

Lower Neuse Bird Club

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Minutes from May 2019

By Mike Brooks

In the first meeting of the post-Bob Gould era, Wade Fuller welcomed nearly 30 members and guests to the last meeting of the 2018-2019 program year. He reassured all that the club will continue next year, even if it means designating members to lead the meetings. Wade summarized the plan for the bird walks at Camp Brinson and the North River Preserve on May 14th and June 1st, respectively. In a reconnaissance trip to Camp Brinson, Wade said 11 species of warblers were seen, which included 23 Prothonotary and 5 Black-throated Green Warblers.

In Show & Tell, several members recounted their experiences at the spring meeting of the Carolina Bird Club (CBC) on 2-5th May in Southern Pines, NC. Highlights included seeing a Bachman's Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and the first flight of six White-breasted Nuthatch fledglings. The club joined Wade in thanking Chris Root for leading the CBC for the past two years. Chris announced that the fall CBC meeting will be in Charleston, SC on September 26-29th, 2019. Visit the [CBC web site](#) for more information.

The program for this meeting was 'Southeast Arizona in May: Chasing Rarities with Melody Kehl', presented by Wade Fuller. Wade, Rich Boyd, and others birded Southeast Arizona with Melody Kehl on 14-19th May 2018. In addition to showing over 60 bird photos, Wade expalined Arizona's terrain, routes traveled each day, and provided amusing anecdotes in the search for these birds.

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See you in September!

The LNBC 2018-2019 Program Year has ended. The 2019-2020 Program Year will kick off at the club meeting on September 3, 6:30 PM at Garber United Methodist Church.

We will have a organization and planning meeting over the summer. Information about the meeting will be emailed to members.

Lower Neuse Bird Club



**Carolina Bird Club
Fall Meeting:
“Fall into the
Lowcountry”**

Sept. 26-29, 2019
Charleston, SC

More info at
carolinabirdclub.org

Minutes from May 2019

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Wade showed and explained many interesting species that included woodpeckers (Acorn, Gila, Ladder-backed), flycatchers (Buff-breasted, Vermilion, Dusky-capped, Ash-throated, Brown-crested), tanagers (Flame-colored, Western), warblers (Red-faced, Black-throated Gray, Grace’s, Townsend’s, Audubon’s, Lucy’s), vireos (Cassin’s, Plumbeous, Gray, Hutton’s, Bell’s), White-tailed Kite, thrasher (LeConte’s, Crissal, Curve-billed), phoebes (Black, Say’s), Greater Pewee, Elegant Trogon, sparrows (Five-striped, Botteri’s, Black-throated), kingbirds (Western, Thick-billed), wrens (Sinaloa, Bewick’s, Cactus), and hawks (Gray, Harris’s, Swainson’s). Although not target birds of this trip, they did see Broad-billed, Black-chinned, and Rivoli’s Hummingbirds. Of course, no trip to Arizona is complete without seeing the Roadrunner and the Prairie Falcon. Many of these birds are stunningly beautiful, but the cutest are the Rosy-faced Lovebirds.

For those interested in a trip to Arizona, Wade highly recommends having an Arizona-specific bird guide. He found “A Birder’s Guide to Southeastern Arizona” by Richard Cachor Taylor to be an invaluable aid during the trip.

At the start of the program, Wade said that Southeast Arizona is “an amazing place for its diversity of birds”. The program proved his point. The club enthusiastically thanked Wade for sharing his experience.



*Broad-billed Hummingbird
Well away from its breeding grounds – Southern Shores, NC!
15th Nov. 2017: part of LNBC’s annual Pea Island trip*

Paradise in Our Back Yard – Camp Brinson Bird Walk

by Les Coble

It is Tuesday morning, May 14th. 17 birders slip through chain gates, lock themselves in the pine and upland hardwoods of the Croatan. They drive from the hunting lodge, listening. Soon raucous chirps, calls and mimicable chattering notes cause a stop. They cannot scurry into the field-like arena, dotted with several trees that had taken advantage of the sunlight and grown taller than the younger surrounding forest, when the musical scale is heard imitated by a Prairie Warbler. A few repeated songs courtesy of a phone application has the on-territory male seeking the fake intruder. Safe to say **everyone** saw the Warbler (scientific name means “party-colored”) as it moved about the brush and young deciduous growth.

But, what about the raucous caller? None of us see the hidden gem. Wait. Another singing bird is in the trees centered in the glade. This Indigo Bunting makes dramatic appearances and is watched by all, eventually fading in glory to the Blue Grosbeak that is now entralling everyone from its perch atop a taller tree that is lit with the sun. Brown wing bars? Yes, easy to see. He seems pleased to have stolen the Bunting’s show, which tries hard to get back to center stage. But then poor Grosbeak, that raucous caller steals the limelight. The Yellow-breasted Chat flutters into the central trees! It seems its flight is like the display of a heart beat on the monitor; impossible to manage direct flight. Even the erratic butterflies seem buoyant in comparison. WOW. Four birds seen by everyone – within a span of 10 minutes. Our leader, Wade Fuller, is told we can all leave for home as the morning is a complete success!

Our next stop is the “shooting range” road. The plan calls for seeking out the Black-and-White Warbler. We settle for exciting but difficult to pin down shooting-star-activity of a Worm-eating Warbler and a totally unexpected Swainson’s Warbler. Brief views were of the breast and vent as it was also far higher than the norm. The efforts to see these “brown” warblers were broken by the brief appearance of two Mississippi Kites. Maybe our luck is still with us.

Returning to Lake Road and its terminus at Long Lake, the dense foliage made looking for singing Northern Parula warblers and another Swainson’s Warbler difficult. The Prothonotary Warblers were more cooperative. This “woodland parakeet” has spurred many a birder to seek out all warblers as target species.

The less frenetic pace was soon ignored as a Black-throated Green Warbler (Wayne’s Warbler, as this subspecies is known in eastern NC) was heard in the clearing around the adjacent cabin. At least three birds were probably defending or still determining roughly where their territory would have an imaginary fence. They constantly moved about. Soon, another Prothonotary Warbler was clearly visible. We were within its territory, and it had no reason to leave the clearing. A stunning gold and brilliant yellow gem it is.

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Use of Bird Recordings:

Using bird recordings can help birders get better views of birds even while they familiarize themselves with calls for birding by ear, but this controversial tactic may still be harmful to birds.

Understanding the possible effects of birdsong recordings can help all birders make the best choices to balance their desire to see birds and making sure the birds are not harmed.

AND!!! Birds have the best hearing in the animal kingdom. You do not have to play the recording at stadium levels!

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Paradise in Our Back Yard – Camp Brinson Bird Walk

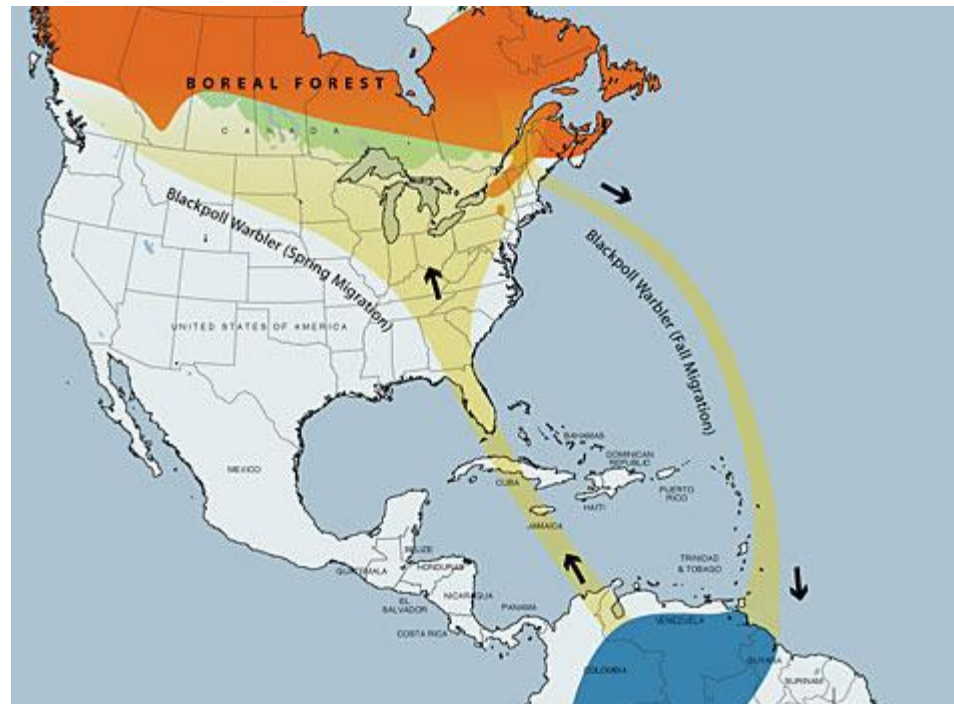
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Briefly, the group split as several were seeking a chance for a hopefully more cooperative Swainson's Warbler. That left two of us to get looks at a male Blackpoll Warbler that Christine had been hearing. This was our only passage migrant, and an unusual sighting. See the map and you will notice it is an inland migrant, moving 100-150 miles at a time until it gets to Alaska. This may explain why it is one of the last migrants we may see each spring. In the fall, it flies across Canada, and then flies the longest distance any migrant flies in one trip. It flies over the Atlantic almost 2,200 miles in a 75 to 90 hour flight at around 27 miles per hour, nonstop! Quite a feat for a 1/2-ounce bird!



Summer Tanager at
Camp Brinson

Photograph by
Michael Creedon



Migration route of the Blackpoll Warbler

Using a northerly wind, doubling its weight and utilizing even far, far greater physiological advances than can be described in this journal, that which athletes would die for, most make the journey.

Birding time flies as swiftly as the resident birds seeking to hold territories and feed ravenous young, and teaching them how to locate meals. Thus, we had to return to the lodge for a brief break. We made two stops. The first allowed extended views of a Summer Tanager. The second and final stop, and our last chance for an Ovenbird, found us teased by a bird that was within 50' of the vehicles. But it refused to come off the forest floor. Oh well. How about the Yellow-throated Warbler that Les saw come to trees next to the sand road? Everyone saw it! Why finish there when a song calling that was played of a Hooded Warbler had the bird in view for, again, all to see!

Apologies to every member who did not get to attend this fabulous morning foray into the Croatan. Congratulations to new members. It just does not get much better. A total of 59 species was recorded, excellent for strictly a landbird outing.

Camp Brinson Checklist 14th May 2019

Mourning Dove	Eastern Phoebe	Brown-headed Cowbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift	Eastern Kingbird	Ovenbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	White-eyed Vireo	Worm-eating Warbler
Anhinga	Yellow-throated Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-eyed Vireo	Swainson's Warbler
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Green Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Hooded Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	American Redstart
Osprey	Carolina Wren	Northern Parula
Mississippi Kite	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blackpoll Warbler
Bald Eagle	Eastern Bluebird	Pine Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Robin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Gray Catbird	Prairie Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Black-throated Green Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Summer Tanager
Downy Woodpecker	European Starling	Northern Cardinal
Pileated Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow	Blue Grosbeak
Northern Flicker	Eastern Towhee	Indigo Bunting
Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow-breasted Chat	



Prothonotary Warbler

Photograph by:
Michael Creedon

Lower Neuse Bird Club

LNBC @ Camp Brinson 14th May 2019

Photo journal by Mike Creedon



Indigo Bunting



Yellow-breasted Chat



Prairie Warbler



North River Preserve - 1st June 2019

by Michael Cheves

On US Highway 70E, just a short distance past the Crossroads Mini-Mart in Otway, there is a sign on the left hand side of the road: “North River Wetlands Preserve”. And in a smaller font, “North Carolina Coastal Federation”. A left turn at this sign goes through a gated entrance and into about 6,000 acres of excellent birding habitat. A dozen members of the Lower Neuse Bird Club were escorted into the Preserve by our leader for the day, John Fussell. The weather was mild and the birding was great. The bird we primarily come for each year, the Dickcissel, is a bird that is very rare for eastern North Carolina, but there is a small breeding population that has established itself right here.

The Dickcissel, named for its call, is a member of the Cardinalidae family, and therefore related to the state bird of North Carolina, the Northern Cardinal; however, its appearance is wholly unlike “that red bird at my feeder” or any other for that matter. Its huge, seed-cracking bill gives it away as a relative of the grosbeaks, while its brown-backed plumage recalls a type of sparrow. A rufous patch on the shoulder, yellow breast, white throat with a black bib, and yellow eyebrow make this a totally unique and beautiful bird. Last year, there were wildfires at the Preserve that opened up new habitat for these birds, and so luck was on our side as we went in.

We wasted no time in getting to the site where John had scouted this bird earlier. Judiciously using a pre-recorded call on an electronic device, John successfully lured the bird out for a showing that seemed to last forever. Our first Dickcissel sighting of the day was seen well and in great light by all in our party. It was a great and memorable experience that left lasting impressions on all of us. While we were watching the Dickcissel, a pair of Common Nighthawks flew past our group. Two of us got our first-ever views of a Yellow-breasted Chat during this trip. There was a cooperative White-eyed Vireo and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at one stop. In the air, noteworthy flyovers were Black Vulture, Little Blue Heron, and the usual triple-digit numbers of White Ibis keeping us company (alas, no Swallow-tailed Kite!). There were a few shorebirds on the mud flats, so those of us with scopes were able to put them to good use. In all, we enjoyed nearly 4 hours of birding as we traveled more than 12 miles around the Preserve. Many thanks to John Fussell for lending his time and expertise to our group!



View from “The Mountain”
at North River Presreve

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Photos from North River 6/1/19



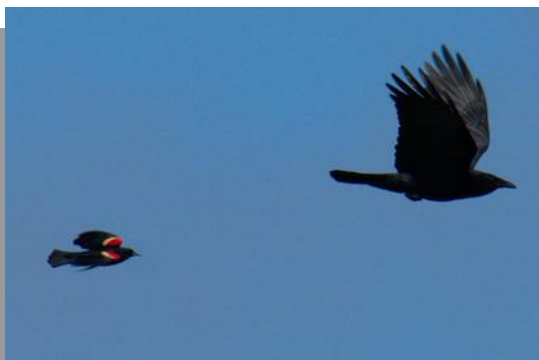
Photo by Michael Creedon



*Dickcissel
Photo by Michael Creedon*



Photo by Michael Creedon



*“The Chase”
Red-winged Blackbird
and crow sp.
by Michael Cheves*



*Prairie Warbler
Photo by Michael Creedon*



*White Ibis fly-by
by Michael Cheves*

North River Preserve Checklist - 1st June 2019

Northern Bobwhite	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee
Common Nighthawk	Tufted Titmouse
Semipalm. Plover	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Killdeer	Carolina Wren
Semipalm. Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Bluebird
Laughing Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Gull-billed Tern	European Starling
Great Egret	Yellow-breasted Chat
Little Blue Heron	Eastern Meadowlark
Cattle Egret	Orchard Oriole
White Ibis	Red-winged Blackbird
Black Vulture	Brown-headed Cowbird
Turkey Vulture	Common Grackle
Osprey	Prothonotary Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Great Crested Flycatcher	Pine Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-throated Warbler
White-eyed Vireo	Prairie Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Cardinal
Blue Jay	Blue Grosbeak
American Crow	Indigo Bunting
Fish Crow	Dickcissel

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Visit from An Old Friend

by Michael Cheves 6/5/19

