



Carolina Bird Club  
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# CBC Newsletter

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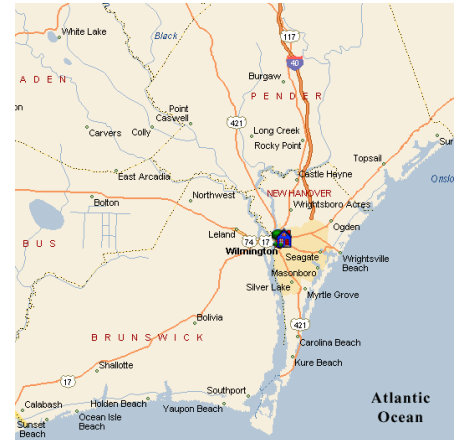
Number 5

## 2018 CBC Winter Meeting Coming to Wrightsville Beach, NC January 26th to 28th

By Katherine Higgins

The Wilmington and Southport Christmas Bird Counts consistently rank nationally in the top five counts for the most number of species seen. The species counts approach 160 each winter for these two areas in the Lower Cape Fear River basin. The field trips at the Carolina Bird Club winter 2018 meeting will cover some of these same areas. The meeting headquarters is at Wrightsville Beach and the dates are January 26 through 28, only a few weeks after the Christmas Bird Count dates. Here is some early information about the meeting.

The Lower Cape Fear offers some of the best winter birding spots in the Carolinas with a variety of habitats including the ocean, maritime forests, saltwater mud-flats, freshwater lakes and marshes, pine forests and more.



*Cape Fear River*

Wrightsville Beach is just across the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) from Wilmington. The two towns are situated between the Cape Fear River and the Ocean. Wrightsville Beach and Wilmington boast of many fine restaurants along the coast and in the downtown area respectively. The Wilmington downtown River Walk along the Cape Fear River is a great place to hang out for site seeing, shopping and for great food and beverages. So even though our hotel is on Wrightsville Beach, Wilmington is just across a couple of bridges to our west.

The field trip areas in and around Wrightsville Beach will provide opportunities to see birds such as the Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows, Orange-crowned Warblers, Loggerhead Shrikes, Marbled Godwits, four Rail species, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Great Cormorant, Anhinga, and three scoter species. Some rare birds which might be seen include Ross's Goose, Dickcissel, Bachman's Sparrow, Razorbill and Parasitic Jaeger.

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*Great Cormorant. Photo Naturephoto-cz.com.*

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## 2018 CBC Winter Meeting/*Continued*

by Katherine Higgins



*Northern Gannet.*  
*Photo by Roads End Naturalist*

Ocean watching at Wrightsville Beach will be available from Johnnie Mercer's pier and from the hotel. If you have never watched the Northern Gannets fishing just outside the waves, you are in for a real treat.

We will be near winter birding hotspots that include: Johnnie Mercer's Pier, Airlie Gardens, Greenfield Lake, the Battleship North Carolina area, Ft. Fisher, Kure Beach, Bald Head Island, Oak Island, Brunswick Town, and Boiling Spring Lakes.



*Nature Photographer Dr. David Blevins*

We have already lined up two guest speakers that should interest you. Friday night we will hear from David Blevins. Dr. Blevins is a nature photographer, writer, and ecologist. He combines a sense of wonder with an artistic eye to create images that help tell stories about the meaning and significance of the natural world. He received a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of British Columbia, as well as M.S. and B.S. degrees in forest science from North Carolina State University. His newest book, "North Carolina's Barrier Islands," reveals the natural character of barrier islands, the forces that shape them and the sense of wonder they inspire. His previous book, "Wild North Carolina," is a visual journey to the best remaining examples of natural communities across the State.



*ABA Record Holder and Photographer Laura Keene*

To prepare for Saturday night's speaker you might want to watch "The Big Year" movie one more time. Laura Keene will entertain us with her photographs and tales from her big year chase in 2016. Laura holds the current ABA record for number of birds photographed in one calendar year.



# 2018 CBC Winter Meeting/*continued*

by Katherine Higgins



*Blockade Runner Beach Resort on Wrightsville Beach*

Our meeting site headquarters and host hotel is the Blockade Runner Beach Resort on Wrightsville Beach.

Half of the rooms have ocean and sunrise views and half have views of the Inter Coastal Waterway and the sunset.

Room rates respectively will be a bargain: \$95 and \$85 plus taxes. A full chef-prepared breakfast is included in the room rates.

The hotel will also host our Saturday night buffet and their chef is highly rated and recommended by frequent visitors. The rooms have king or queen bed(s), 42" Plasma TV, WiFi, refrigerator, coffee maker, and hair dryer. Check out their web-site and ocean cam at: <http://blockade-runner.com>.

The address of the hotel is:

275 Waynick Boulevard, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.

For reservations call 910-256-2251 and make sure to tell them you are with the Carolina Bird Club.



*Blockade Runner Beach Resort on Wrightsville Beach Ocean View Room*



*Boat Slip at Blockade Runner Beach Resort*



*Gardens at Blockade Runner Beach Resort*

**Look for registration information and trip descriptions in the December CBC Newsletter and on our web-site: [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org).**

**Hope to see you at Wrightsville Beach in January 2018!**

# CBC February 2018 Bonus Trips To Costa Rica! Led by Sherry Lane

Carolina Bird Club is Offering 2 Bonus Trips to Costa Rica in February of 2018.



*Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica*

The first trip will be "Northern Costa Rica" and will run from **February 17 to February 26.**

This will include the best birding sites in the Central Pacific near Carara NP, the dry NW known as Guanacaste, the Northern Caribbean wetlands of Cano Negro and the Caribbean foothills of scenic Arenal Volcano.

The second trip will be "Southern Costa Rica" and will run from **February 25 to March 6.** This trip will include the Highlands including Savegre and Pacific foothills as well as Pacific Southwest Costa Rica.



*Savegre Foothills, Costa Rica*



*Sungrebe. Photo by Steven Easley*

Both trips will be packed with excellent birding. For a detailed itinerary and description of each trip and information on registration, please go the CBC website.



*Firey-billed Aracari. Photo by Kevin Easley*

[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)



# Ultimate South Florida Birding

By Steve Compton



*Steve Compton, right, with birding buddy, Richard Hayes, covered South Florida from Kissimmee and Sebastian Inlet to Fort Jefferson.  
Photographed by Larry Manfredi.*

***For over thirty years I have planned to visit South Florida.  
From May 11 to May 17 this year, I finally pulled it off.***

My birding buddy Richard Hayes and I have had success in new spots entirely on our own such as the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Colorado, but this time we decided that a tour guide would make our trip more effective. So we hired Homestead, Florida-based guide Larry Manfredi for his "Ultimate South Florida Tour".

The tour included seven full days in the field, and we covered South Florida from Kissimmee and Sebastian Inlet to Fort Jefferson. The tour size was only three plus the leader. So we were able to move fast and cover a lot of ground.

***/Continued P. 6***



## Ultimate South Florida Birding By Steve Compton/Continued

My potential life list target list was 35, but this included a lot of West Indian strays. I hoped for at least 11 life birds to bring my American Birding Association (ABA) area total to 600. It turned out I got all of my target birds and added four rare birds, the most unusual the ABA category 5 Bahama Woodstar hummingbird. We saw about 145 species total and I saw 17 (!) ABA life birds, photographing all but the Red-footed Booby seen at a distance from the parapet of Fort Jefferson.



*White-crowned Pigeon. Photographed by Steve Compton.*

Many of the parrot species are becoming established but have not yet been voted in. So we decided to take some time to document all of the species we encountered, filing them away in the expectation that they will be voted in someday soon. The Scaly-breasted Munia and Mitred Parakeet fell into this category.



*Mangrove Cuckoo. Photographed by Steve Compton.*

The list also included the Florida endemic Mangrove Cuckoo, the Black-whiskered Vireo, and elusive White-crowned Pigeon. We also got all the usual Miami-area exotics: Egyptian Goose, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Purple (Gray-headed) Swamphen, Spot-breasted Oriole, Common Myna, and White-winged Parakeet.

Part of the fun and challenge of this trip was figuring out what birds are presently ABA-countable. Miami and southern Florida have perhaps the largest population of free-flying parrots and other exotic species.



*Gray Kingbird. Photographed by Steve Compton.*

Waiting for Larry in Florida City, we picked up Gray Kingbird and Common Myna in the parking lot. Larry met us with the words: "Ready? Let's go see a Western Spindalis". Unprecedented numbers of West Indian species have been seen in south Florida this spring, with the Western Spindalis persisting in several locations for several weeks.

## Ultimate South Florida Birding By Steve Compton/Continued



*Western Spindalis. Photographed by Steve Compton.*

We got a good close-up look in a few minutes on Key Largo. After that we got looks at the rather common Black-whiskered Vireo.

A bit more effort, as usual, was required for the Mangrove Cuckoo. Both sang extensively. White-crowned Pigeons offered tantalizing looks on Key Largo and every day in the Keys, but were not well-seen until Key West.



*Brown Noddies on the coal docks at Fort Jefferson. Photographed by Steve Compton.*

On day two we worked our way down the Keys picking up Antillean Nighthawks flying with Common at Big Pine Key and Roseate Terns at Marathon. We got up early the next day for the big trip to Fort Jefferson, the centerpiece of the trip for me. There we picked up all the expected species, adding a surprise Red-footed Booby perched at the far end of nearby Bush Key!

Frigatebirds, Sooty Terns, and Brown Noddies were very common, Masked and Brown Booby were present, and a large group of passerine migrants rested on the parade ground inside the massive fort. The only "miss" of the entire week occurred when Black Noddy, occasionally seen with the Browns, was absent.

The Yankee Freedom ferry from Key West was easy to use and is highly recommended. A spring trip to the fort ought to be on every birder's bucket list. Day five took us through Miami for the exotics.

Red-whiskered Bulbul became my 600th ABA area bird. Then we drove for about three hours up the Atlantic coast on a hot tip that a Bahama Woodstar, only seen five times previously in the ABA area, had been seen the day before in the Sebastian inlet area.



*Bahama Woodstar. Photographed by Richard Hayes.*

After several hours of patient search with other birders, we decided to take a break and were on the way to eat when the call came: "Woodstar here right now!" So Larry made a quick u-turn and we hurried back, and were rewarded with good looks and eventually photos of this very rare West Indian hummingbird.

Day six took us further inland to the pine woods and lakes of central Florida. We spent hours that day and another looking for a Short-tailed Hawk, and were finally rewarded with a distant look at a circling distant bird.

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## Ultimate South Florida Birding/Continued

Various lakes yielded Snail Kite and Fulvous Whistling Duck, and the Circle B Bar Preserve was visited on a hot tip that a Ruff was there. We did see the Ruff and found the preserve full of very approachable waders like Limpkin and Roseate Spoonbill. It was our best photo spot of the trip.



*Forked-tail Flycatcher. Photographed by Richard Hayes.*

Our last day was spent further down in central Florida, visiting Clewiston on Lake Okeechobee for a rare Fork-tailed Flycatcher and further south for the hard-to-find Smooth-billed Ani in scrubland.

**Larry knows all the great places for seafood. You will eat well on this tour and also walk a lot if you choose. Larry Manfredi Tours are highly recommended.**

## The Chat-Membership Notification

Beginning with the Winter 2018 issue, The Chat will be published online only. Discontinuing print publication will result in significant financial savings, a percentage of which will be deposited into the CBC Conservation Fund for future conservation efforts throughout North and South Carolina. This also of course saves trees by reducing paper consumption. The Chat has been optionally available online for several years and about a quarter of the membership has already chosen to receive it only online.

Thank you,  
Christine Stoughton-Root, President, CBC

## CBC Young Birders Club

We have field trips and events for Young Birders throughout the Carolinas Region. We are eager to add new members.



If you are interested in joining the CBC Young Birders Club or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail at [mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org](mailto:mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org). We are a club for any young person aged 8-19 who has an interest in birds and lives in the Carolinas.

It's free to join. All that we ask is to stay in contact with us and participate!

## “Connecting Generations Through Birding.”



*At the Winston-Salem meeting in April, young birders (l to r) Savannah Boucino, Laura Quadarella, Conor Quadarella, and Juliana Boucino joined veteran birder Marion Clark (r).*



# Welcome New Members!

## Upgraded to Life Membership

Linda Allman  
Columbia, SC

Steve Shultz  
Apex, NC

## New Members

Janette Bame & Robert Dixon  
Concord, NC

Linda Barry  
Latta, SC

Bob & Carol Benston  
Monroe, NC

Bob Butler  
Asheville, NC

Christie Cantrell  
Raleigh, NC

Nancy Coombs  
Columbia, SC

Joanna Culliton  
Pawleys Island, SC

Jody Davison  
Fort Mill, SC

Patricia Fischer  
Chapel Hill, NC

Wade Gassman  
Belvedere, SC

Candace Gillespie  
Audubon South Carolina  
Harleyville, SC

Rebecca Goggans  
Arden, NC

Thomas, Carly and Talon Gray  
Winston Salem, NC

Cynthia Hever  
Holly Springs, NC

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Gainesville, FL

Patty Masten  
Charlotte, NC

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Hartwell, GA

George McHenry  
Belton, SC

Robert O'Dell  
Charleston, SC

Deborah Phillips  
Pawleys Island, SC

Mary Reeves  
Saluda, NC

Michelle Reid  
Wake Forest, NC

Darrylin Smith  
Hampstead, NC

McKenna Sprouse  
Columbia, SC

Susan Lyon Stone  
Carrboro, NC

Cynthia Wallace  
Murrells Inlet, SC



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and additional mailing offices

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2017—Litchfield Beach, South Carolina

Winter 2018—Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

Spring 2018—Flat Rock, North Carolina

### CBC Board Members

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[cssrbdr@gmail.com](mailto:cssrbdr@gmail.com)

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**CBC Newsletter Editor**: Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,  
[newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org)

**Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of**  
**December, February, April, June, August, and October.**

**[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)—UPDATE**

The **CBC Newsletter** is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are**: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

**Membership dues** include access to the CBCs two publications the **CBC Newsletter** and **The Chat**. Tax deductible as required by law.

**Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

**Join the CBC** at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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