

Lower Neuse Bird Club

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Club Officers

President

Bob Gould
288-4615

Vice President

Who will it be?

Secretary

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649-1200

Treasurer

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Field Trips

Al Gamache
675-8376

Newsletter Editor

Carol Oldham
876-1620

Refreshments

Captain

Susan McCrocklin
288-5043

New Bern Christmas Bird Count Results

By Bob Gould, President

A windy, raw and occasionally rainy day did not deter over 20 hardy souls from participating in the 2016 New Bern Christmas Bird Count. The weather certainly suppressed the bird activity but we still managed to identify 114 species. It's not a record, but quite close to our yearly average.

A Nashville Warbler found by Al Gamache and Steve Shaffer took the prize for bird of the day. For those who like to plan ahead, the 2017 count will be held on Monday, December 18th. Thanks to all!



January Program: Hummingbirds

Tuesday, January 3, 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 Theresa Hill.

Hummingbirds remind us to energetically live life to the fullest and to find sweetness in any situation.

Lower Neuse Bird Club

A Spring Mountain Trip

By Bob Gould



I would like to put together a Spring Mountain trip to the Asheville area, tentatively from May 9th to May 12th. I'm trying to figure out how to get to as many birding "hot spots" as possible from one location. The goal is to spend three nights in one hotel, negating the need to check in/out, drag bags, etc. three times. For those interested, please give this some thought and come up with some ideas/proposals. I would like to form a small working group to help plan this trip. Any volunteers?

Many Thanks

Olwen thanks everyone for trekking all the way out to their house for the Christmas Party. "We love having everyone here and we enjoyed ourselves very much."

We all say thanks to Olwen and Bill for once again hosting our annual Christmas Party.



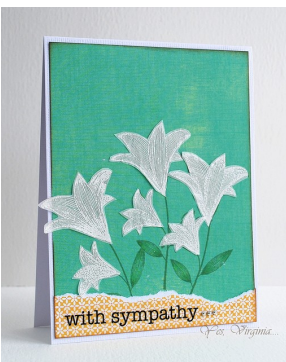
Sad News

By Olwen Jarvis

Our good friend, Mike Campbell, leader of nature and bird walks, and often an outstanding speaker at our Bird Club meetings, shared the following sad news with me.

We offer our sincere condolences to Mike on the death of his wife, Jill. Mike and Jill were to be married on December 23rd. As a result of the diagnosis of Jill's sudden illness, they married September 21st. Jill passed away on October 21st.

You are in our thoughts and prayers, Mike.



First Saturday Field Trips

• **January 7 Pamlico County**

Meet up at the Bridge Pointe Hotel parking lot at 7 am. If you prefer to go directly to Pamlico County, we will meet at 7:30 in the parking area behind the Fire Station at Moore's Corner. The station is on the corner of Straight Road and NC55.

- February 11 Mattamuskeet
- March 11 North River Preserve
- April 1 Croatan
- May 13 Camp Brinson
- 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 Bridge Pointe 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.



Carolina Bird Club Meeting Dates

Jan 27-28, 2017

Nags Head, NC

Registration opens December 3. All info about field trips, hotels, etc. can be found on the CBC homepage:
Carolinabirdclub.org

Spring 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 by December 31, 2016 will be 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.*



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First Saturday Bird Walk: Local Area Ponds December 3, 2016

By Al Gamache



The route for our Bird Walk this month was (A) Lilliput Pond, (B) Lake Clermont, (C) The Neuse River at River Bluffs (i.e. Sally Rowe's Place), (D) Glenburnie Quarry (where we were not allowed access) and a few of us tail ended our trip over at Glenburnie Park.

I believe we had sixteen birders (a good showing) and the trip produced fifty-two species (also a good showing on the part of the birds).

Lilliput Pond was rich with ducks including: Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, and a scatter of beautiful Redheads. We also got our priority target bird, the Common Gallinule, along with some Pied-billed Grebe and Coots, and in near-by trees and brush a few Golden-crowned Kinglets, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and the always abundant Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Lake Clermont, on the other hand, was lean with ducks, and added to our list only a Belted Kingfisher.



At River Bluffs we had a nice line of Horned Grebes, and the bird of the trip, a **Long-tailed Duck** (formerly known as Oldsquaw); these were spotted by Les Coble. We also were treated to Bald Eagle, Merlin, and Red-shouldered Hawk, and the very reliable and most beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker.

Our journey into the Glenburnie Quarry was short lived, as noted above, but we did spot an American Kestrel. A few of us finished up with a quick trip over to Glenburnie Park getting a couple of Pine Warblers as well as a couple of Blue-headed Vireos.

"Highlight here was warm cider and gingerbread served inside, looking through glass out at the river, civilized bird watching."

Photo & text
by Michael Creedon

Ran into Sally Rowe at the market; for several days now, she's been seeing a Common Goldeneye out in the Neuse River. That's a really good bird! Go Sally!

N.C. Waterbird Management Committee Meeting

Submitted by Sara Schweitzer, Ph.D.

Wildlife Diversity Biologist/ Waterbirds Investigations & Management Project

The 2017 meeting of the N.C. Waterbird Management Committee will be held March 2nd and 3rd, Thursday and Friday. The meeting will be held at Hammocks Beach State Park in the visitors' center auditorium.

All interested people are invited and there is no fee. A final draft agenda will be available to send out shortly after February 20th, so people can come to all or a portion of the meeting, depending on their time and interests.

The format will be the same as in March 2016 when we learned about our partners' projects on Thursday, and on Friday we discussed waterbird management and conservation issues among partners.

In 2016, the topics discussed on Friday included:

- Colonial waterbird population goals – how they were set, are they the right goals to shoot for, are we meeting the goals and if not what can we do to enhance the population(s).
- Factors that may affect our estimates of numbers of active nests per colony: date, weather, habitat features, effort.
- The need for regional estimates of populations to account for distribution and movement, species stability in the region, and percentage of the population N.C. supports (now and historically).
- The need to coordinate N.C.'s surveys with other states in the Atlantic region (e.g., Virginia and other mid-Atlantic states will conduct a colonial waterbird survey in 2018).
- Should we ask the USFWS to coordinate a meeting and workshop at which Atlantic states agree upon a standardized survey protocol for colonial-nesting waterbirds (e.g., SAMBI [South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative]; Atlantic Flyway Nongame Technical Committee; other)?
- Annual survey of Least Terns is coordinated by the USFWS (Kate O'Brien); we agreed to survey LETE annually (therefore, the effort in 2016).
- Monitoring protocol used as part of coastal engineering projects' permits – our Committee should provide guidance and recommendations to en-

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N.C. Waterbird Management Committee Meeting

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Wildlife Diversity Biologist/ Waterbirds Investigations & Management Project

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sure standardized data are collected properly, and these data are entered into the NCWRC online databases for future reference and assessment.

- Concerns about important roosting and foraging habitats used during the nonbreeding season – do we know where the most important sites are? Are they protected? If not, what amount of protection can they receive from human activities.
- A programmatic biological assessment was introduced by Teresa Bullock (COE).
- Cumulative impacts of coastal engineering projects along the coast should be studied, especially relative to Red Knots and their use of the ocean front intertidal zone and inlet regions for foraging and roosting.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss one or more of these topics this year, and provide new topics for discussion on Friday. We do need updates and more work on many of these topics. North Carolina's next survey of colonially-nesting waterbirds will be May and June 2017, so if we want to tweak anything with the surveys, discussing those suggestions should be addressed at this meeting.

S.H. Schweitzer, Ph.D.

Wildlife Diversity Biologist

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