



Lower Neuse Bird Club

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Hugo Cobos to speak at September meeting

by Les Coble

On December 26, 2018, Martha Quillan of the Raleigh News & Observer reported, "Hurricane Florence, one of the costliest storms ever to hit the U.S., damaged or destroyed tens of thousands of homes when it made landfall in September. Not all of them belonged to humans.

Days of wind and torrential rain snapped or toppled trees throughout the Croatan National Forest. Among the trees felled were longleaf pines that were home to some of the forests' most celebrated residents: endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Our speaker for the start of the 2019-2020 season of the Lower Neuse Bird Club will be **Hugo Cobos**, Croatan National Forest Wildlife Biologist. He will help us understand why the RCW is called an *indicator species*, building and living in and around trees that appear narrow in width but are hundreds (yes, *hundreds*) of years old, and how fire and those sometimes unrelenting low pressure systems can benefit wildlife.

How many RCW are present in the Croatan forest? **Come to Garber United Methodist church on Tuesday evening, September 3, starting at 6:30 PM.** Another question, food for thought, "We think of the area as wet, but how is water retained in the forest system?" Mr. Cobos has the extensive experience to answer these and all of your questions. We can look forward to this presentation.

Refreshments for the September meeting will be provided by Steve Shaffer and Les Coble.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Croatan National Forest
2nd June 2019
by Michael Cheves

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Saturday Field Trips

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, rain gear, snacks and water.



Unless otherwise announced, all trips depart from the parking lot of the Bridge Pointe Hotel in New Bern 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.

- September 7: North River Preserve & Cedar Island **all day trip**
- September 21: New Bern Quarry (Migratory warblers)*
- September 28: New Bern Quarry (Migratory warblers)*
- October 5: New Bern Quarry (Migratory warblers)
- November 2: Simmons Street Wetlands Project, New Bern
- November 12-13: Pea Island NWR*
- December 7: Pamlico County/Oriental
- January 4: New Bern ponds (ducks and winter birds)
- February 1: Lake Mattamuskeet
- March 7: Fort Macon SP
- ~~• April 4: Croatan National Forest (spring migrants/warblers)~~
- May 2: Beaufort County (Henslow's Sparrow)
- May 16: Camp Brinson (Black-throated Green/breeding warblers)*
- June 6: North River Wetlands Preserve (Dickcissel)

* = *bonus trip*

September 7: North River Preserve & Cedar Island

Our Saturday trip for September will combine two trips into one. We will start the day at North River Preserve with John Fussell. We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and whatever other birds we might see, then continue to Cedar Island in search of more shorebirds. Plan *on an all day affair, so bring a lunch, drinks, etc.*

North River Preserve is gated-we need to enter as a group. For those traveling from New Bern, we will LEAVE the Bridge Pointe Hotel promptly at 7 AM. For those not coming from New Bern, we will meet you at the Crossroads Store and Gas Station on the corner of Rt. 70 and Harkers Island Road in Otway. Please be there by 8 AM. It is a short drive to the preserve. There won't be much walking at North River, but plan on at least a mile or so at Cedar Island.

Please contact Al Gamache for more information or with any questions:
bird@iensemble.com

Carolina Bird Club Upcoming Meetings

- Fall meeting: Charleston, SC September 26-29, 2019
- Bonus Trip: Dare County and OBX hotspots, December 14-15, 2019
- Winter meeting: Litchfield, SC January 16-19, 2020



LNBC Membership Dues

With the start of the new program year, it is time once again to pay your annual membership dues. Lower Neuse Bird Club dues are \$15 per person and cover the program year from September 2019 to May 2020.

Your dues provide for our room rental, monthly programs and field trips, our newsletter, our holiday party and any additional projects and donations undertaken by the club.

Dues may be paid at a monthly meeting, or you may send them directly to:

Christine Stoughton Root
LNBC Treasurer
651 Quail Road
Merritt, NC 28556

Checks should be payable to LNBC



Additional Birding Opportunities

The birding opportunities in the Carolinas are too many to list on a single page! In addition to the planned LNBC and CBC trips, here are some more dates to mark on your calendars:

- Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival: Oct. 15-20, 2019
Birding in six national wildlife refuges, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Jockey's Ridge State Park, and more!
Keynote speaker: Julie Zickefoose (writer & editor for Bird Watcher's Digest)
Visit <https://www.wingsoverwater.org/> for information & registration
- WOW Encore: Dec. 6-8, 2019
- Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for Morehead City: Dec. 15, 2019
- CBC for New Bern: Dec. 16, 2019
- CBC for Pamlico County: Dec. 17, 2019

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Carolina Bird Club: A Terrific Spring Meeting!

by Susan Campbell



The CBC Spring meeting here in the Sandhills is now history. We had a terrific turnout. Over one hundred members spent the first weekend in May enjoying the local flora and fauna – especially the avifauna, of course! The weather did not interfere with trips too badly. Thankfully, the rain that was forecast, held off both Saturday and Sunday! Members enjoyed an assortment of opportunities in the field, wonderful evening speakers both Friday and Saturday night, tasty barbeque at the Saturday banquet, and lots of time for fellowship with old and new birding friends.

Friday night's welcome reception, sponsored by the Sandhills Natural History Society (SNHS), was a real treat with beautifully decorated tables and a variety of tasty treats. The local hospitality committee did an amazing job! SNHS's support of the entire event was invaluable. We are happy to report that they will receive a generous donation as a result of the profits raised from sales of our special meeting t-shirt. Shirts sold out before the end of the weekend, which was a real testament to the artist: CBC's own Hal Broadfoot.

Groups set out on a total of twenty-six trips all over the area. Visits to a few Piedmont hotspots like Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge and Howell Woods, provided for a real variety in habitat. Also, we were happy to offer a trip that stopped at one of North Carolina's newest State Parks: Carver's Creek in Spring Lake, just north of Fayetteville.

A total of one hundred twenty species were spotted during the course of the meeting. Local specialties like Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow did not disappoint. Even harder to find species such as Kentucky Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Loggerhead Shrike turned up in a few spots. And there were, of course, migrants passing through. Common Loon (Lake Auman on Saturday), Blue-winged Warbler (at Weymouth Woods on Sunday), Bobolink (House in the Horseshoe on Saturday), Pine Siskin (Thunder Road Friday), and even a Merlin (Powell's Pond on Sunday) were very nice finds.

There was no shortage of other interesting observations during the weekend. Watching a family of White-breasted Nuthatches fledge right in front of our eyes was definitely a highlight for our group in Game Land Friday morning. One lucky group spotted a River Otter along the Pee Dee. And the Friday trip that stopped in the southern portion of the Game Lands located a new species of dragonfly for Richmond County: Cocoa Clubtail. It was a memorable meeting for sure! Hopefully CBC members are already looking forward to a return to the Sandhills – but will not have to wait ten years to do so!!!

Editor's note: The above article originally appeared in the June 2019 issue of the Carolina Bird Club newsletter, ISSN no. 0162-7120, and is reprinted here with permission from the author.

Welcome to a new season of birding! Lower Neuse Bird Club 2019-2020



Great Horned Owl, by Michael Cheves

Every day is an opportunity for an awesome sighting. Thank you to all members of the LNBC for caring about the birds and their environment, and for taking an interest in the viability and success of the club.

The LNBC newsletter is open to all contributors. Email submissions are welcome at: lowerneusebirdclub@gmail.com. Additionally, photos and reports can be posted to the club web site at <https://lowerneusebirdclub.com/post/>

I am looking forward to the exciting opportunities of a new birding season, and to enjoying the shared experience of birding with fellow members of LNBC.

All the best,
Michael Cheves
LNBC Newsletter Editor