



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



An approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing

31 October 2017

Three Interesting Trips to Cuba



Here are short summary introductions to three upcoming trips to Cuba, all dedicated to bringing you closer to birds, nature, and the Cuban experience. They are all scheduled for early 2018, and they may fill up fast.

The first is the most novel of the three. It's dedicated to "Conservational" Spanish and is an opportunity to interact with Cuban nature and naturalists while improving your Spanish (11 February - 21 February - c. \$3,400). The delegation is sponsored by [The Friendship Association](#).

This 11-day experience is especially designed for curious naturalists, conservationists, birders, and amateur ecologists who want to move from a "tourist Spanish" to a slightly higher level while interacting in a meaningful way with a variety of Cuban nature specialists. To make the most of the experience, participants should have a grasp of some basic Spanish prior to the trip. In "Conservational Spanish," conservation and conversation come together to deepen an understanding of Cuba, the Cuban people, and nature. The trip will emphasize the Spanish language and a conceptual study of birds, nature, conservation, and the new international and creole cuisine in Cuba.

Among other experiences, the group will meet and exchange ideas with Cuban naturalists in such bio-rich areas as Las Terrazas, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; the beautiful Viñales Valley and National Park, with its great hiking and birding opportunities; the Ciénaga de Zapata, and, of course, Old Havana with its fascinating urban ecology.

Besides meeting with Cuban colleagues throughout the trip, participants will be helped along every day by Soledad Pagliuca, experienced traveler, cultural interlocutor, and bilingual leader from The Friendship Association; Paul Baicich, bird conservationist and author; and Kathleen (Kate) Hennessey, professor, linguist, and translator. All three are experienced Cuba travelers.

You can find the full details here on [this special Cuba trips focusing on "Conservational Spanish."](#)



Cuban Emerald - P.J. Baicich

The second trip of interest is run by colleagues from BirdsCaribbean on the Caribbean Birding Trail in Cuba. It's an 8-day trip in January (24-31 - c.\$3,700), with some great stops at Viñales, Las Terrazas, Zapata, and more. Trip leader: Lisa Sorenson; Bird Guide: Ernesto Reyes Mourino. Get the essential [details here](#).

The third trip is also via BirdsCaribbean. This one is an 11-day experience, much like the previous one. It's in March (14-24 - c. \$4,300). It includes some other locations, however, especially Cayo Coco on the north coast. The leaders are again, Lisa Sorenson and Ernesto Reyes Mourino. You can get the full trip [details here](#).

(A portion of the proceeds from the two BirdsCaribbean trips helps support the organization's conservation programs in Cuba and elsewhere in the Caribbean.)

And... a Guatemala experience

For an interesting bird trip to Guatemala, consider a trip that covers the Lake Atitlan area, Posada del Quetzal, Laguna Chichoj, the famous Tikal, and at least two more National Parks. The effort connects in a locally-based conservation experience for the Mayan communities of the cloud forest and pine-oak. The folks involved restore healthy farming practices for nutritious crops and save the forest for birds.

You can experience a great mix of wintering Neotropical migrants added to the many fascinating resident species.



There is a trip in January (4-14) and one in March (16-25). Both are c. 10-11 days and cost c. \$2,100. For specific details, contact [Andrew Dolby](#).

Revisiting the historic CCC ***- current lessons from the New Deal experience***



In February 2014, we reported in these pages on the efforts by then Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, to support a [21st Century Conservation Corps](#), an effort to put thousands of young American to work healing the land. The proposal, which still stands, would support those organizations that keep about 20,000 young American and veterans at this work. (Various state-based programs have been run in a number of states, including California, Texas, Montana, Washington, Minnesota, and Vermont.)

The proposal evokes memories of the famous Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the New Deal Effort which put an astounding three million young men to work at parks, refuges, and forests, planting trees, setting up trails, building diked wetlands, saving the soil, and so much more.

Secretary Jewell had first outlined her perspective the previous October, at the National Press Club. The idea was commendable, but far too small, given our overall backlog of land-based needs and given the numbers of young men and women who still need to be provided creative and fulfilling work in the country.

That issue of *Great Birding Projects* can be [found on our archives](#).

Last week, on the website pages of *The Nation Daily*, [a new article appeared](#) by Paul J. Baicich, on "the bigger picture" of why the U.S. still needs a new CCC, how FDR's concept worked in the 1930s, and lessons for us today. While acknowledging at least four serious flaws in the CCC special emphasis was made in the article on the ability of a new CCC to address our country's rural/urban divide, take a new look at different kinds of "green jobs," provide training and apprenticeships for our youth, and potentially soothe justified union resistance to such a program.

You can access the piece on *The Nation* [website](#).

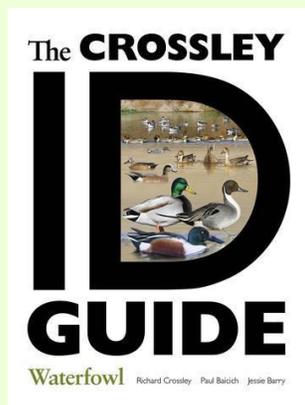
Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl

The new *Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl*, by Richard Crossley, Paul Baicich, and Jessie Barry, has recently become available.

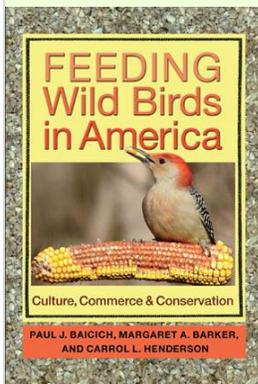
This new standard in waterfowl books, with the award-winning Crossley-style plates, is perfect for beginning and intermediate birders and kids. It is also destined to please legions of avid waterfowl hunters. There is something for everyone, from bird educator to wildlife manager. The book contains over 300 pages of images, using over 5,000 individual shots. The book covers all of North America's ducks, geese, and swans. It has a friendly, interactive writing style covering identification, life history, and vital conservation. For those who enjoy the challenge, there are also lots of mystery photos to explore.

View the waterfowl in their different and specific habitat backgrounds, see individual birds and flocks near and far, examine them from different angles, and study various plumages and behaviors, including flight.

To find out more and to order your own copy, go to [Richard Crossley's website](#).



Speakers for *Feeding Wild Birds in America*



The authors of *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce & Conservation* (Paul Baicich, Margaret Barker, and Carrol Henderson) continue to line up talks, interviews, and book-signings with bird and garden clubs, nature centers, festivals, parks and refuges, and stores. The presentations by these co-authors cover a wide range of bird-feeding history topics, linked with practical lessons for today.

- For talks, book signings, festivals, interviews, etc. please contact [Margaret Barker](#).
- To order an individual copy of the book, use [this order-form](#).

Words to Consider:

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

- E. B. White (1899-1985) reporter, writer, essayist, critic



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

GBP Bulletin Archives

Great Birding Projects is a vehicle to promote a creative approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing. GBP functions as a bridge to an innovative engagement between people and birds. You can access all previous issues of the *GBP* bulletin on the GBP website [here](#).

