

NewsHawk



www.nashvillebirds.org

4th Quarter, 2024

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NewsHawk deadline is the 15th of
the month prior to publication
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Our Websites

TOS www.tnbirds.org
NTOS www.nashvillebirds.org
NTOS Facebook *Nashville TOS*

**One minute you are
young and cool,
maybe even a little
dangerous, and the
next minute you are
reading reviews for
birdseeds.**

Oldtimers9.com

How in the world can this be our 4th quarter NewsHawk already?? Time just seems to be going faster and faster. Not sure about you but I need it to slow down just a bit!

We had a nice summer break in July and August. It gave us all the opportunity to refresh and renew our commitment to NTOS. We then 'flocked' back together in September for our annual Potluck Event. Many thanks to all who brought delicious food and treats to share.

A few months ago, the decision was made to place our Membership Directory on our webpage on a password protected page for 'members only'. <https://www.nashvillebirds.org/ntos-membership-access/> We did this not only for ease of access for our members but also with conservation in mind; saving both a bit of money and a few trees. By now you should have received an email with that password so you as a current or life member can have access to that page. If you did not receive it or are having issues accessing the page, please contact me and I'll do what I can to assist you.

Our Wednesday morning walks began on September 18th with Richard Conners leading the group. Kevin Bowden led walk #2 on September 25th . Susie Russenberger will be leading our 3rd walk on October 2nd and we'll round out the Fall season with Steve Lasley leading the group on October 9th . MANY THANKS to all these volunteers! Our Wednesday morning walks continue to be an excellent resource for outreach and without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to keep them going.

Looking ahead...our Fall Count is Saturday, October 5th . If you've not signed up to count that day, please contact Barbara Harris - harrbarbara@bellsouth.net She'll hook you up with a route and an area leader.

Our Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 14th . I've been coordinating the land portion of this count for quite a few years now and I'd love it if someone else would step up and take it over. It's not hard...just a bit of coordinating with wonderful area leaders prior to the Event. Then a bit of online reporting to Audubon an email to TOS with count numbers and that's about that. Scott Block makes all the reporting incredibly simply with his amazing reporting system. If you think you might be interested, please contact me – routledges@bellsouth.net – and I'll get you all set up.

The second Christmas Bird Count (we refer to as the Lake count) will take place on Wednesday, January 1st . Tarcila Fox will be coordinating having taken the reins from long-time coordinator Richard Conners. Contact Tarcila if you want to usher in the new year by assisting with this count - tarcila@bellsouth.net We THANK both Richard and Tarcila for keeping this count going.

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Finally, as migration continues and then as winter sets in, please keep an eye out for western winter hummingbirds and please report any sightings or reports to me – routledges@bellsouth.net as I continue this ongoing winter study in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky.

Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving and have a wonderful Christmas season! Till next time...

Cyndi Routledge

NTOS President

Fourth Quarter 2024 Programs for NewsHawk

Upcoming NTOS Meeting Programs NTOS meetings are held at the Radnor Lake Visitors Center on the third Thursday of every month. Meet and Greet at 7:00 pm; Business Meeting at 7:15; Program at 7:30 pm.

October 17 – Birding in Spain by Ron Hoff

An easy birding trip to Spain was a target trip for Ron and his wife, Dollyann Myers, along with their good friend, Janice Chadwell. The trip started in the south, near the strait of Gibraltar, and ran north for 16 days, eventually going all the way into the Pyrenees Mountains. Being in mid to late April this year, they were able to see some of the spring migration. A lovely country, great birds, and good food made for an overall wonderful trip. Ron is an accomplished bird photographer and was president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society for two years. He and Dollyann have traveled worldwide and have seen close to 9,000 species of birds.

November 21 – Birds of Madagascar by Chris Sloan

Madagascar is so biologically unique that it is often called the Eighth Continent. Though it is situated off the coast of east Africa, it was more recently connected to India than any part of Africa! As a result, the overwhelming majority of all birds, mammals, reptiles and other life forms on the island are found nowhere else. Chris Sloan will share stories and photos of lemurs, vangas, sifakas, couas, ground-rollers, fodies, and other strange and bizarre creatures found during a three-week trip in October and November 2023.

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2024 NTOS Field Trips

Saturday, October 5th - NTOS Fall Count

Due to the statewide TOS meeting in September, the NTOS fall count will take place on October 5th. We hope that you will join other members of NTOS for our annual fall count. This important citizen science project allows us to track long-term population trends of species and can be a vital part of making informed conservation decisions. There are routes all around town, including Old Hickory Lake, Shelby Park and Bottoms, Radnor Lake, Bells Bend, etc... so pick a count that makes sense for you and count for as long as you you'd like. For those interested, please contact Barbara Harris at harrbarbara@bellsouth.net so she can put you in touch with the route leader for the count of your choice.

Saturday, October 12th - Lytle Park, Nashville

Come explore Nashville's newest addition to its already impressive park system! Located at the confluence of the Cumberland and Stones River just a few miles east of downtown, Lytle Park consists of roughly 600 acres of woodlands, shrubby fields, pastures, and ponds. The property is situated in a large bend of the Stones River, and is surrounded by rolling hills, high bluffs, and limestone shelves. The former farm was purchased with help from The Nature Conservancy, which is leading efforts to restore former cattle pastures to native grassland. We will meet at 7:00am at the newly completed parking lot and playground in adjacent Ravenwood Park in

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**December 16 – Birding in Costa Rica
by Cyndi Routledge**

Costa Rica had long been on our bucket list of destinations to bird and thanks to Susan Hubley, TOS member from East TN, we were able to do just that in February of 2024. Along with 7 other TOS members we spent a couple weeks exploring the eastern Caribbean slope, western Pacific coast and the central Highlands of this diverse compact country. We saw a total of 421 species and enjoyed Costa Rica’s cuisine and warm hospitality. We look forward to sharing a bit of our experiences with you.

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Hermitage, which in and of itself boasts a nice array of habitat on the former golf course property. Trails are unimproved for the most part so sturdy shoes and bug spray are recommended. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net Please include “NTOS Field Trip” in the subject line.)

Saturday, November 12th - Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge

After a hiatus last fall, we will pick back up with our annual tradition of visiting Duck River just before the seasonal closure of the refuge. By mid-November, lots of waterfowl should already have returned and we have a chance to spot up to 20 species. Duck River also hosts a large population of wintering raptors and we’ll be on the lookout for eagles, harriers, hawks, and falcons. We will also keep an eye out for sparrows, and we’ll have the chance to find at least 10 species – we will have an optional sparrow stomp though some marshy fields for LeConte’s sparrow and others. For logistical reasons, carpooling is highly encouraged. We’ll meet at the MTA Park-and-Ride in Bellevue and leave at 6:15am; you can also meet us at the refuge entrance at 8:00am. Please dress for the weather and bring plenty of water and snacks. If you wish to participate in the sparrow stomp, waterproof shoes or muck boots are highly recommended. We should finish up around mid-day or early afternoon. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net Please include “NTOS Field Trip” in the subject line.)

December - Christmas Bird Counts

In lieu of a field trip, we hope that you will join our annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. This longstanding tradition has been going strong for over 100 years which makes it invaluable for tracking long-term population trends. You don’t need to be an expert in order to contribute – just bring your enthusiasm and a pair of binoculars! The “land” count will take place on Saturday, December 14th, and the count circle includes Bells Bend, Radnor Lake, Warner Park, the Harpeth River area, Hwy 70, and West Meade. The “lakes” count will be on January 1st, 2025, and includes Shelby Bottoms, Percy Priest Lake, Pennington Bend, and Old Hickory Lake. So pick a count that makes sense for you and count for as long as you’d like. For those interested, please contact Cyndi Routledge (routledges@bellsouth.net) for the land count and Richard Connors (rconnorsphoto@aol.com) for the lake count, and they can assign you to the route of your choice.

Winter Hummingbirds

- Do you have hummingbirds at your feeder **after** November 1st or **before** March 15th?
- Do you see hummingbirds that are **not** ruby-throated during either migration season?



What do you do?

1. Try and get a picture!
2. Contact us at: routledges@bellsouth.net



- If you are willing, we’ll travel to your place and attempt to band the hummingbird.
- It will then become part of our ongoing winter hummingbird research.



If you have any questions OR need general information please feel free to reach out to us.



If you are too busy to go birding, you’re too busy.

Robert E. Holtz

Tennessee's State Wildlife Action Plan

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is currently working on their 10-year comprehensive revision to Tennessee's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

The TN SWAP is the most extensive conservation assessment and planning document produced in the state every 10 years, the last one was completed in 2015. The purpose is to proactively conserve species at risk from becoming federally-listed as threatened or endangered and to help recover species already imperiled and listed. It takes a systematic, data-driven approach to keep "common species common" and is implemented as follows:

1. Determination of which wildlife and native plants are in greatest need of conservation (shortened to SGCN, for Species of Greatest Conservation Need);
2. Compilation of recent and historical SGCN occurrence records (weighted temporally) to identify habitats needed the most by SGCNs;
3. Objective analysis of threats and stressors affecting SGCN populations and/or their prioritized habitats;
4. Identifying conservation opportunities that will yield the greatest positive impact on SGCNs and the habitats vital to their survival;
5. Detailed monitoring and evaluation plans to help us know how successful conservation efforts are at protecting and enhancing SGCN wildlife and plants; and lastly
6. Engagement of fellow Tennesseans, conservation practitioners, and other stakeholders to increase awareness, education, collaboration, and ultimately that the SWAP guides the conservation and protection of the beautiful, diverse natural heritage unique to Tennessee.

Although TWRA is ultimately responsible for producing the SWAP, it is a plan for all Tennesseans and includes all habitats in all regions of the state. NTOS/TOS has a stake in the effectiveness of this plan and was consulted for our input initially and ongoing.

The 2025 SWAP Plan will be released in spring of 2025. If you're interested in receiving updates you can sign-up here - <https://mailchi.mp/cb59eb11e904/tennessee-2025-swap-updates> You can contact David Hanni - david.hanni@tn.gov if you have any additional questions about the plan or the process.

Go Birding on October Big Day

Remember last October Big Day? Checklists on 14 October 2023 helped make it the single biggest day in October birding history!

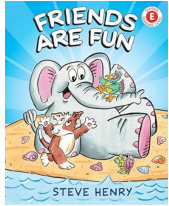
This year's October Big Day is just a few days away on **Saturday, October 12th**, and we're hoping for an even bigger turnout. So, grab some friends and go birding on 12 October!

Can you submit even more checklists than you did last year? Together, let's make this October Big Day another one for the record books. Plus, you'll be celebrating [World Migratory Bird Day](#) and [Global Bird Weekend](#).

Visit [October Big Day 2024](#) for more October Big Day tips and information. Thank you for joining us. We can't wait to hear what you find!

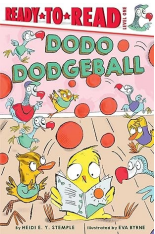
Book Reviews by Cindy Kershner

If you're looking for a gift for a youngster in your life, here are six picture books about birds that would make good gifts. Aimed at the nonreader or beginning reader, all were published in 2024.



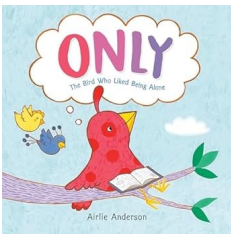
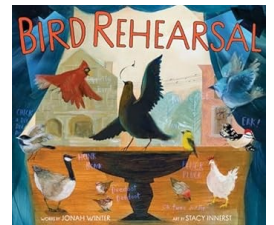
Friends Are Fun. Written and illustrated by Steve Henry. Fun and colorful drawings show Pete the parrot as new friends arrive on his tropical island. When a storm comes, they help each other. Some friends leave, but Pete is happy with friends or alone.

Pizza for Birds. Written and illustrated by Bob Shea. In this follow-up to *Chez Bob*, alligator Bob finds he has competition for feeding the birds with his Chez Bob Birdseed. Newly arrived alligator Ryan delivers pizza AND does cool bike tricks. In the end, Bob learns to be stronger and happier by working with others, especially Ryan. (Bob Shea evidently likes puns, with his *Chez Bob*.)



Dodo Dodgeball. Written by Heidi E. Y. Stemple and illustrated by Eva Byrne. In this Ready-To-Read book, new student Chick is interested in reading and not in playing dodgeball, despite Coach Dodo's encouragement and the fact that the other students are all playing. In the end, everyone learns something from Chick, especially that reading is fun.

Bird Rehearsal. Written by Jonah Winter and illustrated by Stacy Innerst. The only words in most of this book are the phonetic representations of bird songs and calls, and the reader can say them as many times as their young audience wants to listen. At the end of the book is an informative list of who's who in the cast.



Only: The Bird Who Liked Being Alone. Written and illustrated by Airlie Anderson. Being alone, being with others, being quiet or being noisy...all have a place in this bright and happy book that will especially appeal to the young introvert in your life.

What's Inside a Bird's Nest and Other Questions about Nature and Life Cycles. Written and illustrated by Rachel Ignotofsky. What goes on in the nest is only a part of this thoroughly informative and entertaining nonfiction book. Youngsters can learn a lot, and frankly, an adult beginning to learn about birds easily could too!

