

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

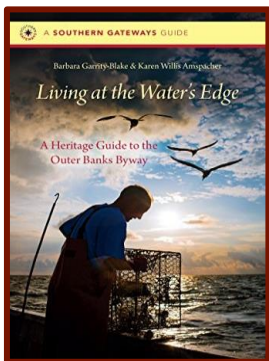
## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **June 15:** 806 Parlor Talk "Fish House Liars" presented by Chris Yeomans & Rodney Kemp @ 2:00 PM
- **June 20-23:** Marine Science Academy
- **June 26-30:** Photography Camps

### Sound Reading Material For You



#### Living at the Water's Edge

By Barbara Garrity-Blake & Karen Willis Amspacher

Heavily illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs, *Living at the Water's Edge* will lead readers to the proverbial porch of the Outer Banks locals, extending a warm welcome to visitors while encouraging them to understand what many never see or hear: the stories, feelings, and meanings that offer a cultural dimension to the byway experience and deepen the visitor's understanding of life on the tideline.

Pages: 320

## Our Barrier Opus

Barrier islands are long, narrow, offshore deposits of sand or sediments that parallel the coastline. The islands are separated from the mainland by a shallow sound, bay or lagoon. Barrier islands are often found in chains along the coastline and are separated from each other by narrow tidal inlets, as we know firsthand along our Outer Banks.

The formation of barrier islands is complex and not completely understood. The current theory is that barrier islands were formed about 18,000 years ago when the last Ice Age ended. As the glaciers melted and receded, the sea levels began to rise, and flooded areas behind the beach ridges at that time. The rising waters carried sediments from those beach ridges and deposited them along shallow areas just off the new coast lines. Waves and currents continued to bring in sediments that built up, forming the barrier islands. In addition, rivers washed sediments from the mainland that settled behind the islands and helped build them up.

Barrier islands serve these two main functions: protect our coastlines from severe storm damage and harbor habitats that are refuges for wildlife.

The structure of a typical barrier island consists of the following zones, from the ocean side toward the sound:

- **Beach** - consists of sand deposited by the actions of waves
- **Dunes** - formed from sand carried and deposited by winds
- **Barrier flat** - formed by sediments that get pushed through the dunes by storms
- **Salt marsh** - a low-lying area on the sound-side



## Oh, Killdeer



Killdeer live in our area for they like its openness. Commonly the vegetation in fields inhabited by Killdeer is no taller than one inch. You can find Killdeer near water, but unlike many other shorebirds, they are also common in dry areas.

Killdeer feed primarily on invertebrates, such as earthworms, snails, crayfish, grasshoppers, beetles, and aquatic insect larvae. They often follow farmers' plows in hopes of retrieving any unearthed worms or insect larvae, but they also eat seeds found along these properties.

Killdeer's nests, shallow depressions scratched into the bare ground, are typically three to four inches across. After egg-laying begins, Killdeer often add rocks, bits of shell, sticks, and trash to their nests. Curiously, these items tend to be light-colored, a tendency that was confirmed in an experiment giving Killdeer the choice between light and dark sticks.

Often seen running and halting on the ground in search of insects and earthworms, Killdeer are often shy and run away from people rather than fly. When Killdeer stop to look at an intruder, they have a habit of bobbing up and down almost as if hiccupping. Near the nest, Killdeer distract predators by calling loudly, bobbing, and running away. Killdeer are some of the best-known practitioners of the broken-wing display, an attempt to lure predators away from a nest by feigning injury. Pairs of Killdeer tend to stay together for one to a few years.

Killdeer chicks hatch with their eyes open and covered in downy fluff; they leave the nest almost immediately, joined by their parents. Young Killdeer only have one breast band and can easily be mistaken for smaller plover species.



above photo from <https://abcbirds.org>

below photo from <https://wildlifeinnature.com>

