



Lower Neuse Bird Club

Editor: Carol Oldham, LowerNeuseBirdClub@gmail.com

Club Officers

President

Bob Gould
288-4615

Vice President

Who will it be?

Secretary

Mike Brooks
649-1200

Treasurer

Christine Root
745-4488

Field Trips

Al Gamache
675-8376

Newsletter Editor

Carol Oldham
876-1620

Refreshments

Captain

Susan McCrocklin
288-5043

February Program: Dr. Michelle Moorman

Dr. Michelle Moorman, Aquatic Biologist and the Refuge Biologist at Mattamuskeet, Swanquarter and Cedar Island NWRs, will present on a lake monitoring program at Lake Mattamuskeet. The monitoring program is concerned about the decline in submerged vegetation in the lake and how this may affect the lake's significant overwintering waterfowl population.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Meetings are held at Garber United Methodist Church, Country Club Road, New Bern, Room 123 of the Ministry Center, across the street from the main church. Parking and entrance are at the rear of the building.

Join us for refreshments & conversation for the first half hour. Business meeting begins at 7 pm, followed by this month's program topic.

Refreshments for this meeting are being provided by Jeanne Kraus, Carol Reigle and Margaret Mayo.



New Members

Barbara Lewis
5624 Gondolier Dr
New Bern, NC 28560
330-441-1083

Maryanne Ricca
223 Mt Pleasant Rd
New Bern, NC 28560
631-905-8484

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Minutes from January 2017

By Mike Brooks



President Bob Gould welcomed 30 members to the first LNBC meeting of calendar year 2017. Bob briefly explained the plan for the January bird walk in Pamlico County (*subsequently cancelled due to weather concerns*). The date for the February trip to Lake Mattamuskeet will be announced in the February newsletter.

Bob Gould summarized the results of the Christmas Bird Count in New Bern. Participants counted 114 species and this was an average count for the club. Bob also wants to form a small working group to plan a spring mountain trip in the 9-12 May time frame. His idea is to spend three nights in one hotel and go to as many birding hot spots as possible from that location. Contact Bob if you have ideas.

The New Bern Quarry is city property and the New Bern police have started restricting access to the site. Bob Gould met with city officials and the LNBC now has written permission to enter the quarry for "birding only." Contact Bob if you want to bird in the quarry.

Chris Root reminded the club that the winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club (CBC) will be held in late January. Visit the CBC web site for the schedule of events.

The program for this meeting was a video on hummingbirds. Most of us get to see only a few species of hummingbirds, so this program was a treat. Besides the phenomenal footage of these beautiful birds, the narrator provided many interesting facts. For example, their at-rest heart rate is 500 beats-per-minute, and their very high metabolism necessitates a daily consumption of one-and-a-half times their body weight in nectar. And for those anticipating a western birding expedition, southeast Arizona hosts 14 species of hummingbirds - the highest population in the United States.

When the Ruby-throats return this spring, many of us will have a renewed sense of wonder of these remarkable birds.



First Saturday Field Trips

- **February 18 Mattamuskeet**

Date has been changed so as not to conflict with Youth Hunting Days.

We will leave from the BridgePoint Hotel at 7 am. If you plan to rendezvous in Washington, please be at the Liberty gas station (AKA Duck Thru Food) on Rt 264E by 8 am. Carpooling is encouraged. This is an all day trip so bring lunch, etc.

- March 11 North River Preserve
- April 1 Croatan
- May 13 Camp Brinson (*date is tentative*)
- June 3 North River Preserve

Most trips end by noon and do not require much walking. Remember to bring your binoculars, scopes, field guides, insect repellent, rain gear, snacks and water.

Unless otherwise announced, all trips depart from the parking lot of the BridgePointe Hotel at 7 am 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 location gives us a better opportunity for birding. Information will be updated with each newsletter.

Note: The January 7 bird walk in Pamlico County was cancelled due to weather concerns. Sadly, there is no report from Al this month.



NC Waterbird Management Committee Meeting
 March 2-3, 2017
 Hammocks Beach State Park
 Details in the January Newsletter

Carolina Bird Club Spring Meeting
 April 28-29, 2017
 Winston-Salem, NC

LNBC Membership Dues

Lower Neuse Bird Club annual membership dues are \$15 per person and cover the **program year from September 2016 through May 2017**. Dues may be paid at a monthly meeting, or you may send them directly to: Christine Root, LNBC Treasurer, 651 Quail Road, Merritt, NC 28556. Checks should be made payable to LNBC.

Members who have not paid their dues have been removed from the distribution list* for the Newsletter & other information.

**Please be sure to notify Carol Oldham, Newsletter Editor, of any changes to your email or other contact information.*



Lower Neuse Bird Club

Extra Birding Opportunity

Submitted by Mike Campbell

Regional Education Specialist

Wildlife Education Division, NC Wildlife Resources Commission



Lake Mattamuskeet NWR

February 16, 2017, 9:00am—1:00pm

Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge is home to one of the major wintering waterfowl areas on the east coast of the United States. We will explore areas around the refuge to identify ducks, swans, geese and other birds, and discuss issues involving these well-traveled birds.

After this workshop, there will be an optional trip to Pocosin Lakes NWR to view other waterfowl. When we are on the refuges, transportation will not be provided. Be prepared for very wet and muddy conditions on the roads.

There is no charge for this workshop, and it is open to the general public ages 16 and up. Pre-registration is required. This will qualify for Criteria II of the NC OEE Certification.

For more information, or to register, log on to our calendar at:

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Courses-Seminars-Workshops/Project-Wild-Catch-and-Outdoor-Skills/Event-Registration>

Mike Campbell

208 Channel Run Drive

New Bern NC 28562

mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org

252-670-0090