



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,

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I'd like to take a few moments to highlight one of Carolina Bird Club's mission statements: To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience. Like many of you, I enjoy the meditative values of a quiet stroll through the woods; that oneness with nature. Yet it must be said, that one of the truer joys in birding is found through sharing of experiences and the thrill of discovery among friends.

Over the years, I've been intrigued how birders, beginning or advanced, develop and hone their own personal set of skills, or their "niche" in birding, and how they contribute to our knowledge of birds through their personal experiences and perspective. We learn so much about birds through our relationships with fellow birders. Birding and people go hand in hand.

One of the goals of the Carolina Bird Club is to create opportunities for birding through fellowship, at our seasonal meetings or during bonus trips. As you get out this fall to enjoy migration, try to take time to also meet a new fellow birder. Birding creates great camaraderie and develops wonderful learning opportunities, for new and experienced birders alike. Equally important, this fellowship promotes the activity we love for others to enjoy. I hope to see you soon! **Irvin**

Costa Rica Bonus Trip: Feb 18-27, 2017



The vibrantly colored Quetzal lives in the mountainous, tropical forests of Central America.

This CBC bonus birding trip will take in some of the very best areas that Costa Rica has to offer.

We will start out in the lush middle elevations on the Caribbean slope before descending to the diverse Caribbean lowlands for a three-night stay in the lovely La Quinta Country Inn. Here we will take in several key birding areas

including La Selva OTS, La Virgen del Socorro, a feeding station new Guapiles and the Old Butterfly garden. After the lowlands we will ascend to the middle elevations of the Caribbean slope near Tapanti National Park; one of the most beautiful areas in all of Costa Rica. And our final destination will take us to the highlands of Savegre, home to what many consider the most beautiful bird in the New World, the Resplendent Quetzal.

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Costa Rica Bonus Trip: Feb 18-27, 2017 — Sherry Lane

We will visit hummingbird and banana feeders throughout the trip allowing for up close and personal study of hummingbirds, tanagers, finches and much more. Professional bird guide Steven Easley will be our local guide for our trip, a highly respected authority on Costa Rican birds and other wildlife. We expect to see over 250 bird species with a good representation of Costa Rica's hummingbirds, toucans, motmots, trogons, tanagers, oropendolas and much more. This bonus trip is packed with excellent birding, comfortable lodging, and excellent food so join us as we explore the many wonders of Costa Rica

Itinerary brief:

Feb 18: (Sat) Arrive to San Jose Costa Rica (SJO), picked up at airport for short ride to Hotel Robledal for 1 NT
Feb 19: AM visit to La Paz Waterfall Garden, afternoon locally. 3 NTS at La Quinta Country Inn
Feb 20: Full day of birding at the best site in the Caribbean lowlands; La Selva OTS. 2nd NT at La Quinta
Feb 21: AM at La Virgen del Socorro, afternoon locally near La Selva. 3rd NT at La Quinta
Feb 22: AM at Cope's feeders and Old Butterfly Garden, continue to Hotel Rio Perlas for 2 NTS
Feb 23: Full day in the middle elevations of Tapanti NP and vicinity. 2nd NT at Hotel Rio Perlas
Feb 24: AM at Rio Macho and Ujarras, afternoon transfer to Savegre Mountain Lodge for 2 NTS
Feb 25: Full day of highland birding in the beautiful Savegre Valley. 2nd NT at Savegre Mountain Lodge
Feb 26: AM in Paramo and Tolomuco Lodge, afternoon transfer back to San Jose. Hotel Robledal for final NT
Feb 27: (Mon) Take Hotel Robledal shuttle to airport in time for Int'l departures

Group size and pricing: 7 to 9 participants (Limited to 9 participants.)

Price per person double occupancy based on 7 participants: \$2,380

Price per person double occupancy based on 9 participants: \$2,100

Single supplement: \$490

\$1,000 deposit by 10/1, balance by 12/1

A minimum of 7 participants is needed to run this trip. In the event that this minimum is not met by 12/1/16, the trip will be cancelled and all fees returned. Cancellation prior to 12/1/16 allows for a full refund. Refunds cannot be processed for cancellations after 12/1/16 unless a replacement can be found to take your slot.

What is included in the price:

All accommodations from Feb 18 till Feb 27. All meals from breakfast Feb 19 through breakfast Feb 27. Fulltime local guide Steven Easley from Feb 19 AM till Feb 26 PM. Transportation by comfortable Toyota Coaster which has seats for 16+ passengers. We will have a safe and dedicated driver with us throughout our trip. All activities and park entrance fees. 4x4 truck ride Savegre. Airport pickup and drop-offs.

What is NOT included in the price:

Airfare to and from San Jose, Costa Rica and travel insurance

Tips to local guide, driver, hotel staff, waiters, etc.

Any items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, internet service etc.

Sodas or alcoholic beverages that are not provided as included in the meals

Airport Exit Tax of \$29 USD per person (check your flight ticket as it is often included)

Level of activity to expect: Costa Rica is a mountainous country so expect some trails to be steeper in parts - these will be taken slowly, with frequent stops to bird and rest. The walking effort is mostly easy, but can be moderate at times due to the terrain and/or altitude at a few spots. At Savegre, we will be birding at elevations over 7,000 ft above sea level with a couple of hours at a higher elevation, in the paramo zone, of around 11,000.

About the Trip Leaders:

Sherry Lane lives in Wilmington NC with her husband and 2 sons. She has led birding field trips for Cape Fear Audubon. She recently returned from a family/friends birding trip which she organized and led to Costa Rica. She has been on birding trips to Panama, Colombia and Brazil. She works as a Physician Assistant, but her passion is tropical birding.

Steven Easley lives in Costa Rica near Turrialba with his wife Magdalena. Steven is a very accomplished nature photographer, specializing in birds. His wealth of knowledge on all things natural will be evident from day one whether it is butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, leafhoppers, reptiles or amphibians. Steven has been guiding in Costa Rica for the past 13 years. He is a bird guide who is serious about birding but also wants everyone to have a good time in the process.

Interested Birders:

Contact Sherry Lane for a detailed itinerary and registration information. slane360@yahoo.com

CBC Winter Meeting - Nags Head, NC January 27-28 2017

CBCs 80th Anniversary Begins Here

By Christine Stoughton-Root



The view from our hotel, Ramada Inn Plaza Nags Head, 1710 South Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills.

Our winter meeting, January 27-28, 2017, will make a return to Nags Head on the Outer Banks. Cold weather is what brings in all those wonderful winter birds that make this trip worthwhile. In the past the Outer Banks netted 186 species, included 23 ducks, 18 shorebirds, 15 sparrows, 7 warblers, and 6 birds from the rail family. There's always a chance for rare birds like Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Common Redpoll and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

A new location for this year's roost is the oceanfront Ramada Inn Plaza Nags Head. Located at 1701 S Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills. All rooms provide a microwave, refrigerator, and WIFI. Also included is a hot breakfast buffet starting at 5:30. The cost is \$70 for ocean view rooms and \$60 for street side, plus tax. This rate applies to several days before and after the meeting. For reservations, call 252-441-2151. Be sure to mention the Carolina Bird Club to get this rate.

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CBC Winter Meeting, January 27-28 2017



Follow the swans to Mattamuskeet

Our field trips will cover all the known numerous hot spots in this area. These include three National Wildlife Refuges (Alligator River, Mattamuskeet, and Pea Island) as well as Bodie Island, Oregon Inlet, Cape Hatteras Point, Roanoke Island, Palmetto Peartree Preserve, and more. At Pea Island we have special permission to offer trips to South Pond, which is off-limits except on guided tours.

We also have a pelagic trip led by Brian Patterson on the docket. Some of the birds seen on the past winter CBC meeting pelagic include Red Phalarope, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Atlantic Puffin, Great Skua, Razor-bill, Dovekie, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Common Murre.

For those who might need a break from the cold, workshops in the planning this year include eBird, Shore-bird ID, Waterfowl ID, Photography by our guest speaker and Beginner's Birding.

All Social events will be held at the Ramada. Friday night's program starts with a social hour that includes a cash bar. Program to be announced. Saturday evening starts with a dinner buffet that includes a cash bar. Our feature presentation is by Keith Kennedy, known for his display currently in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum; Animal Antics, Best of the Best.

The buffet cost is \$28 which will offer a vegetarian option.



Make Birders Count: Buy Your Duck Stamp Through the ABA The American Birding Association has made it easy to buy a Duck Stamp. Birders use refuges too. Buying a Duck Stamp through the ABA shows your support—as a birder—for habitat and bird conservation.

“Last year the ABA sold more than \$17,000 worth of Duck Stamps, money that goes directly into the coffers of those who seek to make NWRs better places for wildlife. And we’re doing it again in 2016.” **ABA**

CBC Winter Meeting, Nags Head, NC



Bodie Island Lighthouse

For non-birding spouses, there are many interesting places to visit. Aside from the beautiful beach, the Wright Brothers National Memorial in nearby Kill Devil Hills, and historic Manteo, with the Elizabethan Gardens, are just a short drive away. Three lighthouses Currituck Beach, Bodie Island, and Cape Hatteras, are less than an hour away, and while all are closed to climbing in the winter, you can still wander the grounds and gaze up in wonder at these sentinels of the sea. Manteo also features a reproduction of the lesser-known Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse.

The next Newsletter will provide information on the meeting, including trip descriptions, times, and registration information. Winter on the Outer Banks is always special.

Bring warm clothes, a sense of adventure, your life list, and make your reservations now.



The Carolina Young Birders Club is 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!

We have begun field trips and events for Young Birders throughout the Carolinas Region. We are eager to add new members. Check out how much fun we have in the Photos and Blog sections!

If you are interested in joining the club, use the Contact Us box below. Currently if you are a young birder or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail at mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org.

Also, if parents or relatives are interested in helping with the club they can become adult facilitators aiding with the logistics of the club.

Check out our Events and Field Trips Page for upcoming trips at carolinabirdclub.org

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. **Details at carolinabirdclub.org**

CBC Bonus Trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Nags Head, December 17-18, 2016—Steve Shultz

The Carolina Bird Club is offering a chance to bird two of the more interesting sites along the mid-Atlantic coast, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) and the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The CBBT complex's four manmade rocky islands act as a magnet for sea ducks, gulls, and other birds. With luck we should be able to leisurely study each of America's three scoter species (birds more often than not seen in distant, fast-moving lines), enjoy the spectacularly plumaged male Long-tailed Duck, search for shorebirds (including Purple Sandpiper) on the rocks, compare the various plumages of Great and Double-crested Cormorants, and hope for a rarity or two like Common Eider, Common Goldeneye, King Eider, or one of the uncommon gulls.

After spending the morning birding the islands we will head south through Virginia Beach, stopping for lunch and birds, before continuing to Nags Head, NC. Sunday morning will be devoted to visiting Bodie Island, Pea Island, and Alligator River NWRs in search of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, and whatever else we can find.

Dates: Saturday/Sunday, December 17-18, 2016

Cost: \$50

Limit: 13 participants

Logistics: The trip will begin at 7:15 a.m. Saturday at the south toll terminal at the CBBT in Virginia Beach, VA.

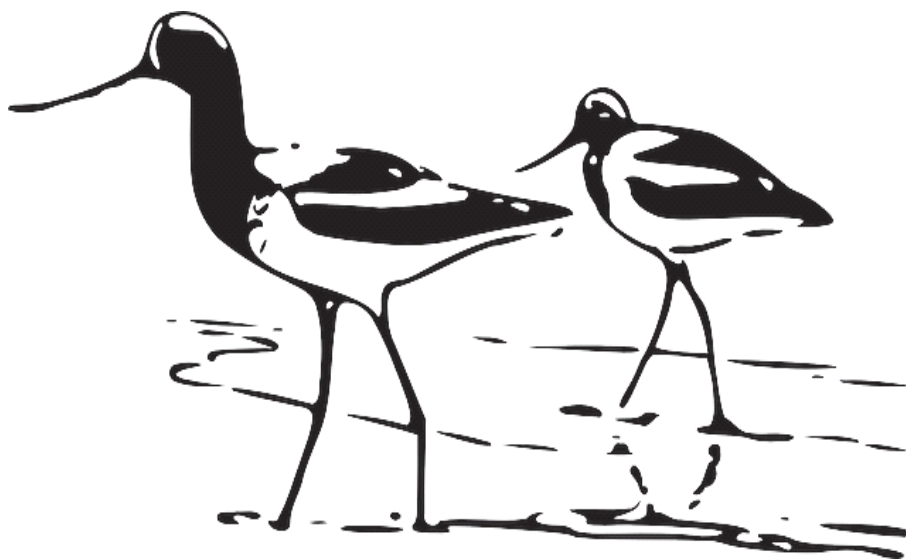
The \$50 registration fee covers the police escort on the CBBT and guided birding throughout the weekend. Not included are lodging, meals, tolls, or fuel expenses. Participants will likely wish to spend Friday night in Virginia Beach.

Reservations should also be made for Saturday night in Nags Head, NC.

Detailed, additional information will be provided upon registration.

Please note that the CBBT authorities require picture identification upon arrival and perform background checks on all birding program visitors prior to arrival. For this reason, the registration form requests driver's license (or equivalent state issued identification card) information including license number and expiration date. The CBC only collects this information to forward to the CBBT and will not retain or share the information with any other entity. If you prefer not to provide this information, we regret that we cannot accommodate you on this bonus trip.

To Sign Up: E-mail Steve Shultz for a registration form (sshultz@nc.rr.com) or if you have questions. You can also call 919-608-2069. The form and trip fee must be sent to the CBC HQ Secretary no later than 4 weeks prior to the trip in order to provide the Bridge Tunnel Authority with a listing of participants. A minimum of 10 participants is required to run the trip. Due to security procedures dictated by the CBBT Authority, no roster changes can be made after November 17, therefore the last day to cancel with refund is November 16.



The CBBT, and Outer Banks are can be great places to bird! If you've never been, it is a rewarding experience. Even if the birding is slow (which is usually not the case) the possibility of seals, seagoing ships, lighthouses, wild ponies, and spectacular scenery make the trip worthwhile.

Participation is limited to CBC members (but you can join at the same time as you register for the trip!)

Please let Steve know of any questions and look forward to seeing you there!

CBC Members Birding in Biodiverse Panama — Steve Shultz



CBC birders in Panama, where they bush-wacked their way into the heavy tropical rainforest taking care not to grab hold of any limb or vine that might be poisonous.

And while I have at least passing familiarity with many of our tropical avian friends, in order to ensure the best experience possible, it made sense to enlist the services of a professional, local guide. And here we hit the jackpot. With the highest total tick count for Panama, including two first country records, Kilo Campos provided unmatched in-the-field experience and seemed to know just how to get everyone on the bird, even if the subject was hiding behind twenty-seven individual leaves.



*Cocoa Woodcreeper
Photographer Merrill Lester*

Even before the trip “officially” started, folks at the Radisson found great birds on the grounds including Whooping Motmot, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Southern Lapwing, Wattled Jacana, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and more tanagers than one could count.

Our trip kicked off in stellar fashion with a Tuesday morning visit to famous Pipeline Road and the associated Ammo Dump Ponds. Lifers,

Lucky members of the CBC gathered in Panama City, Panama this past January for a week of birding the country’s tropical rainforest, dry Pacific slope, uplands, lowlands, and everything in between.

Many folks, upon hearing “Panama” automatically think “Canal”. And while most every schoolchild knows how to locate Panama on a globe, many birders don’t think of the narrow isthmus as one of the prime birding spots in southern Central America. But they should!

Boasting a list of 978 species and 12 endemics, Panama’s modern infrastructure, US dollar currency, and affordable prices makes this an easy place to become acquainted with the tropics, and an excellent place to bird. All one needs is a place to stay, transport, and a bit of local knowledge.

Our trip was based in three locations, the Radisson Summit hotel and golf resort, near the Panama Canal in the former Canal Zone; the jewel of Panama’s central foothills, El Valle de Anton; and finally the Melia Panama Canal Resort on the Atlantic coast at Colon.

The lodging, far from rustic, provided comfortable opportunities to unwind after an exciting day in the field, enjoy an adult beverage, or take a dip in the pool. And in fact the pool would provide a number of interesting bird sightings including roosting Bat Falcon and soaring Peregrine Falcon!

year birds, and just plain spectacular sightings came fast and furious with highlights at Ammo Dump including Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Keel-billed Toucan, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Mourning Warbler, Masked Tityra, and Red-ored Parrot. Pipeline Road, a quiet, dirt track leading into the jungle above the Canal, added many more favorites including Grey-headed Tanager, Blue Dacnis, Black-tailed and Gartered Trogons, Lesser Kiskadee, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Checker-throated Antwren, Broad-billed Motmot, and the stunning Purple-crowned Fairy.



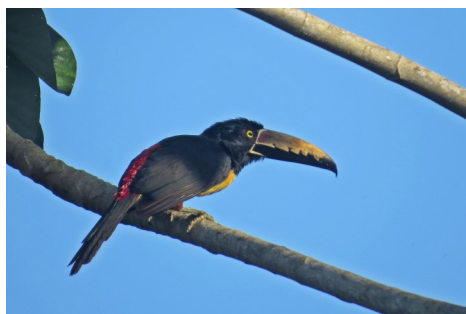
*Broad-Billed Motmot
Photographer
Merrill Lester*

After lunch at a local café near the Miraflores Locks, we returned to Summit Ponds for a look at the usually-present Boat-billed Herons and added tasty bits like Amazon Kingfisher, Forest Elaenia, and two fairly sizeable American Crocodiles.

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As the sun completed its daily journey across the southern sky, and the heat of the day dissipated, bird activity began anew. A walk along the edges of the hotel's golf course provided new birds like Snowy-bellied Hummingbird and a chance to see one of the region's most endearing mammals, the Capybara. As dusk fell, a whirlwind of birds climbed the hillside where we stood, and in singles and twos and threes, winged jewels stopped briefly before moving off to roosting spots. High above, pairs of raucous Amazon parrots sailed toward cozy dens.

Wednesday morning found us bumping along Pipeline Road on our way to the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center's canopy tower. Those looking out the windshield at the right moment caught sight of a loping Northern Tamandua (a.k.a an anteater), but all enjoyed sunrise from the top of a 105' tower built to allow birders the chance to see 'above the treetops' and spot birds that make their living in the upper canopy.



Collard Aracari
Photographer Jeri Smart

Band-rumped and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts, and Shining and Green Honeycreepers. Once the sunshine heated the upper canopy to a bit above our comfort level, we repaired to the shade of the Center's hummingbird feeder display and enjoyed the amazing airshow.

Dozens of hummers paid scant attention to the ogling humans as the birds fed just feet away from eager camera lenses. White-necked Jacobins dominated the air-space, but Violet-bellied and Blue-chested Hummingbirds, Crowned Woodnymph, Long-billed Hermit, and Black-throated Mango put on a good show as well. But the 'best' hummingbird, and for some one of the trip's top birds, rested serenely on a high branch.



Fasciated Antshrike (F)
Photographer Jeri Smart

Highlights here included the lovely Blue Cotinga, Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, Collared Aracari, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Double-toothed Kite, Scaled Pigeon, Mealy Parrot,



Panama's Pipeline Road, Ammo Dump Ponds and the Pan-American Highway among other stops provided interesting birds.

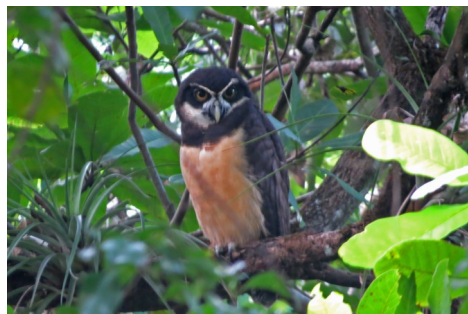
The male Rufous-crested Coquette drew people so quickly to one side of the raised deck that had we been on a ship at sea, we likely would have capsized! The feeder kiosk also allowed for great looks at Fasciated Antshrike, Spotted Antbird, and the dashing Moustached Antwren.

Late afternoon found us on the Pan-American Highway headed for El Valle de Anton. Along the way we stopped near the seaside resort of Gorgona to search the dry, Pacific thornscrub for birds, netting winged-things including Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Panama Flycatcher, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, and great looks at a tooting Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.

El Valle, nested in the crater of a long-dormant volcano, would be our home for the next two nights. Surrounded by steep-sided mountains cloaked in mist, and bathed in a cool breeze, our highland escape almost immediately produced lifers when a White Hawk's brilliant ivory plumage drew the attention of birders lugging bags to rooms. Foliage on the hotel grounds hosted Rufous-capped Warbler, Green-crowned Brilliant, Lineated Woodpecker, Bay-headed Tanager and more.

After a pleasant night with the windows open, morning found us along a quiet road enjoying flocks of busily foraging birds including Dusky-faced, Silver-throated, Tawny-capped, and Flame-rumped Tanagers, Tawny-capped Euphonia, Paltry Tyrannulet, and an amazing number of Canada Warblers. **/Continued P. 9**

After lunch Kilo teased that he might have a surprise in store. Not sure what we were about to (hopefully) find, we drove to the outskirts of town and stopped in an area of beautifully landscaped vacation homes. Kilo knew one of the local caretakers, Anibal, and after introductions, we followed the pair to a shady copse of trees to stare at the scaly-barked end of a broken-off branch. Except that this branch had feet. Yep, a roosting Common Potoo! After enjoying scope views of this strange creature, we bushwacked into the forest, following the trace of a bird that none of us could see or hear. Eventually the hand signal for “stop and be quiet” passed along the conga line of birders, and one by one, we quietly crept to the scope’s eyepiece for a rare treat. Perched daintily on a middle distance limb sat a tiny bird with an impossibly large head and bill... the elusive Tody Motmot! But even after the high five and rapid uploads to eBird, the adventure was not quite over. After



Spectacled Owl
Photographer Jeri Smart

person put eye to glass not knowing what would be seen. The beautiful Spectacled Owl elicited more than one “wow!” and many rolls of exposed film (although, of course, no one actually uses film anymore).

Back on the quiet street, happy handfuls of gratuities in the way of dollar bills made their way into Anibal’s pocket, an excellent example of the value to local residents of wildlife and the benefit to keeping habitat intact.

The next morning found us on the Cerro Gaital trail birding lush, upland forest. Our quarry, the brilliant Orange-bellied Trogon, not only posed nicely for photos, but actually flew closer for even more stunning views!



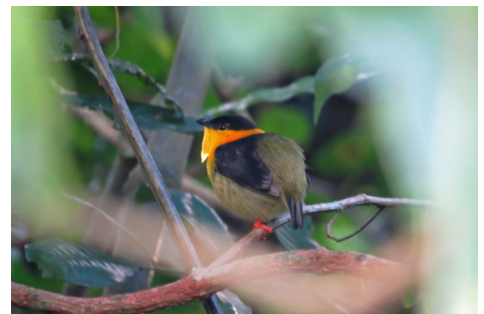
Orange-bellied Trogon
Photographer Merrill Lester

Unfortunately, the White-ruffed Manakins nearby played coy, only giving the briefest of views. But while the manakins might have a cruel streak, an encounter with the strangely named Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant left us all pleased!

Leaving El Valle behind, we hoped to encounter a different subset of birds along the famous Achiote Road. The Melia Panama Canal Resort provided a fine base of operations for the next two days, with sloths in the parking lot trees, hundreds of yards of shoreline on Gatun Lake, and close proximity to birding sites.

Saturday’s pre-dawn found us waiting to cross the Panama Canal on a swing bridge at Gatun. Once across the locks, a short drive brought us to a favored location along the road to the tiny village of Achiote. Short-billed Pigeons perched in treetops for long scope views, a pair of Spot-crowned Barbets put on a brilliant show, and Pied and White-necked Puffbirds plied their trades while dozens of other resident and wintering birds flitted through shrub and tree.

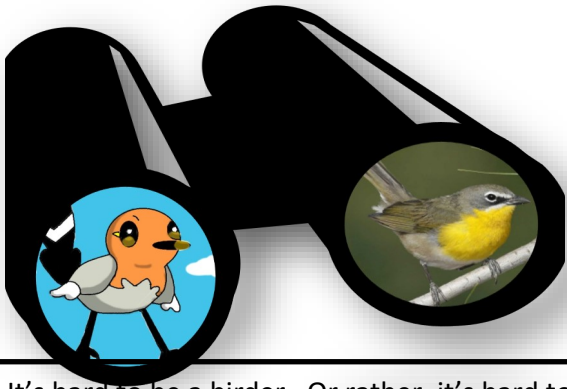
An afternoon trip to a quiet road near the hotel brought more tropical jewels within range of our optics, but also the frustration of hearing numerous Golden-collared Manakins that absolutely refused to be seen.



Golden-collared Manakin
Photographer Jeri Smart

On the final morning of the trip, with just a few hours to bird before heading across the isthmus to the international airport, we made one last run at the manakins, and came away with a royal flush. Not only did the beautiful male Golden-collared Manakins find morning much more to their liking, posing in the bright sunshine for all to enjoy, we also lucked into finding my favorite bird of the week, a stunning male Red-capped Manakin.

The trip ended with 241 species of birds and several interesting mammals including Northern Tamandua, Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, White-faced Capuchin, Mantled Howler Monkey, Lesser Capybara, and Central American Agouti.



Birds of a Feather: Birding and Pokemon

By Steve Shultz

It's hard to be a birder. Or rather, it's hard to explain to someone why I'm a birder. Whether it's at a cocktail party, describing hobbies and interests during the dreaded workplace "get to know you" exercise, or when responding to a roadside inquiry as to "what are you looking at", describing to a non-birder the allure of birdwatching can be challenging. Say to someone, "my hobbies are fishing and cigars" and little else needs to be said. Get a knowing nod and then maybe move into a discussion as to whether Cohibas will still retain their mystique once Cuba opens to commerce, or lament on how "there just aren't as many fish out there as there were in the good old days." But the response to "I'm a birder" is often puzzled silence. After all, do people really just roam around and look for little animals to add to their virtual creel?

But now I have an easy comparison to which most folks can immediately relate. I simply say that birding is like *Pokemon Go*, but replaces virtual pocket monsters with real feathered animals. (For folks not connected to the internet, or who have not ventured outside recently, *Pokemon Go* is a smartphone game app that became the summer of '16s hottest fad. Users travel to physical locations to "capture" virtual cartoon monsters that are displayed overlapped on the user's live video display through use of augmented reality.)

When Pokemon's latest craze swept across the world in mid-July, millions of folks discovered the excitement and sense of accomplishment of navigating to seemingly random locations to "capture" creature's to add to ones menagerie. That, in a nutshell, is birding; or at least my version of it. Drive to a place I've never been before, follow the directions on my smartphone, look

across the field, and *bang*, I add a Say's Phoebe to my list. Or I might strike out on my own to discover what unknown birds may be lurking in forest or fen... a fieldtrip in birding parlance. Eerily similar to roaming the local park for cute pink and yellow monsters, except that my feathered friends actually exist, and I don't have to buy any power balls to secure my sighting. Although that pair of expensive German binoculars might seem rather lavish to the Pokemon user able to "power up" for a dollar or so.

So birders enjoy getting outside, visiting new places, adding sightings to our lists, and meeting people with similar interests. Pokemon users enjoy getting outside, visiting new places, adding creatures to their lists, and meeting people with similar interests. Finally! I can succinctly explain my free-time pursuits in a way that generates continued conversation and reduces the changes of obtaining a blank stare when trying to explain "birding". I just simply say that I'm playing *Pokemon Go*, but substituting birds for pocket monsters.

And will some of the millions of folks enjoying the great outdoors while playing the app discover that a real-world *Pokemon Go* exists? I hope so! For birding offers many of the same benefits of exercise, visits to new places, exploration of the natural world, the excitement of "capturing" a shiny new "sighting", and satisfying the itch to collect "the full set".

The next time you spot a pocket monster collector roaming your neighborhood, consider sharing the allure of birding... you might win a convert and make a new friend!

Welcome New CBC Members!

Melanie & William Bascom
St. Louis, MO

Marilyn & Lyle Burgmann
Simpsonville, SC

William & Margaret Dunson
Galax, VA

Bobbie Eierman
Indian Land, SC

Linda Ellis
Matthews, NC

Jennifer Goddard & Budd Huber
Charleston, SC

Natasha, Alan, Kyra & Kiele Goins
Charlotte, NC

Al Hooks
Christine Browne
Jonas Ridge, NC

Joy Hosier
Danny Thorpe
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Asheville, NC

Molly & Charles Jenkins
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Hickory, NC

Jonathan Rowson
Laurinburg, NC

Lyle Sherburne
Myrtle Beach, SC

Mark Stanback
Davidson, NC

Carol & Elliott Starr
Hudson, NC

John Stewart
Columbia, SC

Jeff Souther & Dana Strickland
Asheboro, NC

Suja Thomas
Raleigh, NC

Jay & Patrice Wiggins
Hendersonville, NC

Carolina Bird Club Online Store

Check out the array of CBC merchandise including:

- Men's and Women's Shirts
- Men's and Women's Sweatshirts and Outerwear
- Stainless Steel Water Bottles and Stainless Steel Mugs
- Tote bags

Visit—<http://www.cafepress.com/carolinabirdclub>





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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2017 - Nags Head, NC
Spring 2017– Winston-Salem, NC

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