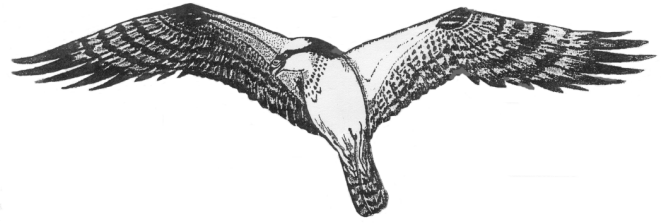


Lower Neuse Bird Club



Volume 24, No. 3

LNBC Newsletter

November 2015

Editor: Carol Oldham, 252-876-1620, cojoldham@gmail.com

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm

NOTE: There is no regular meeting of the Lower Neuse Bird Club in December.

Location: Garber United Methodist Church on Country Club Road in Trent Woods, Room 123 on the first floor of the Ministry Center, across the road from the main church. Parking and entrance are in the rear of the building.

Program Speaker: Christine Root will share some of her photos from past Spring Mountain Trips.

Refreshments: Morag Cheesman will be providing refreshments.

LNBC HOLIDAY PARTY: Sunday, December 6, 2015, 5:00 pm until ???

Olwen & Bill Jarvis invite members and spouses (or significant others) to celebrate the holiday season at their home, 5620 Gondolier Dr in Fairfield Harbour. Olwen and Bill are providing the main dishes and several desserts. Everyone is asked to bring a dish... salad, veggie, appetizer, cheese, nuts, dips or dessert. A small selection of beer and wine will be available, but more wine is always good, or anything stronger that you may like. Directions to their home will be at the end of the newsletter.

Lower Neuse Bird Club Officers

Bob Gould, <i>President</i>	288-4615
Jim Oldham, <i>Vice-President</i>	571-7560
Mike Brooks, <i>Secretary</i>	649-1200
Christine Root, <i>Treasurer</i>	745-4488
Carol Oldham, <i>Newsletter Editor</i>	876-1620
Susan McCrocklin, <i>Refreshments Captain</i>	288-5043
Bob Holmes, <i>Field Trips</i>	633-3003
Al Gamache, <i>Field Trips</i>	675-8376

Have You Paid Your 2015-16 Membership Dues?

This is a friendly reminder that membership dues are \$15 per person and cover the program year from September 2015 through May 2016. Our treasurer, Christine Root, will continue to collect dues at regular meetings. You may also send your dues to Chris at 651 Quail road, Merritt, NC 28556. Checks should be made payable to LNBC.

First-Saturday Birding Trips 2015-2016

Mark your calendars with the following dates for this season's bird walks. Most trips end by noon and do not require much walking. Remember to bring your binoculars, scopes, field guides, insect repellent, raingear, snacks and water.

- November 7 Simmons Street Park, New Bern
- December 5 Lilliput Pond and other areas around New Bern – ducks
- January 3 Spring Creek & Aurora – Afternoon trip
- February 6 Mattamuskeet
- March 12 North River Preserve with John Fussell
- April 2 Croatan - Millis Road. Looking for Bachman Sparrow.
- May 7 Camp Brinson
- June 4 North River Preserve with John Fussell + Fort Macon

Unless otherwise announced, all trips depart from the parking lot of the BridgePointe Hotel at 7am sharp. Carpools can be arranged as we meet up. The planned destination may be changed at the last minute if a special sighting or different trip gives us a better opportunity for birding. Information will be updated with each newsletter.

Annual Pea Island Field Trip

The overnight Pea Island field trip has been set for Wednesday and Thursday, November 11 & 12, 2015. This has always been a splendid trip and is one of the advantages of membership in our bird club.

We will depart from the BridgePointe Hotel at 7:00 am Wednesday and return by mid-to-late afternoon on Thursday. For members departing from points east of New Bern, we will meet you at 8:00 am at the Liberty gas station on Rt 264 in Washington (about 3 blocks after turning off onto Highway 264).

The route for this year's trip will be the same as previous trips. We will stop by the Bald Eagle capital of North Carolina at Roper. Next, we will look for sparrows near Lake Phelps and then check out water birds on the lake itself. Then, it's on to the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge for raptors and waterfowl. From there we will go to Nag's Head and quickly check into the motel. Late afternoon will be at the always productive and beautiful pond at Bodie Island. Finally, there will be a social hour followed by dinner at nearby restaurants.

After an early breakfast at our motel, we will check out and drive to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, which usually has an interesting assortment of waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. By late morning on Thursday, we will begin the long route home with a stop at the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.

Plan to bring food and beverage for your lunch on Wednesday and a snack on Thursday. You might also like to bring something to share at happy hour.

The weather on the Outer Banks is always unpredictable, so check the weather forecast in planning what to wear, but do wear rubber-soled shoes.

Our motel is once again the Comfort Inn South at Nags Head. The rates obtained for club members are \$70 for a landside room and \$80 for oceanfront.

Reservations must be made by Friday, October 30. Call the hotel at 252-441-6315 and identify yourself as a member of the "New Bern Bird Club" in order to receive the special rate.

A Bear Walk with Mike Campbell

Contrary to an earlier notice, the bear walk/drive with Mike Campbell has been moved to **Saturday, Nov 21**. It will be to Pocosin Lakes. He estimates more than 20 to 30 bears will be seen at a safe distance! Mike says snow geese should be there in huge numbers also. Interested members should contact Mike directly either by phone or email (see below). People could carpool from the BridgePointe as per usual.

Mike Campbell
Regional Education Specialist
Wildlife Education Division
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
PO Box 14170
New Bern NC 28561
mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org
252-670-0090

Extra Trips for Spring 2016

- **Spring Mountain Trip** – May 2016 – Dates to be determined.
- **Howell Woods** near Goldsboro – Sometime in May – Dates to be determined.

Other Birding Events Of Interest

- The **Winter CBC Meeting** will be in Litchfield, SC.

Minutes From October 2015

President Bob Gould welcomed 25 members and summarized the plan for the November 7th bird walk at Simmons Street Park. Bob reminded the club that submissions for the newsletter are due to Carol Oldham on the 15th day of the month as the target day to disseminate it is the 25th.

There was a discussion about a trip to Pea Island in the week of November 9th. In a show of hands, many members indicated that they were interested in this trip. Planning will begin with details to follow.

Carol & Jim Oldham will be hosting Falconer Chip Gentry with his owls, hawks, and eagles at their Wild Birds Unlimited store in New Bern on October 24th and invited club members to attend. The event is part of their celebration of the sixth anniversary of ownership of the store.

As a reminder, Olwen Jarvis is hosting the club's Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 6th.

The program for this meeting was a talk on Kenya and its wildlife. Bob introduced the guest speaker, Sam Bland, who is a retired ranger and park superintendent for the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. Presently, Sam works for the Coastal Federation and involves himself in environmental education and restoration. Sam traveled to Kenya to attend wildlife photographer David Lloyd's Big Cat Photo Safari. Thus, the focus of the safari was to photograph the Masai Mara's famous lions, leopards and cheetahs alongside elephants, giraffe, zebra hippo, rhino, and other renowned African wildlife. However, the Masai Mara also has over 450 species of birds, more than 50 of which are raptors, and there are safari offerings in Kenya for birders to see them. The photographs of the wildlife and landscapes in Sam's presentation were stunningly beautiful. All agreed that this was a very entertaining and informative program.

Submitted by Mike Brooks, Secretary

26 Sept '15 / 03 Oct '15 / First Saturday / Glenburnie Quarry Trips

Since the weather forecast on our first trip was for winds: 10 to 20 mph and heavy rains, we had a very low turnout, only three birders showed: Bob Gould, Daniel Kendrick (new member), and Al Gamache. However, the actual weather we had was winds: light and variable, and no precipitation at all.

On 03 October 2015, would you believe, right in the midst of our ongoing monsoon season, with coastal flood warnings every day, up and down the East Coast, that the forecast for our Saturday Bird Walk was soft winds and sunny skies, and that's exactly what we had. But once again, we had a low turnout, a threesome: Mike Brooks, Chandra Biggerstaff, and yours truly Al Gamache. (24" of rain in Charleston? – is that believable ?!).

I'm simply going to combine our quarry trips, and type out a full species list. I would also like to note that I was particularly pleased with the several **Magnolia**

Warblers that we got, considering that we had had no luck in finding that species on our Spring Mountain Trip this year.

The List: 44 Species

Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	No. Mockingbird
		Brown Thrasher
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Flicker	
Anhinga		European Starling
	Red-eyed Vireo	
Great Blue Heron	White-eyed Vireo	Northern Parula
Great Egret		Yellow Warbler
Green Heron	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
	Fish Crow	Magnolia Warbler
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Black-and-white
Osprey		American Redstart
Merlin	Tree Swallow	Com Yellowthroat
Sora	Carolina Chickadee	Summer Tanager
	Tufted Titmouse	
Spotted Sandpiper	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Laughing Gull		
Forster's Tern	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Rock Pigeon	House Finch	Mourning Dove

I sure would have liked to nab a few more warblers, like a Blackpoll, or a Cape May or even a Nashville, and etc. etc. But we got what we got and had a fine time doing so.

Submitted by Al Gamache

A Note from Carol & Keith Martin

Carol wrote from their new home in Vero Beach, Florida last August...

We are still settling in here... lots of stuff still in storage. We'll wait until it gets a little cooler to tackle the storage units. We overlook a long pond which has great bird life. And yes, also an alligator (dubbed Izod). The CCRC is a wildlife sanctuary (and official hurricane shelter) and at the end of the pond there is a long rookery. At night there are hundreds of ibis, anhingas, herons and egrets nesting in the bushes there (great and little blue, snowies, cattle, tricolored, etc.) It's quite a sight. Some of them fish down at our end of the pond so we can see them. We've had visits by wood storks (big) and Pinkie (a spoon bill that hangs out with the Great Egret). The anhingas are fun to watch. If the fish they catch are too feisty they beat them against the beach until they behave. My favorites

are the black bottomed whistling ducks with their big reddish beaks and bright pink legs. And they do whistle when they fly over. We spend far too much time watching from our windows. The moor hens have babies (this is their 2nd batch of 2) and have been working hard to keep them away from the turtles.

We don't seem to have birds like the buntings, humming, titmice, etc. Maybe it's too hot.

Carol also indicated that they were doing well and headed to Maine at the end of August.

Directions To Olwen & Bill Jarvis's Home

5620 Gondolier Drive, Fairfield Harbour (252-637-7748)

From Route 55 East:

1. At the **Handy Mart** traffic light, ~2 miles east of the Neuse River Bridge on NC 55, turn onto **Broad Creek Road**.
2. Continue ~**6 miles**. Go past the firehouse of Fairfield Harbour on the left.
3. Turn **right between the fountains and flagpoles onto Cassowary Lane**.
4. Stop at the guardhouse; tell the guards you are guests of the Jarvis's for the Bird Club party.
5. Proceed straight ahead a very short distance to a 4-way stop.
6. Take a right onto **Caracara Drive**.
7. At the 4th left, turn left onto **Pelican Drive**.
8. Continue to 4-way stop. GO STRAIGHT!
9. Turn left onto **Trade Winds Road** (this becomes **Gondolier Drive**).
10. Continue on to **Gondolier Drive**. # 5620 is on the right.
11. Park in the driveway or along the shoulder of the road – NOT on the grass in the yard.