Watch for the return of our wintering ducks this month. Airlie Gardens, Greenfield Lake, Wrightsville Beach, and Sunset Beach are great places to look.

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Thanks to the Lower Cape Fear Bird Club
Since their start in 1979, the LCFBC, under the guidance of Greg Massey and UNCW professor Dr. James Parnell, led field trips and bird counts and helped train another generation of birders. Recently they suspended all activities and their presence is missed. All of us are indebted to the members of the LCFBC for their efforts on behalf of local birds.

Upcoming Activities
Activities and events are in detail on our website [www.capefearaudubon.org](http://www.capefearaudubon.org)

Monday, November 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Monthly meeting. Harry Sell, photographer and birder, will speak on our local ducks. Learn about the 30+ species of ducks in our area and improve your identification skills. Location: Halyburton Park, 4099 S. 17th St., Wilmington.

Saturday, November 14, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Birding at Greenfield Lake. Wintering waterfowl, barred owls, herons and a possible anhinga. Directions: From Hwy 421, bear right on Burnett Blvd. Take first right on Willard St then right on 3rd St. Meet at canoe rental area.

Tuesday, November 17, 9 - 11 a.m.
Birding at Brunswick Town. Wintering waterfowl, sapsuckers, kinglets, possible Bald Eagle. Directions: From the north,
take NC 133 south, turn left at Orton Plantation/Brunswick Town, continue on Phillips Road past ponds to the Brunswick Town Visitor Center and parking lot.

**Kayak Trips:** We have had poor luck planning kayak trips far in advance. If you want to be on an email list for last-minute trips this fall, please contact Stacy, stacythewhistler@ec.rr.com. No charge if you bring your own kayak.

**Who's New**
We extend a hearty welcome to new member:
Delores Mallory, Supply
And as always, our thanks to our renewing members who keep us going!

**Blackgum Tree, *Nyssa sylvatica***

**Bird-Friendly Habitat:**
Blackgum, A Tree To Watch

Blackgum, sometimes called Black Tupelo, is a lovely tree this time of year with its flaming red leaves and deep blue fruit. This is a great tree to keep an eye on in the fall when migrating birds stop for the fruits on their way south. Come spring, bees are attracted to the flowers and make the distinctive tupelo honey that beekeepers love. In summer, Blackgums are full of small insects that in turn attract insect-eaters like warblers and flycatchers.

*Luna Moth, Actias luna*

**Native Insects: Luna Moth**
Although they are one of the largest and most beautiful moths in our area, Luna Moths are not often seen. They are nocturnal like most moths. They also live as adults for only a week, having spent most of their life as caterpillars. Luna Moths don’t eat as adults but look only for mates. After mating, the female lays up to 300 eggs. Once hatched, the caterpillar will molt five times before spinning a cocoon where it remains about two weeks. Look for Luna Moths when the weather warms at twilight or before
dawn. Moths are attracted to lights at night so remember to turn off all outdoor lights before going to bed.

Native Plants Workshop
On October 17, John Taggart gave a workshop at UNCW on native plant identification for the Conservation Committee. There was a great turnout of people interested in helping evaluate the yards of homeowners seeking a Bird-Friendly Habitat Award. (UNCW’s landscaping fails in that respect!) For those of you considering entering your garden, this is a great time of year to plant more natives. And for anyone with a rake, keep those leaves off the curb and in your garden! The worms...and then the birds...will thank you.

Counting Birds: How To and Why
The Christmas Bird Count is coming up next month. This is the Audubon Society's premier birding event. Last year there were over 59,918 participants and 57.7 million birds counted.

With over a century of data and so high a sampling, the CBC provides scientists with invaluable information and enables them to address species declines before they become irreversible.

The success of the CBC depends on volunteers and their skills in identification and counting. To hone your counting skills, go to http://ebird.org/plone/ebird/news/bird-counting-101. Then join us for this important count. The Christmas Bird Count compilers are Melinda and Bruce Jones, (Brunswick Co) fremontinn@aol.com and Sam Cooper, (Wilmington) dmcooper2@juno.com.

We also need birders to do counts in our three Important Bird Areas, Ft Fisher/Bald Head; Sunset Beach/Bird Island and Green Swamp. If you are willing to help, contact Cary at dmpaynter@earthlink.net. You will receive training if you are new to IBA counts.
Titan Cement Plant Update
The NC Department of Air Quality is taking public comments until November 20 on issuing an air quality permit for Titan America to build the 4th largest cement plant in the US over the Castle Hayne aquifer. Titan has applied to emit 263 pounds of mercury each year into our air. In the presence of water (and the proposed site is wetlands along the Cape Fear River), airborne mercury is converted into methyl mercury, an extremely dangerous neurotoxin, contaminating fish and accumulating in the food chain. Send comments to donald.vandervaart@ncdenr.gov. For more information, see StopTitan.org.

Read Me!
Having trouble with those "Little Brown Jobbies"? Sparrows of the United States and Canada: The Photographic Guide by Beadle and Rising is a great introduction to the finer points of sparrow identification.

Parting Shot...

Savannah Sparrow

Comments and suggestions welcome. Please send them to Cary Paynter, dmpaynter@earthlink.net.