

Lower Neuse Bird Club

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Program Year 2022-2023: September Meeting and Bird Walks

by Michael Cheves

Welcome to a new Program Year for LNBC! Our season begins with a Bird Walk on Saturday, September 10th, at North River Farms, led by John Fussell. We will meet at the entrance to the Farms at 7:30 AM. Then, make plans to join us for our September meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13th (*Note: Due to Labor Day Weekend, this meeting is on the SECOND Tuesday of September, not the first Tuesday as is our normal date*). Refreshments and socializing will begin at 6:30 PM, and the program will start at 7:00 PM. Our featured speaker for September is Travis Kornegay, Central Coast Forest Manager for NC Wildlife Resources Commission (See article by Les Coble, beginning on Page 2). Meetings are in Room 123 of the Ministry Center at Garber United Methodist Church, 4201 Country Club Rd., New Bern (taking Country Club Rd. from US-70, turn right onto Fairway Dr. after approx. 2.8 miles). [Click here for directions](#).

We also have a tentative Bird Walk planned for the third Saturday, Sept. 17th, at East Shackelford Banks. The first ferry out runs at 8:15 AM, and last return is 4:15 PM. Last year's trip to East Shackelford was an awesome variety of migrating shorebirds, terns and even Reddish Egrets. More details for the East Shackelford Bird Walk will be provided to members via email.

Program Year 2022-2023 Bird Walks (Tentative)

by Jenni Ford

The following is a calendar of planned Bird Walks for the new Program Year. Dates past Sept. 10th should be considered tentative, and plans will be confirmed via email.

- September 10th (In lieu of first Saturday, which falls on a holiday weekend): North River Farms, meet at gate at 7:30 AM.
Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/UAe9ssCZ5si8EHoN9>
- October 1st: Martin Marietta Park, New Bern (see also Bonus Trips, below)
- October 4th at 7:00 PM: Monthly Meeting at Garber UMC Ministry Center (Program: "Birding in The Grand Tetons" by Les Coble)
- November 5th: Simmons Street Wetlands and Lawson Creek Park, New Bern
- December 3rd: Pamlico County/Oriental area
- January 7th: local waterfowl (locations TBD)
- February 4th: Lake Mattamuskeet NWR
- March 4th: Ft. Macon SP and nearby locations
- April 1st: Patsy Pond/Cedar Point and nearby
- May 6th: Beaufort County VOA and other locations, or possibly Shackelford Banks/Bird Shoal (Rachel Carson Reserve)
- June 3rd: North River Farms

Bonus Trips

- September 17th: East Shackelford Banks (First ferry out 8:15 AM, last return ferry 4:15 PM)
- September 20th-October 7th: Martin Marietta Park (Peak warbler migration depending on weather conditions)



The LNBC meets every month from Sept.-May. at Garber UMC Ministry Center in New Bern
For directions, [click here](#)

Lower Neuse Bird Club

The VOA in May (with a knowledgeable guide)

by Les Coble

Travis Kornegy is a NC Wildlife Resources Commission employee. Several local birders with the Fairfield Harbor Birding Club met him at the NC eco-managed property near Bear Grass, known as the VOA-A (Voice of America-Site A). Officially it is now one of the NC Gameland properties. This 2819 acre (4.4 square miles!) grassland was created by Voice of America which restricted woody vegetation around the multiple communication towers it managed. Today NC continues the use of fire to control the pioneer trees that would result in a forest. They removed the towers in 2016.

VOA-A is THE site in NC to see the rare Henslow's Sparrow, AND, I repeat, AND, now this season it has been the site for another rarebird in NC - the Dickcissel. Dickcissel is currently a breeding bird at the North River Farms but has been observed all this season at the VOA-A. Is this a breeding site? We may know next season. The map shows our clockwise route from the parking lot.

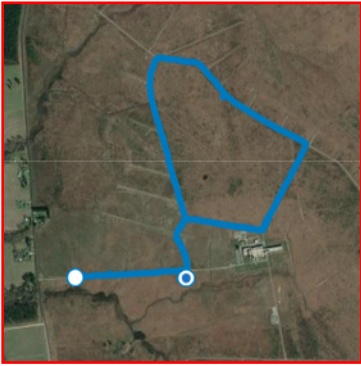
The FH Birders met Travis on May 20 for a leisurely 2.5 mile walk by taking over 3 hours to complete the loop selected. The weather was humid and hot with no breeze. But that allowed considerable ability to hear the resident birds. 28 species were recorded and reported to eBird at Cornell University.

The list was fabulously highlighted by several Henslow's Sparrows seen well through both binoculars and a telescope. After those experiences a Grasshopper Sparrow cooperatively refused to fly off as the group walked closer and closer to its territory. Then Common Nighthawks entertained and landed within 150' into the grasslands. There must have been a courtship continuance on the ground we could not observe but only hear. Maybe it was contact calls, but I had never heard this activity and enjoyed this value-added experience to the morning. A pair of American

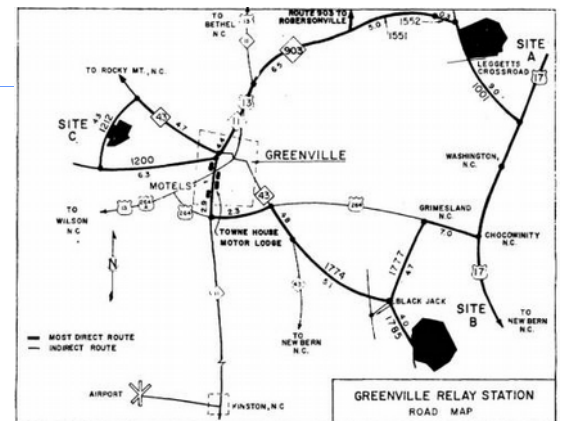
Goldfinches remained along the north side fence around the old workplace building during the walk and other birds that can inhabit grassy and bushy ecosystems were located. These included Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Meadowlark, and Eastern Kingbird. Numerous Northern Bobwhites were heard and Red-tailed Hawks, a hunter of open lands near woodlands were seen.

This walk highlighted this site is not birded frequently. Lack of access to the roads by vehicle restricts birding to the area near the building. I have used a bike several times to be able to bird on the south side of the building. There is a wet area south of the building that affords opportunity for other birds to be identified at this wet area and at the transition zone to this wetland. Consider biking the area next spring and early summer, and enjoy the several species of carnivorous plants that can be found along the way.

P.S. Travis Kornegy will be the guest speaker at LNBC's first evening meeting of the fall season, September 13.



Clockwise route taken at VOA-A, approx. 2.5 miles



VOA owned & managed 3 properties in Eastern NC, but now only uses Site B. Site C is owned by East Carolina University.

LNBC Bird Walk – Beaufort & Pamlico County Locations May 7th, 2022

by Jenni Ford

Four hearty individuals met bright and early at Goose Creek State Park for our May Bird Walk. Before we even reached the parking lot, we saw two Red-Headed Woodpeckers (RHWP's) on trees very close by... at eye level... in bright sun. A perfect photo op, but where were our cameras? In the back of the vehicle! No matter; we were able to appreciate the stark contrast of colors and particularly their velvety red heads. None of us will forget the beauty of that moment.

Christine arrived first and I posited to my travel mates that she would already have heard twenty birds before we joined her. I was wrong; that count was twenty-five!

If ever you could get bored seeing and hearing RHWP's (you can't!), the parking lot of the Visitor's Center would be the place. It was sometimes difficult to hear other birds for the frequency, volume and intensity of their calls.

The stars of the parking lot: We watched two female Orchard Orioles in the field and then one of them on a nest just over our heads. Although it was challenging to see, Jenny was persistent with us and eventually everyone was able to spot the nest.

Large groups of birders provide many eyes for spotting birds. But with our reduced numbers it was easy for us to focus on my learning objectives: listening for birds, spotting them when possible, and matching them with their songs or calls. We were able to hear and compare several species:

- Robin vs. Summer Tanager – the ending of their songs
- Ovenbird and Prothonotary Warbler – though we saw neither on this trip
- Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers

We also heard Prairie Warblers, a resident Northern Bobwhite, Common Yellowthroats, Northern Parulas, an Eastern Wood-Pewee, the simple whistle of a Titmouse (as opposed to “Peter, Peter, Peter” that we often hear), one Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and White-Eyed Vireos which I swear call the name of their favorite musician - “Chick Corea”.

I believe everyone's favorite on the Palmetto Trail was an Acadian Flycatcher. It is one of the Empidonax flycatchers who all look suspiciously alike. I have read that some of these species cannot be distinguished even when in hand, whether alive or not. The most prominent (or only!) identifying features are song, geography, and habitat. Luckily, we were serenaded with the explosive calls of “Pizza” along the entire wooded part of the trail, so we knew for certain we had Acadian Flycatchers. On our return as we approached the open section of the trail one individual decided we were invading his territory. We were able to watch and photograph this little olive-grey bird with white eye ring and white wing bars as he perched on various small trees surrounding us singing away for many minutes. It was a Lifer for me, but all of us were happy for the experience.

And in the meantime, we heard serenading Barred Owls in the woods... at 9:30 in the morning!

Continued on Page #4



*Red-headed
Woodpecker
Goose Creek SP
May 7, 2022
©Michael Cheves*

Lower Neuse Bird Club

LNBC Bird Walk – Beaufort & Pamlico County Locations May 7th, 2022

by Jenni Ford, continued from Page #3

We saw an Indigo Bunting, Eastern Kingbirds galore, Great-Crested Flycatchers (finally!) and many more common birds.

After several hours it was time to move on to our next location. Similarly named Goose Creek Game Lands was close to an hour's drive away in Pamlico County and provided a significantly different habitat to explore. We noticed immediately how dried up the location was as we walked straight back to a wetlands area. Per Christine the pumps that regulate the water heights within the impoundments are still not working.

Due to a consistent light breeze, we were not bothered by mosquitoes and the temperatures remained... temperate, thankfully.

We especially enjoyed Eastern Kingbirds with their signature white-tipped tail; we watched a male and female hanging on and around their nest in a nearby tree. We heard many of the usual suspects, such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Laughing Gulls. As we took a separate path and headed towards mudflats, we spotted one large and many small water snakes wending their paths towards what? hunting for their next meal, most likely.

One of our target species there was Bitterns but we were unsuccessful this trip. However, we enjoyed hearing two Soras with their ascending two-syllable call. ~~iBird describes the sound as “ker-wee” which I can hear if I try.~~ As with other rails Soras are more often heard than seen and our site provided the perfect habitat for hiding, so today was no exception. I was pleased just to hear them.

Once we reached the end of the path, we had a good opportunity to observe a number of shorebirds. We were able to compare the Semipalmated Plovers and Killdeers which would be easy to confuse without the size comparison. The much larger, familiar Killdeer sports a double breastband (at least the adult does) while the smaller plover has only a single. We also saw the similarly named Semipalmated Plovers, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpipers. On the way back to our cars we noted a Yellow-breasted Chat calling.

Our final stop was slightly down the road at a Hobucken managed waterfowl impoundment 304/33. This can be a great location in the winter to see all Egrets, Avocets and more. We spent less than twenty minutes here but found some great species, including two Glossy Ibis (who are usually gone by this time), one or two Tricolored Herons, Mallards, and a Tree Swallow. We heard a Blue Grosbeak and a Pileated Woodpecker.

All-in-all a lovely fruitful day.



Semipalmated Plover
Goose Creek Game Lands
May 7, 2022
©Michael Cheves



Acadian Flycatcher singing
Goose Creek SP, May 7, 2022
©Michael Cheves

LNBC Bird Walk – North River Wetlands, June 4, 2022

by Ronnie Hewlette

The last Bird Walk for the 2021-22 Season for the *Lower Neuse Bird Club* started at 8:00 AM at the entrance to North River Wetlands Preserve, in Carteret County. Fourteen birders gathered to carpool into the property, led by John Fussell. The weather was nice, with a little overcast to the sky that would eventually burn off, temperatures would remain in the mid to upper 70°s most of the morning and winds started out at 5-10 mph, out of the Northeast. We couldn't ask for any better conditions for early June!

The North Carolina Coastal Federation's 6,000-acre restoration project at North River Farms in eastern Carteret County is one of the largest wetland restoration projects in North Carolina and is among the largest project of its kind in the nation.

Grateful to be here, we started with a drive down to the South side of the impoundments rather than driving into the heart of the farm and across to the northern most impoundment, as we customarily do. Along the way we encountered a Wild Turkey hen with several poults, crossing the road. These little ones were almost hidden by the grass on the road.

Several Prairie Warblers and a few Meadowlarks were heard as we dove along and a momentary stop also allowed for a quick "at a distance" look at a Yellow-breasted Chat, as well as a Prairie Warbler.

As we turned north, to follow the levee along the length of the impoundments, we stopped to investigate the standing water in these wetland impoundments. Several Great Egret and White Ibis were prominent due to their white plumage. Wood Ducks flushed and flew away from us. With a closer look, we spotted a few Glossy Ibis, wading and foraging in the shallow water. On the far side, where the water abruptly stopped, giving way to marsh grass and other vegetative cover, we spotted a couple of Hooded Mergansers – both were female. John and a few others heard a Pied-billed Grebe but no one could locate it. Numerous Cattle Egret were flying over as we continued along the levee. In the distance a "Calico" Little Blue Heron was seen flying over and a couple of mature Little Blue Herons were also spotted. (Little Blue Herons in transition from the white first-year stage to blue adult plumage are often referred to as "Calico").

One unexpected find was a single, Black-necked Stilt, wading the shallow water. Audubon.org describes their habitat preferences as "Grassy marshes, mudflats, pools, shallow lakes (fresh and alkaline). Found at all seasons at the margins of shallow water in very open country, especially where there is much marsh growth. For nesting, it requires bare open ground near water, with little vegetation. Often found in the same places as American Avocet, but the stilt is more partial to fresh water." Their diet consists of "Mostly insects and crustaceans. Feeds on very small creatures that live on or near surface of water, including many flies, beetles, and other insects, shrimp, crayfish, snails; sometimes eats tadpoles or tiny fish. Also eats some seeds of aquatic plants. Everything about the Black-necked Stilt seems delicate -- from its incredibly thin stilt-legs to its slim wings and its needle-like bill."

A couple of Green Herons flew over as we were scanning the landscape for hidden birds. This species withdraws in winter from all except southern tier of United States from NC to Texas. Northern birds are known to migrate as far as Panama, northern South America, and they are found as permanent resident in Central America, and West Indies. When seen in the open, it often flicks its tail nervously, and raises and lowers its crest. Fun bird to watch!

Continued on Page #6



*LNBC Members
North River Wetlands
June 4, 2022
©Ronnie Hewlette*



*Black-necked Stilt
North River
Wetlands
June 4, 2022
©Ronnie Hewlette*

Lower Neuse Bird Club

LNBC Bird Walk – North River Wetlands, June 4, 2022

by Ronnie Hewlette, Continued from Page #5

Leaving the impoundments, we headed North toward the property boundary with Open Grounds Farm. Along the edge of the transition from vegetated wetlands to open, agricultural land is a good place to see several species of birds throughout the year. The Dickcissel have been seen here earlier, so the hunt is on! Pulling up to the tree line where the flocks of Laughing Gulls and Red Winged Blackbirds are creating a racket, we immediately spot a Dickcissel on a bare branch, silhouetted against the sky. This miniature “Meadowlark-appearing” bird is a Mid-west species that has become established here over time. It doesn’t stay put for long and as we follow its movement from one spot to another, we discover a second individual. This is the lowest count I recall reported over the last several years. EBird reports a high count of 27 on May 19, 2013. Habitat is changing.

Moving on to the high ground, overlooking the Open Grounds Farm of some 40M acres, we spot another Wild Turkey, running ahead of us and we catch a good look at an Indigo Bunting on a bare limb of a tree along the ditch. We did a little more driving and looking, but the morning is coming to an end.

On our way back to the entrance, we heard several more Chats and we stopped for an opportunity to get a good look at a Common Yellowthroat, which got thoroughly agitated at one particular call that was played, coming closer and closer, allowing a quick look if you were fast!

Back at the gate we re-grouped, as six of our group of Birders decided to drive out to Cedar Island, looking for Seaside Sparrows along the Causeway. It is only a few miles from here to Marshallberg, where we stopped at a picnic area, with a view across “The Straits” to the backside of Brown’s Island. While eating our sandwiches we spotted several birds to add to our list for the day – Forster’s and Common Terns, Pelicans, and Tri-colored Herons. From here we made stops along the route out to the Cedar Island Causeway, finding Caspian and Royal Terns, and Herring Gulls at a couple of boat landings. At the bridge over the Thorofare Bay waterway, we pulled off and drove under the bridge to the boat landing on the waterway. Here we heard Clapper Rails but no Seaside Sparrows! Looking for swallows under the bridge turned up Barn Swallows and Purple Martins but no Cliff Swallows were found. In the distance, out over the marsh, Black-necked Stilts could be seen from time to time, getting up and flying a short distance and dropping back down into the marsh grass. Their white bodies contrasted with black wings was an awesome sight! As we drove further down the Causeway, we got a better view of the Stilts and then we saw several flying overhead, harassing a Turkey Vulture. That’s a new one on me!

Continuing along the Causeway we were finally able to hear and see the Seaside Sparrows in the marsh grass, along with Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers flying over and scurrying about in the exposed areas where the wrack has deteriorated. The final stop along the Causeway provided a fleeting glimpse of a Least Bittern, as it quickly retreated into the ditch-bank vegetation. As we were leaving, a Common Loon in breeding plumage was spotted in the opposite roadside canal, that is completely full of water, apparently due to the persistent Northeast winds.

Continued on Page #7

LNBC Bird Walk – North River Wetlands, June 4, 2022

by Ronnie Hewlette, Continued from Page #6

Arriving at the Cedar Island Ferry, we took the side-road to the beach parking area. Stopping short of the parking area, we grabbed our scopes and cameras and walked to the backside of the campground where we could scan the “almost dried-up” pond.

From this vantage point, we first saw Red Knots, in breeding plumage, followed by a Gull-billed Tern that flew right in front of us and then it joined a second Gull-billed Tern at the far side of the pond. Willets, a single Ruddy Turnstone, several Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers, a Snowy Egret, and a Short-billed Dowitcher or a Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher, depending on your perspective, were added to the day’s list.

Time to wrap it up and head home. It has been a fine day of birding that only whets your appetite for more birding adventures to come.

Enjoy your summer - Happy Birding!

- Ronnie Hewlette

LNBC Bird Walk – Croatan NF (RCW) July 6, 2022

by Ronnie Hewlette

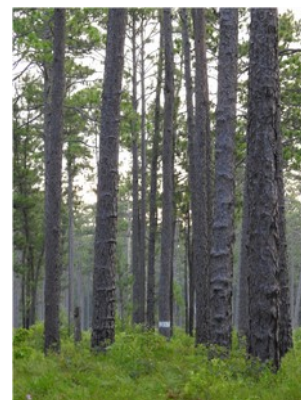
LNBC BONUS BIRDWALK on Wednesday, July 6 - CROATAN FOREST FOR RCW does that not just shout out “Special Opportunity”? Well, for about a dozen Birders from the Lower Neuse Bird Club, this was an opportunity not to be missed. In fact, this was the second attempt to make this happen with a rain-out the previous week.

Our guide for the morning was Kathleen Mahoney, the Wildlife Biologist for the Uwharrie and Croatan National Forests. She provided the program at our last club meeting and graciously offered to set up this RCW viewing.

The walk was to start precisely at 5:15 AM from our rendezvous point in the Croatan National Forest at the intersection of County Line Road and Little Road. It was important for us to get set up before the birds exit their nest cavity. This rendezvous location is about 3.0 miles from Brices Creek Rd, traveling from the West, along County Line Rd. and approximately 2.0 miles from the intersection of Old Airport Rd. traveling from the East.

Kathleen had flagged several spots where we could stand with good views of the cavity trees and wait for the birds to emerge. We car-pooled from the rendezvous, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the point on Little Rd. where the powerlines cross the road. The first bird we heard was the call of the Chuck-will’s-widow, a side benefit of getting out early.

The weather was warm (78°) with a gentle breeze and a few clouds. We were in position by 5:30 AM and began to hear and see bird activity as the sun came up.



RCW Cavity Tree
(White band, center)
©Ronnie Hewlette

Continued on Page #9

Lower Neuse Bird Club

LNBC Bird Walk – North River Wetlands, June 4, 2022 Checklist

Compiled by Ronnie Hewlette

No.	Species	No.	Species	No.	Species
01.	Canada Goose	31.	Great Blue Heron	61.	Gray Catbird
02.	Wood Duck	32.	Great Egret	62.	Brown Thrasher
03.	Hooded Merganser	33.	Snowy Egret	63.	Northern Mockingbird
04.	Northern Bobwhite	34.	Little Blue Heron	64.	Chipping Sparrow
05.	Wild Turkey	35.	Tricolored Heron*	65.	House Sparrow
06.	Pied-billed Grebe	36.	Cattle Egret	66.	Seaside Sparrow*
07.	Mourning Dove	37.	Green Heron	67.	Eastern Towhee
08.	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	38.	White Ibis	68.	Yellow-breasted Chat
09.	Chimney Swift	39.	Glossy Ibis	69.	European Starling
10.	King Rail	40.	Black Vulture	70.	Eastern Meadowlark
11.	Clapper Rail*	41.	Turkey Vulture	71.	Orchard Oriole
12.	Black-necked Stilt	42.	Osprey	72.	Red-winged Blackbird
13.	Semipalmated Plover*	43.	Red-tailed Hawk	73.	Brown-headed Cowbird
14.	Killdeer*	44.	Red-bellied Woodpecker	74.	Common Grackle
15.	Ruddy Turnstone*	45.	Pileated Woodpecker	75.	Boat-tailed Grackle*
16.	Red Knot*	46.	Downy Woodpecker	76.	Prothonotary Warbler
17.	Semipalmated Sandpiper*	47.	Great Crested Flycatcher	77.	Northern Parula
18.	Short-billed Dowitcher*	48.	Eastern Kingbird	78.	Common Yellowthroat
19.	Willet*	49.	Eastern Phoebe	79.	Pine Warbler
20.	Laughing Gull	50.	White-eyed Vireo	80.	Yellow-throated Warbler
21.	Herring Gull*	51.	Blue Jay	81.	Prairie Warbler
22.	Least Tern*	52.	American Crow	82.	Summer Tanager
23.	Gull-billed Tern*	53.	Fish Crow	83.	Northern Cardinal
24.	Caspian Tern*	54.	Tufted Titmouse	84.	Blue Grosbeak
25.	Common Tern*	55.	Purple Martin	85.	Indigo Bunting
26.	Forster's Tern*	56.	Barn Swallow	86.	Dickcissel
27.	Royal Tern*	57.	Tree Swallow		
28.	Common Loon*	58.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
29.	Brown Pelican*	59.	Carolina Wren		
30.	Least Bittern*	60.	Eastern Bluebird		

LNBC Bird Walk – Croatan NF (RCW) July 6, 2022

by Ronnie Hewlette, Continued from Page #7

With the powerline ROW to our backs and the sun to our right, we had the RCW-managed forest before us. As it grew lighter, we saw birds show themselves in the cavity, then withdraw – checking things out! In a few moments they came up and made their exit, flying to near-by trees in this colony.

As we watched, one bird flew to a cavity tree and began working on enlarging the cavity. The red-cockaded woodpecker is the only woodpecker to excavate a cavity in living pine trees. A new cavity may take up to three years to be fully excavated. The tail is used as a prop, or brace, and supports the weight of the woodpecker while hammering into the tree. This was a new cavity tree and we found it!! Woo-hoo!! Kathleen walked over to the tree with our navigational assistance, so she could flag the tree and make some notes regarding its location for follow-up work.

We were there for less than an hour and just about everyone got to see the birds.

In addition to the target birds, we saw other woodpeckers (Red-headed, Red-bellied, Downy & Flickers), flycatchers (E. Wood-Pewee, Acadian, Great Crested, E. Kingbird), warblers (Com. Yellowthroat, N. Parula, Pine), nuthatches wrens, and cardinals.

Great morning to be birding together!
- Ronnie Hewlette



RCW Working on a NEW nest cavity
©Christine Stoughton Root



Flagging a new cavity tree
©Ronnie Hewlette

Lower Neuse Bird Club

LNBC Photo Gallery

*Submit your bird photos to LowerNeuseBirdClub@gmail.com
All submissions are welcome and full credit will be given*



*Gull-billed Terns
All photos ©Mike Creedon*

Martin Marietta Park – A 2nd State Record for NC

by Michael Cheves

The notification appeared on my phone during the morning hours of Saturday, July 30th: *Neotropic Cormorant at Martin Marietta Park* courtesy of rare-bird sleuth and eBird regional reviewer Trevor Sleight. As the name might suggest, the Neotropic Cormorant is a very rare sighting anywhere north of South & Central Americas and some parts of southern Texas. The Neotropic Cormorant at Martin Marietta Park is only the 2nd confirmed record in North Carolina, with the 1st state record having occurred just two years prior at Jordan Lake in Chatham County.

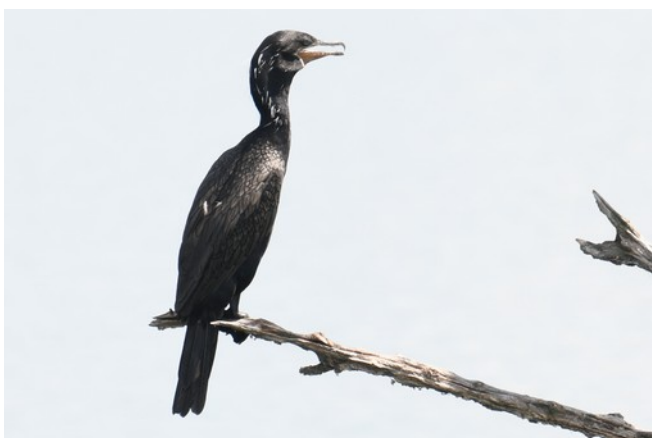
Anyone who has birded Martin Marietta Park is likely familiar with the many Double-crested Cormorants that winter at the reservoir and surrounding lakes, mainly feeding on the fish which are abundant in these waters. The Neotropic Cormorant is slightly smaller than the Double-crested Cormorant, and the Neotropic has a longer tail and shorter bill when compared to the Double-crested. The Neotropic Cormorant sports a white outline along its mouth, and at close range, white feathers can be seen on the side of the head and neck (referred to as “filoplumes”), further separating it from the Double-crested, which lacks white in those areas.

Most of my rare-bird chases are all-day affairs, so I was happy to take a chance on a rare bird sighting less than a half-hour’s drive from my home. The Neotropic Cormorant was sitting in plain view, not far from the causeway (now officially named the Dragonfly Trail). The bird has stayed throughout the month of August, and has attracted birders from all over the state of NC and beyond. A five-star bird for the former quarry!

RARE BIRDS OF NC

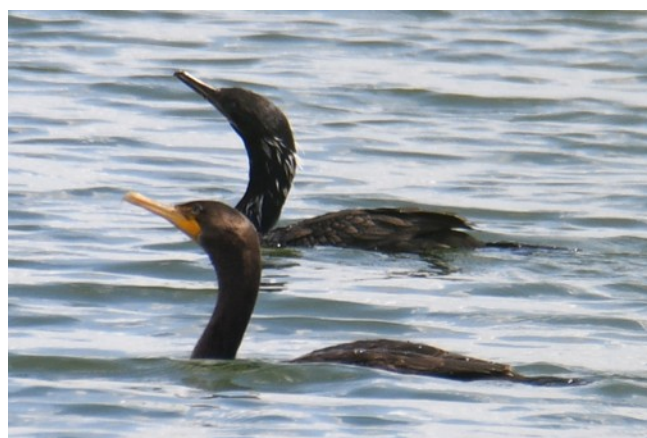
There is a valuable resource available for birders using [GroupMe](#), the texting app from Microsoft. Once you have installed GroupMe on your mobile device, follow the link below to join the NC Rare Bird Alerts group and receive notifications any time a rare bird sighting is reported in North Carolina:

[NC Rare Bird Alert](https://groupme.com/join_group/44042177/tDyIPA)
(https://groupme.com/join_group/44042177/tDyIPA)



White feathers on the sides of the head and neck (filoplumes) and white outline at the edge of the mouth (gape) are identifying field marks for this Neotropic Cormorant. The tail is also longer than that of a Double-crested Cormorant.

Martin Marietta Park, July 30th, 2022
©Michael Cheves



Compared to the Double-crested Cormorant (foreground), the Neotropic Cormorant (background) is slightly smaller and has a shorter bill.

Martin Marietta Park, July 30th, 2022
©Michael Cheves