



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

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

Volume 64

June 2018

Number 3

Fall Meeting in the Dynamic South Carolina Upstate By Steve McInnis



Falls Park on the Reedy River.

Located in the dynamic South Carolina upcountry, the city of Greenville is our destination for the CBC 2018 Fall Meeting, the weekend of September 21-22. The beautiful Blue Ridge mountains, visible from Greenville, present a compelling lure to many. Within its city limits, Greenville has more than 60 parks, including the Greenville Zoo, with fourteen landscaped acres.

Greenville is nationally acclaimed for its downtown amenities: scenic streets, cultural arts, shops, fine dining and greenways. The beautiful "Falls Park on the Reedy River" greenway boasts of its 60-foot waterfall and a 355-foot long pedestrian suspension bridge. If you want more shopping, take I-385 to the Haywood Mall area for some of the best retail stores and restaurants in the upstate.

Greenville began its revitalization in 1994 commencing with the manufacturing of BMW cars, which has the highest production volume of BMW plants worldwide. If scenic streets, parks, shopping and dining don't entice a non-birding spouse, maybe a day of Driving School at the BMW Performance Center will.

For birders, Greenville offers many enticements. The city is located in a migration flyway with proximity to some of South Carolina's finest birding hot spots and migrant traps. Lake Conestee Nature Park has significantly expanded their trail system and boardwalks since 2012. Lake Conestee will provide several rarities and a long checklist. Nine Times Preserve has added a Naturaland Way, which enormously expands its birding opportunities. Other hot spots are Blue Wall Preserve, Sassafras Mountain, Caesar's Head State Park, Spartanburg's Cottonwood Trail, Anderson County's Dobbins Farm, Prater Farm, Beaverdam WMA, Clemson's Cherry Farm and the S.C. Botanical Garden.

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New Opportunities for Young Birders

Apply for a **full scholarship** to attend the ABA Camp Avocet **July 28-Aug 3 2018**. A variety of 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. The scholarship link is under the "Grant tab" then link to the appropriate application.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), June 2018, Volume 64, Number 3. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Fall Meeting in the Dynamic South Carolina Upstate/Continued By Steve McInnis



Lake Conestee Nature Park.

These hot spots will provide long species lists. Some recent fall warbler sightings include Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, Canada and Wilson's. Broad-winged hawks and Peregrine Falcons are possible migrating raptors. At Caesar's Head, you might see a resident Common Raven.



Dr. Drew Lanham.

After a productive day of seeing many species, you can sit back and enjoy excellent evening presentations. Our keynote speaker on Saturday is Dr. Drew Lanham, an author, a poet and an Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University. Drew is a board member of American Birding Association and National Audubon Society. In 2017, he authored "The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature," which Amazon.com readers rate as 4.8 out of 5-stars. His knowledge level is impressive and you will marvel at his ability to imitate birdcalls.



Tim Lee.

Our Friday night speaker is Tim Lee, an Interpretive Ranger for S.C. State Parks. Tim will speak on Fall Hawk Migration in the Upstate.

A vibrant location, with many hot spots, great birds and excellent speakers, commands a terrific and convenient meeting headquarters. The Greenville Marriott fulfills! This wonderful property is nicely located at Exit #54 (Pelham Rd) on Interstate 85. Our very special room rate is \$123/night, which includes 20%-off coupons for the breakfast buffet. All rooms are equipped with a refrigerator. The guest microwave is located off the lobby, near the hotel mini-store.

The Greenville Marriott will be our location for registration, all evening programs and our Saturday night dinner buffet. They are providing these meeting rooms at a bargain rate. Also, as it is becoming very difficult to find a hotel with large meeting rooms, please show your appreciation by staying at the Marriott. To reserve your room, contact the Greenville Marriott at (864) 297-0300 and be sure to mention you are with the CBC. The Greenville Marriott is a great property, which offers much convenience. You will enjoy your stay. Registration information along with additional meeting and banquet details and field trip descriptions will be in the August Newsletter.



Greenville Marriott.

Make your hotel reservations soon and join us for a bird-filled weekend on September 21-22, 2018.

Carolina Bird Club Bonus Trips to Costa Rica 2018

by Sherry Lane



CBC Birders on the Northern Costa Rica Tour.

Carolina Bird Club sponsored two 10-day back-to-back bonus trips to Costa Rica in February and in March of 2018.

Our first trip was the Northern Costa Rica tour where we visited the best birding sites of the Central Pacific including Carara National Park, the dry northwest known as the Guanacaste, the Northern Caribbean wetlands of Cano Negro, and the Caribbean foothills of scenic Arenal Volcano.

The second tour covered the Southern backbone of Costa Rica, the Talamanca Highlands and Cerro de la Muerte. We also traveled to the Pacific foothills including Los Cusungos Reserve and Talari Mountain Lodge ending in the SW coastal lowlands of Esquinas Rainforest and the Rincon Bridge of the Osa Peninsula. /Continued P. 4



*Charming Hummingbird
at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge.
Photographed by Steven Easley.*



*Green-and-rufous Kingfisher
at Cano Negro.
Photographed by Steven Easley.*

Carolina Bird Club Bonus Trips to Costa Rica 2018/Continued by Sherry Lane

Each tour included nine CBC birders, myself as leader, a dedicated bus driver and our excellent local guide, Steven Easley.

We totaled 508 bird species, three monkey species, both sloth species, lots of reptiles including American Crocodile and Speckled Caiman.

For a more detailed description of the February and the March bonus trip reports, please visit our CBC website.

Plans are underway for another Carolina Bird Club bonus trip to Costa Rica in 2019!

Watch the CBC newsletter for details.

Pura Vida,
Sherry Lane



CBC Birders in Southern Costa Rica.



*Yellow-throated Toucans.
Photographed by Sherry Lane.*



*Pale-billed Woodpecker.
Photographed by Sherry Lane.*



*Ocellated Antbird.
Photographed by Steven Easley .*

CBC Bonus Field Trips

Bonus Field Trips are open only to CBC members in good standing (i.e., your dues must be paid up). Would you like to go on a field trip but aren't a CBC member? It is perfectly OK to join the CBC at the same time you register for a field trip. Information on joining the CBC can be found on our [Membership Page](#) on the CBC Website—www.carolinabirdclub.org.

The CBC in Panama - January 2018

Article and Photos By Steve Shultz

Supertanker. Toucan. Quetzal. Bridge of the Americas.

What do these seemingly unrelated words have in common, and what, pray tell, do they have to do with the Carolina Bird Club? All are things spotted by members in Panama, host of an incredible CBC “bonus trip” in January 2018!

Searching high and low for birds (literally, from knees on the ground peering into the foliage for a White-bellied Antbird to earning a crick in the neck watching wintering warblers) eight members of the CBC tallied 300 species of birds, three types of monkey, two versions of sloth, and more happy memories than could fill a Shutterfly photobook while visiting locations in central and western Panama.

Our trip began with a meet and greet at the Radisson Summit golf resort situated atop the continental divide north of Panama City. In addition to reasonably luxurious surroundings for a birding adventure, the hotel grounds offered tantalizing tastes of birds to be seen including pairs of Amazon parrots flying to roost, more tanagers than a stick could shake, and visits with “our” wintering birds like Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Tennessee Warbler.



Peering into the foliage for a White-bellied Antbird.



Birding along the Canal.

In the former Canal Zone area, we visited such hallowed-birding-ground sites as Pipeline Road, Summit Ponds, Ammo Dump Ponds, and spent an amazing afternoon at the Rainforest Discovery Center’s canopy tower and hummingbird feeder set-up.

With six species of hummingbird flitting literally inches away from observer and camera, it was hard to pick a favorite, although many would consider the male Rufous-crested Coquette perched nearby an entrant in the “Trip Top Five List”.

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The CBC in Panama - January 2018/Continued

By Steve Shultz



Flight to David

Mammals managed to draw our attention away from the birds from time to time, with Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth, Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, Geoffrey's Tamarin, White-headed Capuchin, and Mantled Howler earning spots on our "mammal list".

Taking a break from the humid jungle, Wednesday afternoon found the group standing in the shadow of Panama City skyscrapers scoping the Pacific Ocean shoreline for waders and shorebirds. Rare-for-the-area Cooi Heron and American White Pelican take the cake for least-common birds, while the sheer number of shorebirds (we counted thousands) impressed.

Leaving the flats, we passed through the busy city once more before catching a late afternoon flight to David in Chiriquí Province. From David a van ride of just over an hour delivered us to Volcan, a tiny town perched on the western flanks of Volcan Baru, Panama's highest point. Trading the lowland heat and humidity for rushing mountain streams, cool breezes, and coffee plantations, our target the next morning was none other than what many consider the most spectacular species in Central America, Resplendent Quetzal.



Red-headed Barbet.



Quetzal.

We planned two days to try and maximize our chances of seeing this incredible bird, but needed just the first morning, and a walk of about ten yards from the van, to enjoy crippling looks at a pair of quetzals munching on avocados.

The rest of the morning was gravy, but gravy with names like Flame-throated Warbler, Black-cheeked Warbler, Collared Redstart, and Blue-throated Toucanet. We ended the day relaxing beside a rushing mountain stream on the grounds of the Hotel Dos Rios with a refreshing beverage and a Long-billed Starthroat. Does it get any better than this?

Maybe. For some, the highlight of the trip may have been the next morning's visit to Paraiso Birding Paradise near the resort town of Boquete. With forty (!) hummingbird feeders, landowner and birder Mishael Rivera attracts not only hummingbirds like Lesser and Brown Violetear, but with native habitat optimized for birds, an impressive list of non-hummers as well.

We tallied highlights including Sunbittern, Fiery-billed Aracaris (attending a feeding platform) and Lessor's Motmot while learning about land conservation issues and initiatives in this rapidly-growing area.

And what better way to celebrate another incredible morning of birding than with a cup of fresh Panamanian coffee from a shady hilltop patio? While visiting the Janson Coffee Farm we not only got to taste and enjoy the nuevo-popular Geisha Coffee, some of the most exclusive and expensive coffee in the world, but more trip ticks like the White-winged Tanager flitted in the trees just a few feet away!



Birding at the coffee farm.



Fiery-billed Aracari.

Many would argue their favorite location, and may make a valid claim, but certainly a week with seven species of manakin, four each of motmot and trogon, the quetzal, and 21 species of warbler must be in the running!

After another impressive day in the highlands on Saturday, the group birded downslope to the David airport, picking up the world's second smallest raptor, Pearl Kite, just before catching the evening flight to Panama City. As the plane descended past the brilliantly lit Bridge of the Americas to a landing in the capital, we had to wonder: is this the best birding spot in Central America?



Dinner at the Hotel Dos Rios.

Finding the Best Birding Binoculars

By Gary Harbour

After three years as a Birder, using my Nikon Monarch 5 binoculars, I decided I was serious enough to treat myself to a new and better pair. The Monarch 5 was a great binocular to start with given the price point. For my search for an upgrade I began by asking for recommendations from Greenville County Bird Club members, who have a very active email list, as well as carolinabirds@duke.edu. I also did a lot of online research, as well as visiting Cabela's, which from what I know has the biggest selection of Binoculars in-store in the Greenville area. This led me to what I thought were the top three Binoculars, for birders, currently on the market.

Swarovski EL 8.5x42

Leica Noctivid 8x42

Zeiss Victory SF

I took an extended simultaneous look at all three, and I thought I would share my thoughts for anyone interested. I ordered all three pairs on-line from B&H Photo in NYC, who have a generous 30 day return policy. My intent was to do head-to-head testing and keep only the pair that I loved.



Leica Noctivid 8x42

I started with the Noctivid, which is Leica's follow on to the popular Ultravid. These glasses had vivid color that popped out at you. I'm very-slightly color blind and have some trouble with distinguishing shades of red and green. But not with these. They pop so much you can't miss them, they're supernatural. Overall the view is a bit "saturated" and "under-exposed" which allows the viewer to see details and color very clearly. They also have phenomenal 3D perception. When looking at landscapes I could see the lay of the land like I'd never seen it before. This was partially due to their exceedingly large depth of field. I also noticed a big difference in weight from my Monarchs, these glasses are heavy. They are so packed with glass they were hard for me to hold up for longer periods. They also had a much larger Field of View (FOV) verses the Monarchs.

Next I tried out the Zeiss Victory SF. They're claim to fame is a super-large FOV. To give you an idea, the FOV (@100m) for my Monarch's is 108m, the Noctivid's 135m, and the Victory's is a whopping 148m. While 135m verses



Zeiss Victory SF

148m might sound like it's only 9%, remember, as a viewer it's not only the width of the FOV that matters, but rather the entire circle of the FOV, which, goes up with the square of the radius. So the Victory has 20% more viewing area than the Noctivid, which is the first thing that strikes you when you look through these glasses. I found this allowed me to locate birds in the bush and find and follow birds in flight more easily. By getting on them quicker I could see more details and make more positive IDs. The Victory's were also a surprising pleasure to use, despite being the longest binoculars in the bunch. It turns out, the length allowed Zeiss to use fewer and lighter lenses and put more of the lens weight at the eye-piece end. This makes them the lightest pair in the group as well as bringing that weight in toward the user, making them feel even lighter.

So what's the downside? Well they don't have quite the color pop or the 3D effect of the Noctivids. I put this down to a slightly "less saturated" or "more-exposed" image, which to my eye gave a very natural look. But in comparison things look a little washed out by the brightness of these glasses when directly compared to the Noctivids. Despite the "exposure" difference of the two glasses, they were equivalent, to my eye, in low light conditions. I only found an issue with intense light.



Swarovski EL 8.5x42

The third pair of binoculars that I looked at were the Swarovski's. They were nice glasses, but they are by now an 8-year old design (2010), where the Zeiss are 1 year old and the Ultravid brand new. I think they suffer a little from needing an update to catch up. They have a nice design and good feel, but I couldn't find anything particularly to make them stand out against the two newer designs.

They do have 8.5x magnification vs 8x for the others but this was practically meaningless in my hands. I used the USAF-1951 T-21 resolution chart set at different distances in different lights and could not tell the difference between any of these binoculars. Finally, the Swarovski's (partly due to the 8.5x) have

the smallest FOV at 133m. This gave me the feeling of looking through a long tube with dark (black) rings blocking my peripheral vision. The close focus distance on these was nice, but practically matched by the Zeiss.

I took the Zeiss Victory SF's to the winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club in Wrightsville Beach, and was very happy with them. They let me quickly pick out a Parasitic Jaeger, with it's dark grey form, chasing a Ring-billed Gull, over a dark ocean under full cloud-cover before they disappeared down the coast. I also enjoyed my views of the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers amongst the pines of Holly Shelter Game Land. Next time you see me, I be wearing a pair of Zeiss Victory SF's around my neck.

Good Birding,
Gary



Gary Harbour Birding with his Zeiss Victory SF Binoculars.

A note to recommend B&H Photo:
No sales tax, no shipping, generous return policy, fair prices, always available for "online chat" (and...if you ask they will give you an instant discount on anything.)
I was offered from \$50 to \$300 discounts on each of the binoculars just by asking.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific association open to anyone interested in the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds. The Club meets each winter, spring, and fall at different locations in the Carolinas. Meeting sites are selected to give participants an opportunity to see many different kinds of birds. Guided field trips and informative programs are combined for an exciting weekend of meeting with people who share an enthusiasm and concern for birds. The Club offers research grants in avian biology for undergraduate and graduate students, and scholarships for young birders. The Club publishes two periodicals: *The Chat* (published online only) is a quarterly ornithological journal that contains scientific articles, reports of bird records committees and bird counts and general field notes on bird sightings. The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly (on line and in hard copy) and includes birding articles and information about meetings, field trips and Club news. By becoming a member, you support the activities of the Club, receive reduced registration fee for meetings, can participate in bonus field trips and receive our publications.

[Join by visiting carolinabirdclub.org](http://carolinabirdclub.org)

CBC News and Announcements

Cornelia Bowling Carrier from Charleston, SC, who had been a Carolina Bird Club member since 2002, passed away on April 8, 2017. She left a generous monetary gift to support the Young Birders Scholarship Fund.

A Cornelia Carrier Young Birder Scholarship has been created, which will provide at least one full paid scholarship yearly. The Carolina Bird Club wishes to express its deep gratitude for her gift. For years to come this gift will support the youth who will carry on the preservation and conservation of wildlife, particularly the birds of the Carolinas.



Cornelia Bowling Carrier.

2017-2018 Awarded Grants

Geotagging Seaside Sparrow and Painted Buntings researching their seasonal breeding/wintering grounds in South Carolina

Investigating spatial patterns of mercury and rodenticide burdens in raptors

Assessing breeding-season home ranges of Hermit Thrush in Black Mountain NC

Avian Conservation Center in Charleston for education and medical support

Equipment for a new program "Birding the Barrier Islands" at Cape Hatteras Ocean Center

Ongoing Conservation Effort

Rocky Point Community Forest in Georgetown County, SC.

CBC participated, in 2015, in a unique conservation partnership that acquired land for public recreation and native forest restoration. Follow the link to read about the latest steps towards the opening of Rocky Point Community Forest. Winyah Rivers Foundation will monitor this community forest. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new boat ramp date to be determined. The Public Park opening will be later spring or summer. Follow progress at: https://www.facebook.com/events/1638405619614316/?active_tab=about

Wanted:

- Do you have a meeting snapshot to share? Send to webmaster@carolinabirdclub.org
- Articles for the newsletter, such as book reviews, festivals, rallies, etc. of interest or birding technology, hotspot reviews, anything in regards to the CBC mission.
- Donate your gently used guide and bird related books to Seasonal Meeting. The sales are donated to the Young Birders.
- Please inform CBC of any local camps, workshops or training programs for Young Birders in your area. They will be added to a list of possible Scholarship awarded events for young birders. Send to: ybc@carolinabirdclub.org

Welcome New CBC Members!

Louisa Adam
Chapin, SC

Laura Krebs
Snowflake, AZ

Sasha Azevedo
North Charleston, SC

Sara Lawrey
Washington, VA

Donna, Haley & Hunter Bradford
Raleigh, NC

Sarah Lenda
Raleigh, NC

Howard Browsers
Waynesville, NC

Robert & Paula McLean
Baltimore, MD

Barbara Carter
Fayetteville, NC

Anita McQuillen
Greenville, SC

Ronald Cedrone
Charlotte, NC

Nora Murdock
Bat Cave, NC

Andrea & Richard Ceonzo
Durham, NC

Rebecca Pegueros
Fayetteville, NC

Judith Davis
Brevard, NC

Michael Plauche
Pisgah Forest, NC

Dorsey Dunn
Pinehurst, NC

Jean Roland
Whiteville, NC

Shelia Ellia
Taylorsville, NC

Pamela Smith
Holden Beach, NC

Douglas Hughes
Ocean Isle Beach, NC

Sharon & Rick Yomtob
Alcolu, SC

Phoebe Kilby
Asheville, NC

Paula & Eric Zellner
Fayetteville, NC

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization that represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- **To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.**
- **To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.**
- **To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.**
- **To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.**



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2018—Greenville, SC

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

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 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 © 2018.

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