

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

May Program: Warblers!

Al Gamache and Chris Root will entertain with warbler fun facts and photos and maybe even some birdsong.

Tuesday, May 2, 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 Sue McCrocklin.

2017 Colonial Waterbird Survey of NC's Coast: A Note from Sara

We are getting plans ready for the 2017 Colonial Waterbird Survey of NC's Coast, and we've drafted a schedule of locations that we will survey for nesting birds at which we will need help from volunteers. Attached are draft plans* for locations and dates we will survey them. Keep in mind, this is our best first draft and weather complications may result in rescheduling.

If you see a location you'd like to visit, please contact me so I can add you to the list of volunteers. If you have questions, just let me know and I'll provide more details. For now, we would like to let you know the opportunities for helping count NC's nesting colonial waterbirds.

S.H. Schweitzer, Ph.D.

Wildlife Diversity Biologist // Waterbirds Investigations & Management Project
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**Editor's Note: PDF attachments for these draft plans will be included with the email notification of this newsletter.*

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Minutes from April 2017

By Mike Brooks



President Bob Gould welcomed 20 members and one guest to the meeting. The mountain trip to the Warbler Road area of Roanoke, Virginia is set for May 6-8. *(Details are reprinted at the end of this newsletter.)*

In Show and Tell, Wade Fuller reported that a Red-breasted Nuthatch is still visible near his house. Bob Gould had a Downy Woodpecker, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in his backyard. And Chris Root has two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a Prairie Warbler, and other warblers at her residence.

Olwen Jarvis reminded the club that a bird walk at the Cool Springs Environmental Education Center, hosted by Mike Campbell of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, is scheduled for May 25th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Those interested must contact Mike directly to attend. Mike can be reached by email, mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org, or by phone, 252-670-0090.

The program for this meeting was a 60-minute presentation by Les Coble entitled "Alaska: The Kenai Peninsula and Nome." This was a two-part presentation. On Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, Les saw many fantastic birds. They included the Black-billed Magpie; loons (Pacific, Red-throated, Yellow-billed); warblers (Arctic, Orange-crowned, Townsend, Yellow); Aleutian Terns; sparrows (Lincoln, Fox, White-crowned, Golden-crowned); Harlequin Ducks; Red-necked Phalaropes; godwits (Marbled, Bar-tailed); Gray Jays; murrelets (Kittlitz, Marbled); Trumpeter Swans; Common Murre; and grebes (Red-necked, Western, Horned).

Closer to the Arctic Circle, Les also explored three frontier roads that originate in Nome - Council, Kougarok, and Teller. There he saw the Long-tailed Jaeger; Red-breasted Mergansers; the very beautiful Bluethroat - found in North America only on the tundra of Alaska and the Yukon Territory; Willow Ptarmigan; Lapland Longspur; plovers (American Golden, Pacific Golden, semi-palmated); swallows (Bank and Cliff); Peregrine Falcons; Red Phalarope; and a Bristle-thighed Curlew - a shorebird that breeds in Alaska and winters on tropical Pacific islands.

This was a very informative presentation and the photographs were high quality. All thanked Les for sharing his experience and knowledge with the club.

Saturday Field Trips

- **May 13** **Camp Brinson with Wade Fuller**

As usual, we will depart from BridgePointe Hotel parking lot at 7am.

Or you may choose to meet up with the group in Havelock at the old Food Lion parking lot; we will depart from there by 7:15am. We will be passing through several locked gates for this trip, so once in, you must stay for the entire time. We should still finish up around noon.

- 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.



Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting

September 29-30, 2017
Litchfield Beach, SC

Extra Birding Opportunities

- Spring Mountain Trip: Warbler Road, May 6-8
Details are on Page 6.
- Cool Springs Bird Hike with Mike Campbell, Regional Education Specialist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.
May 25, 9 am to 1 pm. Interested persons should contact Mike via his email, mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org, or by phone, 252-670-0090.

See You In September

This is the final LNBC Newsletter for the 2016-2017 Program Year. The next newsletter will come to you just prior to the beginning of the 2017-2018 Program Year and the September 2017 meeting. Have a great summer!

Carol Oldham, Newsletter Editor



New Member

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Lower Neuse Bird Club

Monthly Bird Walk: Northern Croatan Hotspots April 1, 2017

By Al Gamache



As wintertime slides away from us in late March and we head into spring, our focus shifts to the arrival of those neo-tropical species, with a special nod to the wood warblers. A list of some of my recent posts would include:

Yellow-throated Warbler	10 March
Louisiana Waterthrush	17 March
Rough-winged Swallow	24 March
Whip-poor-will	26 March
Ovenbird	30 March
Northern Parula	30 March
Black-and-white Warbler	30 March

This year our bird walk occurred on the very first day of April and we had good weather and a good number of participants. Last year, it was on the second day of April and the weather forecast had been so ominous that only a meager six participants showed. Despite that threatening forecast, in addition to the eight species of warblers listed below (this year's quarry), we had three additional species: a Prothonotary, a Prairie and most stunningly of all a Magnolia (a full, bright plumaged male Magnolia, SUPER!).



Photo by Michael Creedon

Louisiana Waterthrush

A bird of forest streams, the Louisiana Waterthrush looks more like a thrush or sparrow than the warbler it is. It can be recognized by its loud ringing call and constant bobbing of its tail.

Text from allaboutbirds.org

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pine Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-throated Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Ovenbird
Northern Parula
Black-and-white Warbler

However, THIS year our bird walk ended so wonderfully on a ***festive warbler crescendo!*** While our trip totaled 48 species, it was at our next to last stop, at the bridge over Brices Creek on County Line Road, that we got birds #47. Just in the nick of time, there were a pair (*Mind you!! Not just one, but two...that's a pair!*) of beautiful Louisiana Waterthrush, walking delicately at the edge of the stream bank, then up and over a beautiful green mossy area, stepping into a bit of shallow water, and strolling across onto damp, heavily shaded ground. (*Mind you!! This was all at real close-up range!!!*) Then one lifted on its wings up to a branch close by at eye level,

Monthly Bird Walk: Northern Croatan Hotspots

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and slowly began its circular, tail-bobbing behavior, up and down, up and down, all the while tooting out its sweet little song. What a complete performance it was!!

And matching that event, on our next and very last stop, bird#48, at the little bridge crossing the East Prong of Brices Creek on Tebo Road. There we had a male Black-and-white Warbler which came out of the deep woods onto a small leafless tree and began clambering all over the trunk and branches displaying every angle and aspect of its scrumptious plumage, all to the oos's and aah's of the assembled and completely appreciative group of birders. That was two great treats in a row. Hard to beat that!



Looking for the elusive White-eyed Vireo.
Photo by Michael Creedon

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers very busily flying to and fro constructing both the inside and the outside of their nest, and decorating it with lichen, making it look like it had been made out of paper mache. At the beginning of our walk we had a large flock of, perhaps thirty or so, Cedar Waxwings, as well as six or seven Purple Martins flying about near the depot. It was a fine trip, and with a great ending.

Returning to the issue of warblers for a moment, we should be able to pick up the remaining eight species of warblers all of whom nest in our area at next month's bird walk, as well as a number of other neo-tropical specialties, (perhaps even a few reptiles) when Wade leads a bird walk through Camp Brinson on May 13th. A birder's delight! See you there!

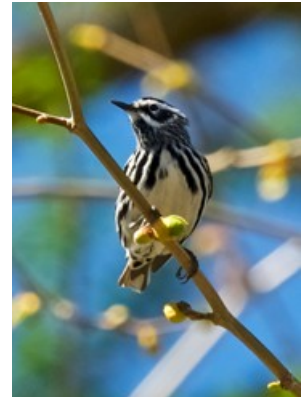


Photo by Michael Creedon

Black-and-white Warbler

One of the earliest-arriving migrant warblers, the Black-and-white Warbler's thin, squeaky song is one of the first signs that spring birding has sprung. This crisply striped bundle of black and white feathers creeps along tree trunks and branches like a nimble nuthatch, probing the bark for insects with its slightly downcurved bill. Though you typically see these birds only in trees, they build their little cup-shaped nests in the leaf litter of forests across central and eastern North America.

Text from allaboutbirds.org

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Spring Mountain Trip: Warbler Road

May 6-8, 2017

By Bob Gould

This year I have tried to add a little different approach to our periodic “mountain trip”. The plan is to leave New Bern at 7:00 AM on Saturday May 6th, returning late afternoon on Monday May 8th. Our destination is the Roanoke, VA area, specifically the so-called Warbler Road. The Warbler Road lies within the Jefferson National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is a series of interconnected roads (about 13 miles) that offer a wide diversity of habitat. It is home to about 25 species of breeding warblers with the potential to see additional migrating warblers. We should also encounter a large variety of other passerines.

The drive to Roanoke should take 5-6 hours, depending on stops. Pack a lunch and snacks for the drive up as we will most likely stop along the way.

I have reserved a block of rooms in Troutville, VA, north of Roanoke. We will stay there Saturday and Sunday nights. All rooms have 2 double beds and are non smoking. The rate is \$84.16 plus tax per night, single or 2 persons. Everyone must make his/her own reservations before April 14th. The reservation number is (540) 992-5335. Identify yourself as from the New Bern Bird Club. The Quality Inn has two floors but no elevator. They will try to accommodate anyone who prefers a ground floor room. Please do not wait until the last minute to make your reservations as rooms tend to be at a premium on weekends.

Because we are venturing into “uncharted territory,” I need to know who is definitely going. As always, “the less cars the merrier,” so plan to car pool if at all possible. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have; phone 288-4615 or email rdr1428@yahoo.com.

Check out these links for more information on the Warbler Road:
wildlifesouth.com/Locations/Virginia/WarblerRoad.html or
roanokevalleybirdclub.com/Birding%20Sites.html (scroll down to #6 Warbler Road)