



Lower Neuse Bird Club

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Booking Open for November Pea Island Trip

The LNBC's annual trip to Pea Island is planned this year for Tuesday, November 12-13th. Lodging will be at the Comfort Inn South Oceanfront in Nags Head, NC. Rooms need to be booked by Tuesday, Oct. 29 in order to secure the group discount. Room rates are \$60 for the night, or \$80 for an ocean view.

We will leave as a group from the BridgePointe Hotel parking lot in New Bern at 7 AM sharp on Tuesday Nov. 12. Further details will be finalized at the club meeting on Nov. 2.

This is the information that will be needed when making reservations:

Group Name: New Bern Bird Club 2019

Group Code: NJ80P5

Check In: Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019 (4:00 PM)

Check Out: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019 (11:00 AM)

Cutoff Date: Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019

Group Billing Options: Guest is responsible for all charges



Reservations may be made over the phone or online. To make reservations over the phone, call the hotel at (252)-441-6315. To make reservations online, [please follow this link](#).

Comfort Inn South Oceanfront: [Property Info & Directions](#)

November Meeting – Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 7 PM Citizen Science & Birding ID Tools

The presentation for the LNBC November meeting is a look at the immense value and result of bird sightings by all of us, titled “*The History of the Citizen Scientist*”, and “*The Birth & Growth of Birding ID Tools*”. Les Coble will report on his research into the path leading up to eBird. This starts in 1873 with the first bird club, then a herculean jump with the first field guide, by a woman with vision. We end with a view of the use of checklists and the educational, fun tools available through famed Cornell University.

Meetings are held at Garber United Methodist Church on Country Club Drive in New Bern. Program begins at 7 PM. Arrive early for our time of socializing and refreshments, beginning at 6:30. Refreshments for November will be provided by Olwen Jarvis.

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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.

- 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/warbblers)
- 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*

LNBC Membership Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2019-2020, it's not too late to do so. Dues are \$15 per person, and cover the Program Year from September to May. Your dues provide for our room rentals, 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.

LNBC Christmas Party

There is no monthly meeting in December. In lieu of the monthly meeting, club members are invited to the Christmas Party/potluck dinner on Sunday evening, December 8th. Our host this year is Les Coble. Bring a dish and count on having lots of fun! More details will be sent out to the member list in the coming weeks.



October Meeting Minutes

The LNBC monthly meeting for October 2019 started right away with the keynote speaker for the evening, Mr. Hugo Cobos, district biologist for the US Forest Service. Mr. Cobos is currently assigned to the Uwharrie and Croatan National Forests in North Carolina. LNBC members in attendance were treated to an entertaining and very informative talk about the rich and diverse ecosystem of our local Croatan forest. Habitats present in the Croatan include pocosins (a name which comes from an Algonquian word meaning “*swamp on a hill*”), bottomland hardwood forests, semi-riparian zones, saltwater estuaries (such as Cedar Point Trail), and perhaps most well known, longleaf pine savannas. Longleaf pine savannas once covered close to 90 million acres of land from the Carolinas all the way to Texas, but today, less than 4 million acres remain.

The endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker is intimately tied to the longleaf pine habitat, and it is one of the only woodpecker species in the world that nests in live trees. It takes 2-5 years for a woodpecker to excavate its nest cavity. Prior to European settlement in America, it is estimated that 4-5 million Red-cockaded Woodpeckers inhabited the forest lands in the south. Today, only about 15,000 of RCWs are left. The life span of an RCW is 12-15 years in the wild. The longleaf pine ecosystem rivals even the Amazon rainforest in terms of biodiversity, and the Forest Service plays an essential role in preserving those habitats in the southeast today. Mr. Cobos received a warm round of applause after concluding his presentation. Then it was time for the “show & tell” portion of the meeting. Chris Root had two Veerys visit her “Bird Spa” bird bath, and her yard list is up to 67 species since July 2019. She also reported seeing a Tennessee Warbler flying directly at her while birding within a mile of her house. Olwen Jarvis reported her group having found an Anhinga and a Tricolored Heron side by side during a recent birding trip in the New Bern area. Ronnie Hewlette saw 97 species at the fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club (CBC), including 2 life birds. The life birds were Gray-cheeked Thrush and Roseate Spoonbill. The spoonbills were abundant, and were also found north of the border in Brunswick County. The next CBC meeting is 15th-16th January, 2020, in Litchfield, SC.

Chairperson Wade Fuller gave a brief summary of the past two club walks at Martin Marietta Park in New Bern. The main geographic feature at the park is the dike between the large reservoir and the marsh lands that lie next to the Neuse River. The dike acts as a magnet for migrating bird species, making Martin Marietta Park the best place in the New Bern area to find land birds during migration.

Les Coble presented a birding tip for beginners in a new monthly segment. The tip for October was the “hawk/goose effect”, which was first documented by German biologist Oskar Heinroth. It has been proven that small birds will look at the general shape of a bird flying over to determine whether it is a predator (hawk with long tail and short neck) or harmless (goose with long neck and short tail). Birders can also use shape to make an ID for a bird that is flying overhead.

Ronnie and Chris spoke about a donation that was made by the LNBC to Bangert Elementary School in New Bern. This donation will help bring the birds from the Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck to the students of Bangert. This educational and entertaining program will potentially reach 75 young students.

Chris Root made a motion that the club proceed with investing in a new projector for use at monthly meetings, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Shortly before adjourning, Wade reminded everyone that the club would meet again in November, but there is a Christmas party in December instead of a regular meeting for that month. Wade thanked everyone for coming, and officially adjourned the meeting.

Lower Neuse Bird Club

First Saturday Bird Walk: Martin Marietta Park Checklist October 5th, 2019

Wood Duck	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird
Rock Pigeon	Merlin	Eastern Towhee
Mourning Dove	Eastern Phoebe	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Grackle
Laughing Gull	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Forster's Tern	American Crow	American Redstart
Double-crested Cormorant	Fish Crow	Cape May Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Parula
Snowy Egret	Tufted Titmouse	Magnolia Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Yellow Warbler
Osprey	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Palm Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hosue Wren	Pine Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Marsh Wren	Prairie Warbler
Bald Eagle	Carolina Wren	Summer Tanager
Great Horned Owl	European Starling	Norther Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird	Indigo Bunting
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	

Christmas Bird Count Dates

Dates for the Christmas Bird Counts in our area are as follows:

- Morehead City: Dec. 15, 2019
- New Bern: Dec. 16, 2019
- Pamlico County: Dec. 17, 2019

New participants of any skill level are welcome. To sign up for the New Bern count, please contact Wade Fuller at (252)-229-8012.

Bangert Elementary: We're Going to the Birds

by Ronnie Hewlette

My grandson attends AH Bangert Elementary School in Trent Woods. His teacher posted to the Bangert Elem. Facebook page that they were "Going to the Birds" and that caught my eye. Turns out they will be doing a study to learn how animals survive in their environment. Additionally, their reading program has a research focus on birds as well. Students will be engaged in several projects about birds. To follow that up, she wanted her students to have the opportunity to interact with the birds, first-hand

By posting with DonorsChoose.org to raise the funds through donations for this special project, the students will be given a chance to listen and learn from an ornithologist from Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck, NC. The experts will be able to travel to Bangert Elem. for 3 presentations with live birds for the benefit of the 1st graders, engaging 75 students.

The students will get a chance to examine live birds up close to see how beaks, legs, and feathers all work to help birds survive. They will even have a chance to interact with birds from North Carolina!

These children are so inquisitive at this age, there's no telling how many "Young Birders" will be stimulated through this experience.

The **Lower Neuse Bird Club** made a donation of \$248 to support this project and to hopefully contribute to the development of the next generation of birders.



Yellow Warbler, Bald Eagle, Pine Warbler
Martin Marietta Park (Glenburnie Quarry) Oct. 5th, 2019
Photos by Michael Cheves

Lower Neuse Bird Club

Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting – Summerville, SC

by Ronnie Hewlette

The Fall Seasonal meeting of the Carolina Bird Club was held in the South Carolina lowcountry, headquartered in Summerville, the weekend of September 26th-29th. Half-day and whole-day field trips were held Friday through Saturday.

As it turned out, it was hot and dry, challenging some of the trip leaders to find birds at their locations. In all, there were 176 species identified over the course of two days. I personally picked up 42 species for the month, including 2 Lifers (Roseate Spoonbill & Gray-cheeked Thrush).

Kevin O’Kane and I drove down on Thursday, stopping in Brunswick County to catch a glimpse of a Spoonbill and a Wood Stork in NC before heading over the line to SC. Kevin and I have a challenge to see 100+ species every month, to see at least 25 species in five new counties and to add at least one state this year. This was a great opportunity for us! While in Brunswick County (NC), we were able to tally Anhinga, Clapper Rail, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Roseate Spoonbill (Life-bird), Wood Stork, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-throated Vireo and Wilson’s Warbler, just to mention a few.

On the way down to Summerville, we stopped off at Huntington Beach State Park. It was low tide with lots of waders very near the road, and we picked up another sighting of 20 Spoonbill (some within 35’) and 30 Wood Storks.

Friday morning, we departed at 6:15 AM to drive to Seabrook Island, Southwest of Charleston. Traffic was terrible on I-26, but we made it to the rendezvous point to meet up with 12 other birders for our morning trip, led by Ed Konrad. (Friday night’s program was to be presented by Aija, who challenged herself to a United States Big Year in 2018, traveling, photographing (Ed), and tallying 577 species.)

We made our way to the beach, hoping to encounter a Reddish Egret, but it had moved over to the other side of the inlet and another group of birders saw it. We encountered Wild Turkeys in the middle of the road as we entered the private subdivision to reach the beach. I could have put peanuts in its mouth, we were so close, and he fanned his tail for us! The shore birds we saw included Black Skimmer, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Marbled Godwit, Painted Bunting, Piping Plover, Caspian Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Semi-palmated Plover, Western Sandpiper. We had seen more Spoonbills and Storks on the way over that morning.

For the afternoon tour, we headed over to the ACE Basin NWR. Again, it was hot and dry, limiting what we would see. We tallied 30 species, including Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Pine Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Red-shouldered Hawk, Summer Tanager, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Wood Duck, but it was challenging. The Lowcountry setting was enjoyable - old Live Oaks, Water Oaks, Spanish moss hanging everywhere, palmettos, etc. The Northern Waterthrush was a Life bird for Kevin.

Saturday morning, we traveled to the Folly Beach area, and because of a high tide, we were not able to reach the point. It was interesting to see locals in the marshes behind the beach hunting Rails from boats. Our tour guide said it was a local tradition, but we saw it as a waste. The Rail is not much eating fare, and by most reports, rarely finds its way to the dinner table.

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CBC Fall Meeting Report

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Kevin and I left the tour and drove to Francis Beidler Forest Audubon Center & Sanctuary on the way to our next scheduled tour. This place is “remote” and unique. It has a 1.75 mile boardwalk through the SC Lowcountry, allowing you to make good time while seeing a lot of habitat. While on the boardwalk, we picked up a Hooded Warbler and a Barred Owl. This place claims the world’s largest virgin cypress-tupelo swamp forest. It is maintained as an 18,000-acre bird and wildlife sanctuary.

Our final stop was at the Orangeburg Sod Farm. Because of a lack of rain, the anticipated bird sightings were limited, but Harold, our local tour-guide, worked hard to put us on what was there. We found American Kestrel, Blue Grosbeak, Common Ground-Dove, Cooper’s Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Horned Lark, Northern Harrier, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler and Wilson’s Snipe, among others.

The Saturday evening dinner was a catered Lowcountry Boil (shrimp, sausage, red potatoes, corn on the cob), along with a variety of vegetables, salad and banana-pudding. The shrimp were the size of small lobsters and soooo good!

Sunday morning, Kevin and I headed up to Santee NWR—Bluff Unit just off I-95 on Lake Marion near Summerton, SC. Parts of this Unit are closed Nov-Feb every year to provide wintering grounds for migratory species. We got there just as it was getting light, and scoped Cantey Bay, a neck of Lake Marion, split by Hwy 301 and I-95. Wood Ducks, Common Gallinule, Anhinga, Wood Storks and alligators! Inside the refuge, the office was closed, so we moved on to walk a closed section of Fort Watson Road back to the Agriculture Fields that border Lake Marion. This is where I picked up my Gray-cheeked Thrush. In two hours, we tallied 44 species. As we came out, we ran into a group of birders coming in; some we recognized from the CBC meeting.

I finished the month with 134 species, five new counties (with 25+ species), one new state, two Life-birds, and a great experience in South Carolina. Kevin got a new Life-bird with the Northern Waterthrush. We both agreed it was good to pick up so many Spoonbills and Storks on this trip, along with everything else.



*Left to right: Black-bellied Plover,
Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork
Photos by Ronnie Hewlette*

