



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

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Number 5

CBC Winter Seasonal Meeting—Nags Head, NC, January 18-20, 2019

Outstanding Birds Xpected

By Christine Stoughton Root and Les Coble



Bob Schamerhorn at Lake Clark

The Seasonal Meeting is one week earlier, January 18-20.

Now you can attend the CBC Meeting and also attend the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, January 23-28.

The CBC host hotel, the Ramada Plaza Nags Head and the Outer Banks, extend a warm welcome to members and guests joining us for our Winter Seasonal Meeting.

Bob Schamerhorn is our speaker .He is known for his award-winning photography, numerous programs, DVDs and books. Access Bob's work at his website <http://www.iphotobirds.com>. His latest photo award is "National Audubon Society Photography Awards Top 100.

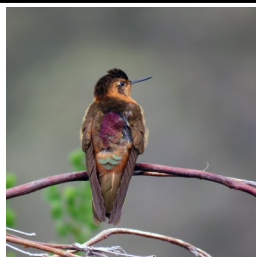
/Continued P. 2

Ecuador's Fabulous Hummingbirds March 1-10, 2019

With Simon Thompson and Susan Campbell



*Crimson-rumped
Toucanet -
Mindó, Ecuador,
March 2018.
Photographed by
Simon Thompson.*



*Shining Sunbeam -
Antisana, Ecuador,
April 2018.
Photographed by
Simon Thompson.*



*Toucan Barbet -
Mindó, Ecuador,
March 2018.
Photographed
by Simon
Thompson.*

Ecuador is the size of the state of Georgia, yet 1,540 species of birds have been recorded in the country. Of these, 133 are hummingbirds. On this Venture we'll travel across the Andes, seeing a dazzling display of tanagers, fly-catchers and hummingbirds; over high, windswept pass to relict patches of the Polylepis Forest for the endemic Black-breasted Puffleg (very rare); through Chocó Cloud Forest, where we hope to find such regional humming-bird endemics as Empress Brilliant, Velvet-purple Coronet; and lower elevation forest on the east slope where we should see Golden-tailed Sapphire, Wire-crested Thorntail and the dramatic Black-throated Brilliant./Continued P.4

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CBC Winter Seasonal Meeting—Nags Head, NC, January 18-20, 2019

Outstanding Birds Xpected.

By Christine Stoughton Root and Les Coble/Continued

“Outstanding Birds Xpected.” The OBX does produce unexpected sightings year-round. Its proximity to the Gulf Stream, its effect on weather along the coast in every month, and the amazing variety of habitats within a few miles of the coast provide the setting for the large daily bird counts available to all. These counts easily can top 100 on an all-day foray most days of the year!

One-hundred and eighty species were recorded at the last OBX Weekend in 2017, with absolutely spectacular calm, comfortable winter weather. A Golden Eagle was seen at Alligator River NWR and an Iceland Gull was seen at Cape Hatteras, as well as the infamous Anna’s Hummingbird. Razorbills and a Dovekie from Jeanette’s Pier made those members with lighter coats still feel warm inside.



*Blackburnian Warbler in bird bath.
Photographed by Robert W. Schamerhorn.*

The northeast coastline during North Carolina’s winter is probably the best birding location. In recent winters observations have included Common Eider and Harlequin Duck. We should see the three North American Scoter species and possibly Long-tailed Duck on any shoreline watch. We will search for a Ross’s Goose among hundreds of Snow Geese. Eurasian Wigeons are winter regulars at Pea Island, and scattered Horned Grebes can be seen from the beach. With any luck, we could see Iceland or Glaucous Gull at Cape Point and possibly a Thayer’s or California Gull. Interesting passerine observations have included species such as Ash-throated Flycatcher,



Stormy Petrel II. Offered by Brian Patteson for two pelagic trips.

Brian Patteson is offering two pelagic trips. Additionally, a variety of field trips will be provided including waterfowl, shorebirds, photography workshops and a trip for those who wish to bird at a slower pace that is also handicapped accessible.

Note: Two Sunday morning field trips will be on the schedule. One may allow relocating unusual specie(s) reported.

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CBC Winter Seasonal Meeting—Nags Head, NC, January 18-20, 2019

Outstanding Birds Xpected

By Christine Stoughton Root and Les Coble/Continued



Ramada Plaza, Nags Head, NC.

Our host hotel and meeting headquarters is the **Ramada Plaza Nags Head , 1701 South Virginia Dare Trail in Kill Devil Hills**. This Ramada boasts lots of amenities including private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave, as well as a heated pool and Jacuzzi. (Just what you need in January!) The CBC rates for this meeting are truly excellent at \$75 per night for an ocean view or \$65 per night for street side.

This cost does not include a 12.75% tax. It does include a hot breakfast buffet starting at 5:30am. A brown-bagged breakfast will be provided for those leaving earlier. Identify yourself as being with the Carolina Bird Club when making your reservation at (800) 635-1824 or (252) 441-2151.

For more information about this welcoming hotel, visit www.RamadaPlazaNagsHead.com.

Please register by December 28, 2018. Check-in is 4:00pm and check-out at 11:00am.

Both Friday and Saturday evenings will host cash bar and social hours: Friday at 6:00pm, with programs beginning at 7:00pm and Saturday at 5:30pm with the buffet dinner starting at 6:30 pm and our program following at 7:15pm.



Ramada Plaza, Nags Head, NC. King Room with Oceanview.



Outer Banks Lighthouse. Photographed by Christine Stoughton-Root.

Complete Seasonal Meeting details, registration information and trip descriptions will be in the December 2018 issue of the CBC Newsletter and on our website: www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Ecuador's Fabulous Hummingbirds March 1-10, 2019

With Simon Thompson and Susan Campbell/Continued



Quito, Ecuador

You may wish to arrive in Quito the day before in order to explore the city or rest before the tour starts. Just let us know your flight plans and also whether you will need a hotel room.

Our accommodations will be comfortable and convenient to the best birding spots across the Ecuadorian Andes. The food is excellent and the people very friendly. If you have never been to South America before, this trip to Ecuador will open your eyes to the beauty and diversity of hummingbirds in South America.

Some of the hummers we hope to see: Black-breasted Puffleg, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, both Green-tailed and Black-tailed Trainbearers, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Giant Hummingbird, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Booted Racket-tail (both races), Brown Violet-Ear, Empress Brilliant, Velvet-Purple Coronet, Green and White-whiskered Hermit, Many-spotted & Violet-headed Hummingbirds, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Napo Sabrewing, Grey-chinned Hermit, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Green and Wire-crested Thorntails, Purple-crowned Fairy, White-tipped Sicklebill and Long-billed Starthroat.

The cost of Ecuador's Fabulous Hummingbirds Birding Venture is \$3,795 from Quito, based on double occupancy. For single occupancy, there is an additional supplement of \$450.

Price Includes:

Ground transportation in Ecuador, all meals, all taxes, entrance fees, trip information packet, bird list, and Ventures leader and driver and guide service throughout

Price Does Not Include:

Flight to Quito, Ecuador, alcoholic beverages, laundry, gratuities and items of a personal nature.

Registration opens October 1, 2018. Registration Details at carolinabirdclub.org

For additional information: The contact is Susan Campbell at susan@ncaves.com.

Ten percent of the trip's profit will be donated to the Carolina Bird Club.

Bonus Field Trips

Lets talk about Bonus Field Trips. CBC's intentions are to present the Bonus Field Trips in the newsletter. However, this has proven virtually impossible for most trips. So it is important for those who wish to go on Bonus Field Trips to check the CBC homepage often for notices of upcoming trips. There will be a registration date for every trip; if you miss the sign up date or the list is full, it is important to get onto the wait list. Surprisingly, people do cancel and you may be given the option to attend the trip. Furthermore, if this trip is offered again in the future, you would be given the opportunity to sign up for the trip before it is opened to new signups.

Thank you,
Christine Stoughton-Root, President, Carolina Bird Club

Carolina Bird Club Bonus Field Trip - December 1-2, 2018

Lake Mattamuskeet NWR, NC by Steve Shultz

Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina's largest natural lake, shines as one of the Atlantic flyway's most impressive sites for wintering waterfowl. Literally tens of thousands of ducks, geese, and swans make Mattamuskeet their winter home. And early December is prime time to visit and enjoy the spectacle. In addition to waterfowl, the National Wildlife Refuge provides excellent overall birding and nature observation opportunities. From sparrows to lingering warblers, wintering hummingbirds to waders, this trip promises a rich and varied list of species. We plan to visit various areas on the refuge and travel to nearby hotspots.

Sound like fun? Act quickly as space on this Bonus Trip is limited to 12 participants. This smaller group makes individualized interaction with the trip leaders easier and allows us to help you with identifying any of those "confusing little brown jobs".

Logistics:

This trip visits Lake Mattamuskeet NWR and surrounding areas on December 1st and 2nd. We will depart from the visitor center at the refuge at 7:00am both Saturday and Sunday, with a full day of birding on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. Registration cost is \$25. You must be a member of the Carolina Bird Club to attend, however, you may join at the same time as you register if you not a member. Participants are responsible for lodging, meals, and transportation. All levels of birding experience are welcome.

Environmental hazards are few, and annoying insects are not usually problematic, but bring weather appropriate clothing and note that food service may be somewhat limited in Hyde County. Registered participants will receive a detailed FAQ with suggestions on lodging and food.



Map of Lake Mattamuskeet, Carolinasportsman.com.



Lake Mattamuskeet. www.take-a-trip.info.



Lake Mattamuskeet. [Tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com).

To Register:

Contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com for a reserved slot and a registration form. If your plans should change after registration, refunds are available through November 15. After November 15, refunds are available if we can fill your slot.

Birding the Barrier Islands

A new nature program presented by the Hatteras Island Ocean Center

This past April, the Hatteras Island Ocean Center, Inc. was awarded Carolina Bird Club's Research & Education Grant so that we could introduce a long-awaited birding program to the Ocean Center. This program is called "Birding the Barrier Islands."

The Outer Banks of North Carolina provide a desirable migratory stopover site for countless species of migratory birds. Uncommon species of waterfowl and warblers can often be seen in the fall and spring months. Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in particular, manages impoundments which are controlled to promote growth of submerged aquatic vegetation. This vegetation provides the food the thousands of ducks in the winter need to survive during migration. Furthermore, the salt ponds at Cape Hatteras National Seashore provide countless species of bird with foraging habitat. These hotspots are part of what makes Hatteras Island an invaluable habitat and platform to educate the public on the importance of bird ecology and environmental conservation.

The goal of this new program is to share basic identification skills with novice birders and to encourage participants to take their birding skills to the next level by observing various bird adaptations. This new program, "Birding the Barrier Islands", begins with a discussion of the diversity of species found on the Outer Banks.

Our central introductory question to begin this program focuses on addressing how so many different species of birds survive in the same location without outcompeting one another. The bird foot molds are used as visual aids for our participants. Most of the birding trips take place at the Hatteras Village Park in Hatteras, NC. However, we have also scheduled programs at Ramp 44 parking lot on Cape Hatteras National Seashore property. Highlights from these trips have included Roseate Spoonbills, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Black Skimmers, Little Blue Herons, and Spotted Sandpipers. The spotting scopes have greatly improved and enhanced the experience of program participants, providing close-up views that allow us to hone in on characteristics that assist in correct identification.



Birders participating in "Birding the Barrier Islands." Research grant awarded by the Carolina Bird Club's Research & Education Grant to the Hatteras Island Ocean Center, Inc.



Birds tracked by Hatteras Island Ocean Center, Inc during the "Birding the Barrier Islands" Research Project.

Since we opened for the 2018 season in May, we have booked seventeen participants for this new birding program and have even been positively reviewed on Trip Advisor. "We went on a morning bird walk, part on the marsh and part on the beach, and identified a large variety of birds. The two staff who led it were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. We highly recommend it!" We are excited for this opportunity to share our knowledge and hope to continue this program throughout the winter and into next year.

Thank you, Carolina Bird Club, so much for your generosity. You have helped educate a new generation of birders!

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB RESEARCH GRANTS

The CBC provides grants to support research, education and conservation of birds of the Carolinas and their habitats. Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The CBC Grants Committee meets quarterly to review applications.

Research and Education Grants:

Applications should be made through an educational or non-profit institution. For student research projects, applications require the sponsorship of a faculty member. For secondary school programs, applications require a letter of support from the school principal. Applications should be prepared directly by the applicant and should include:

- A scope of work (preferably limited to two single-spaced pages), including species to be studied and the site where the work will be conducted.
- A detailed budget.
- Appropriate course work and other activities that would indicate that the applicant is capable of performing the described research.
- A letter of support from the faculty sponsor or school principal.
- Details of the starting date of the research and the time period for which funding is requested.
- The name of the payee and the address to which a check should be mailed.

Checks are made out to an institution or a department, not to an individual.

Allowable costs include, but are not necessarily limited to, laboratory supplies and limited travel to research sites. The Carolina Bird Club does not support institutional indirect costs.

Awardees must file a final report including an accounting of expenditures and a summary of research or programming no later than 30 days following the close of the grant period. **Any unused funds must be returned to CBC.**

Significant research findings will be reviewed for possible publication in *The Chat*, the ornithological journal of the CBC. Also, awardees may be invited to present their findings at a seasonal meeting of the CBC. In that case the CBC will cover all reasonable expenses incurred by the presenter.

Conservation Grants:

An official representative of the conservation organization should send an application which includes:

- Details of the purpose of the grant request.
- Project plans (with dates) as appropriate.
- The name of the payee and the address to which a check should be mailed.

Checks are made out to institution or a department, not to an individual.

Awardees must file a final report including an accounting of expenditures and a summary of the completed project no later than 30 days following its completion. **Any unused funds must be returned to CBC.**

Important: Grants are awarded for specific purposes. Should the recipient of a grant wish to allocate any part of the grant to a purpose other than that defined in the original application, prior permission must be obtained from the CBC Grants Committee. In the event that such permission is denied the grant monies concerned must be returned to the CBC.

Email completed applications or inquiries to: Grants Committee at www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Exploring Camp TALON

By Carolina Bird Club Scholarship Recipient Laura Sprinkle



Laura Sprinkle.

After six days exploring the habitats of coastal Georgia, I departed Camp TALON with more than just some great bird photographs and new kindred spirits who also find birds fascinating. I left camp with substantially more information on bird identification than I ever thought I would know, a realization of the vast differences in the various bird species in one area, an appreciation for how challenging this field of work can be and the amazing opportunities the jobs in this career give.

We were taught by extremely knowledgeable leaders all week and it was obvious that they were passionate about birds and about educating others about these creatures. At Camp TALON I learned a great amount of bird identification tips and information. Whether we were identifying them by their color, song or habitat, I became educated on how to tell even birds that seemed impossible to differentiate at one point, apart.

I was blown away by our main leader Mr. Bob's expert identification involving bird songs. He knew every single one we heard, and would call out the names of the singing birds as we heard them, so that eventually those who didn't know the song, caught on. Using mnemonics, he also gave us an easier way to remember the calls of various species. By the end of the week, even the most inexperienced birders knew the call of the prothonotary warbler as it sang "sweet, sweet, sweet," and the carolina wren, "teakettle, teakettle." On the bus rides back from our day's adventures, Mr. Bob would often play the bird songs as we tried our best to match them correctly.

On our daily trips to different parts of coastal Georgia, we saw a vast variety of different birds. There were so many amazing birds, so distinctly different but all living in the same

ecosystem. We viewed American avocets and painted buntings thriving within a couple hundred feet from each other as well as green herons fishing by a pond and red-tailed hawks soaring above them. There are unique characteristics in all these winged-creatures, but all of them live beautifully in harmony.

Not only did we see so much of nature, but we were exposed to career opportunities that would land us right in the center of it. Every day we were introduced to jobs, whether it was meeting a leader of that day's birding expedition or listening to a talk from a biologist who explained her field work from that day (and enticed us with pictures of adorable baby plover chicks as if we weren't already sold). We met many naturalists who have devoted their lives to studying birds and nature and had a chance to hear their story.

Camp TALON was taught by extremely knowledgeable leaders who are passionate about their jobs. I was able to capture some great photographs, meet many young birders with similar interests vastly improve my knowledge.



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club. Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Welcome New CBC Members!

John Bloomfield
Hilton Head Island, SC

Jeyda, Keren & Efe Bolukbasi
Isle of Palms, SC

Sterling Eason & Owen Collins
Mt Pleasant, SC

Linda DiSantis
Bob Kerr
Atlanta, GA

Maureen Emery
Florence, SC

Linwood Fordham
Jacksonville, NC

Carmen Francis
Salemberg, NC

Kay Grinnell
Phillip Nelson
Hilton Head Island, SC

Glyn & Deborah Lewis
Piedmont, SC

Yves Limpalair
Greer, SC

Marc Regnier & Jane Norrgard
Charleston, SC

Amy Padgett
Clarkton, NC

Andrea Schechter
Greenville, SC

Chris Sermons
Ware Shoals, SC

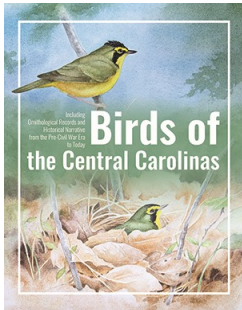
Nathan Tarr
Durham, NC

Theresa Kopec & Gerald Thurmond
Spartanburg, SC

Carmen Morales-Velez
Jose Velez
Jessica Velez

David & Linda Wilson
Sunset Beach, NC

Martin Zonnenberg
Charlotte, NC



Birds of the Central Carolinas. The definitive book about the birds of the central Carolinas is available through **Mecklenburg Audubon**. The book is a first of its kind, an authoritative, comprehensive summary of the status, distribution, and historical context of all the birds regularly occurring in the Piedmont of both Carolinas. It includes original historical research never before compiled and published in online sources; full accounts of 312 species with additional partial accounts of another 60 species; over 400 color photographs taken in the central Carolinas; and the complete results of the Mecklenburg County Breeding Bird Atlas.

Wings Over Water. Registration for the 22nd Annual Wings Over Water wildlife festival is now open. The event is scheduled for October 16–21 with the winter Encore weekend following the weekend of December 7–9. This year expert guide George Armistead will be the keynote speaker. You may have crossed paths with George in North Carolina on a pelagic trip (he has been a spotter on many of Brian Patteson's trips) or on a Christmas Bird Count along the Outer Banks. He first frequented our coast a good bit with his father, Harry, as a very young birder.

If you have not attended WOW, please consider joining us. Even if you have been before, keep in mind that we work hard in order to offer some different programs each year. And even if you frequent the Outer Banks on your own, you may find an activity that gives you a new perspective. There will be canoeing and kayaking trips, natural history walks, owl prowls, photo and art workshops as well as lots and lots of birding opportunities. Trips are filling up fast! Go to www.wingsoverwater.org for details and registration information.



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Raleigh, NC 27612

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and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2019—Outer Banks, NC

Spring 2019—Southern Pines, NC

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newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

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

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 and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; 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 publications: the **CBC Newsletter** and **The Chat**, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable 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 © 2018.

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