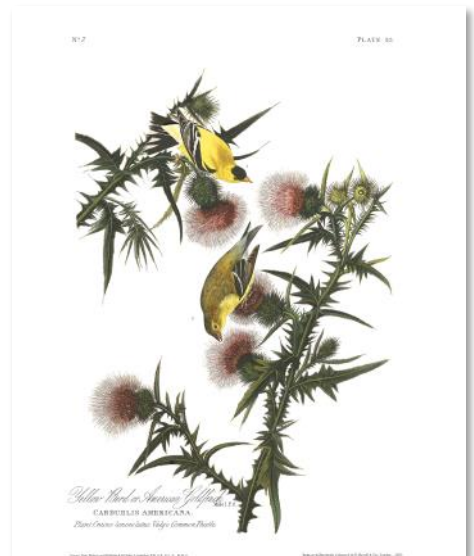


Layton Register at the
Natural Bridge in Virginia

I moved to Charleston, South Carolina, one year ago. Until then, I have lived practically my whole life in Kentucky. I grew up on a farm near a small town called Paris. There were a few fields for crops, but it was mainly barns and pastures for horses. My father bred, raised, raced, and sold many Thoroughbred racehorses and rode in many horse shows on his jumpers Sundance, Windjammer, and others. My father's life revolved completely around horses. To the dismay of my dad, my riding career was short-lived. I think it was about the time I was in lead line that I hung up my boots. Kicking soccer balls, shooting basketballs, and throwing footballs appealed to me more than sitting in a saddle. I stayed in good graces with my father by taking an interest in the Thoroughbreds.

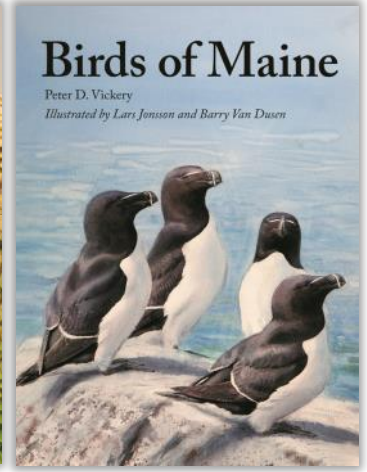
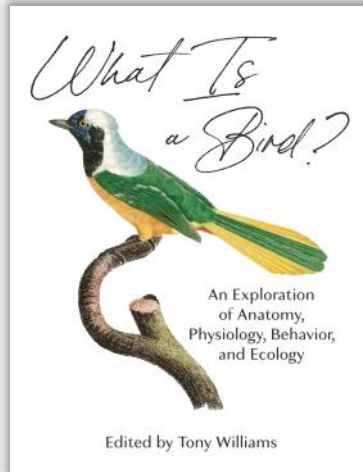
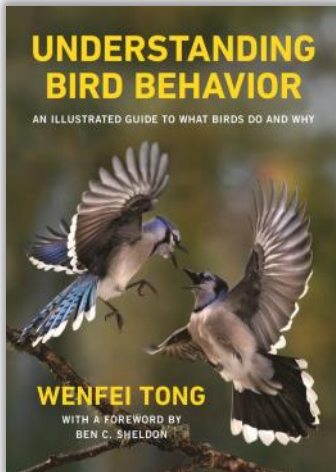
And then my life started revolving around Thoroughbreds after my father took me in 1972 to the racetrack not far from our farm. It is called Keeneland. It was a glorious fall afternoon. The feature race was the Phipps Stable's Numbered Account winning the Spinster Stakes. I was nine years old. I remember the horses, the riders, the crowd, the dresses, and coats and ties as if it all happened yesterday. Much has changed in horse racing since that day, most of it not for the better.

My interest in birds has replaced my time spent in barns caring for horses and mucking stalls, and when not in a barn, engulfed in Thoroughbred pedigrees, sales catalogs, past performances, and race results and charts. This is even to the point where I have built an on-line bird reference. There are so many excellent resources and ways to learn about birds, but I keep coming back to the drawings and writings of John James Audubon. I cannot decide what impresses me more: Audubon's artwork and observations or the physical effort that it required for him to create and publish *Birds of America*. The more I read his accounts for the *Birds of America*, the more I wished they were indexed. So, this is what I am attempting with my website. It is called AskAudubon.net.



Want to share your own "How I Got Into Birding" story?
Please send your completed story to newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org.

Fall 2020 Princeton Nature Highlights



The full release list can be found at:

https://press.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/2020-04/fall2020_Linked_0.pdf

Certify Your Habitat to Help Wildlife!

Wildlife habitat gardens are a haven for local birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Tell us how your yard or garden provides habitat and the National Wildlife Federation will recognize it as a Certified Wildlife Habitat®.

Creating a wildlife habitat garden to attract birds, butterflies, and other neighborhood wildlife is fun, rewarding, and makes a big difference. It's easier than you might think. Here is what your wildlife garden should include:



Food: Native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources.



Water: All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding as well.



Cover: Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators or hunt for prey.



Places to Raise Young: Wildlife need resources to reproduce, and to protect and nourish their young.



Sustainable Practices: Maintain your yard or garden in natural ways to ensure soil, air, and water stay healthy and clean.

For more information on how to certify your yard, please visit:

<https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat>

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

For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Avian Conservation Center & Center for Birds of Prey Red-tailed Hawk Re-nesting

by Bethany Spiegel, Director of Avian Medical Clinic

On May 5th we were contacted about two young Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) that were found on the ground in Myrtle Beach. Unfortunately, there had been some construction in the area which resulted in the tree with the nest in it being knocked down. We quickly dispatched one of our dedicated volunteer staff, Mary Hayes to assess the situation. As well as being a clinic volunteer, Mary is also one of our transporters and part of our reuniting team. Mary was able to quickly assess that one of the adults was nearby keeping an eye on the young bird. Unfortunately, by the time Mary had arrived, one of the Red-tailed Hawks had passed. Mary contained the remaining youngster and transported him to the Avian Medical Clinic for assessment.

Luckily, no injuries were found. The bird was provided fluids and a quick meal to hold him over and the decision was made to attempt to reunite this bird with the adult the very same day by placing him in a substitute nest. Mary was able to set up one of our nesting platforms in a tree nearby where the bird was found with the help of the finders. The bird was then placed on the platform under the watchful eye of the adult.

One month later, Mary went back to remove the platform and caught a glimpse of the young Red-tailed hawk soaring above the area! We are thrilled to have been able to reunite him with his parents and give him the very best chance of success in the wild! Have a look through the album below to see a play by play of the reuniting of this Red-tailed Hawk!

Please check out the center's Facebook page for additional re-nesting stories, programming, and other updates.



Construction of the surrounding area which caused the tree with the nest in it to be knocked down.



Nesting platform secured to a nearby tree.



Can you spot the adult watching the action from a nearby spot?



The original finders of the birds who also helped us secure the platform. Thank you!



The bird is secured in a soft bag for safe travel up to the platform.



Volunteer Staff Mary Hayes preparing to take the young Red-tailed Hawk up to the platform



The bird is safely placed on the platform.

Thank you to the Center for Birds of Prey for all of your work in helping to save this nestling hawk!



Carolina Bird Club
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Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
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Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall - Beaufort, SC - *Cancelled*

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

Spring - Black Mountain, NC - May 6 - 9, 2021

CBC Board Members

President

Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC
lewisburkej@yahoo.com

Vice Presidents

Martina Nordstrand, Indian Trail, NC
Guy McGrane, Deep Gap, NC
Craig Watson, Mount Pleasant, SC

Secretary

Jill Midgett, Charleston, SC

Treasurer

Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Lester Coble, Ernul, NC
Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC
Sandra Gahlinger, Morehead City, NC
Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC

SC Members-at-Large

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

Immediate Past President: Christine Stoughton Root

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

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

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

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

www.carolinabirdclub.org

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

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

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

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2020.