

Birds and Beasts in Botswana and Beyond

Program Description

Botswana is a wildlife-lover's paradise, with millions of acres of public land sporting some of the largest elephant, zebra, buffalo and wildebeest herds in the world, with antelope species galore. Botswana's bird list sits at 580 while the larger southern African region around Botswana hosts more than 1,000 bird species. Pat and Karin lived in the region for 14 months in 2010-11; they were based in Botswana but traveled extensively in Namibia and South Africa. Then they concluded their sojourn with a 4-month, self-drive safari/camping trip in their 4x4 across the most remote reserves of Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana. They saw more than 600 species of birds, canoe-camped down the mighty Zambezi River, flew into an island camp in the vast Okavango Delta, and waded through Zambia's sprawling Bangewelu Swamp ("Dr. Livingston, I presume?") to get a glimpse of the ever elusive Shoebill. They had lions, leopards, hyenas, hippos, elephants and much more in their campsites in what they are afraid just might be the trip of their lifetime.

Speaker Information

Karin Tanquist is a former president of the Kirtland Bird Club, a volunteer at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History where she prepares bird specimens, and a Registered Nurse currently working at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna. Patrick Coy is Professor and Director of the Center for Applied Conflict Management at Kent State University. He teaches and publishes on mediation, environmental conflict resolution, social movements, nonviolent action, and human rights. He received a US Fulbright Scholar award in 2010 — 2011, teaching and researching at the University of Botswana where he was affiliated with the Research Center on San Studies.