

NewsHawk



www.nashvillebirds.org

1st Quarter, 2025

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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](#)

President's Message...

It's a cold mid-December afternoon, I just made a 5-hour round-trip to band a wintering juvenile rufous hummingbird in Smith County, and now here I sit composing the 1Q President's message. I well remember being a kid and thinking it was an eternity till Christmas arrived! Now the weeks are soon a month and the months a year...time passing much too quickly for my liking and here we are again at the end of another year. I hope 2024 held special moments and grand adventures for each of you and that as you experienced each one you were able to capture that feeling of joy and wonder we all did as kids when we knew Christmas had finally arrived!

Our organization will turn 110 years old this year! It has been a wonderful journey of conservation and voluntarism which very much continues today. I want to take this opportunity to personally THANK all those who volunteered in 2024...those who lead a field trip or a Wednesday morning walk...to those who presented a monthly program...to those who participated in our spring, fall and Christmas Bird Counts...to those who responded to our Action Alerts...to those who attended outreach events to spread the word about birds and what NTOS is all about.

Special thanks sent out to...

Mike Smith for our wonderful monthly field trips...
Cherie Parker for coordinating our monthly programs...
Angie Elmore for our quarterly newsletters and serving as a State Director...
Margie Dunham our secretary for keeping our Minutes for posterity...
Pam Lasley our Treasurer for keeping our accounts in fine order and for welcoming new members each month...
Steve Routledge for a smile and a name tag at each meeting...
Susan Hollyday our Historian, Curator and keeper of the 100th year celebratory posters...
Melinda Welton for keeping up with Legislative measures and keeping us informed...
Amy Pardo, Jerry Webb, Hugh Barger and Ken Oeser for also serving as State Directors and representing NTOS at TOS meetings...
Barbara Harris for coordinating our Spring and Fall counts...
Richard Connors and Tarcila Fox for coordinating the 'lake' Christmas Bird Count
Scott Block for the link and work of compiling all our count data.
THANK YOU one and all!!!

Volunteering can be so inspiring and can create amazing friendships. It's not just about the field trip or office held, it's about creating connections, inspiring others, and building a stronger birding community. Every hour you give to NTOS has the power to create change and that change ripples outward in ways you can't even imagine.



The CryptoNaturalist
@CryptoNature

Hummingbirds: I shall sip nectar from this flower in a silent ballet.

Woodpeckers: I'MMA STAB THE BUGS OUTTA THIS TREE WITH MY FACE-KNIFE!!!

9/6/18, 9:49 PM

So, as we begin a new year, I challenge each of you to find a way to volunteer for NTOS. What is your special talent? How can you contribute?? Maybe it's serving on the Nominating Committee, or leading a Wednesday morning migration walk? Could it be sitting at a table at an outreach event or mentoring a young birder? Perhaps it is ultimately holding office and guiding our organization into the future? Whatever you choose, know that your efforts will create ripples of positive change for birds, conservation and NTOS and ensure our organization not only survives but thrives into the future.

Till next time...

Happy birding!

Cyndi Routledge

NTOS President

First Quarter 2025 NTOS Programs

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society meetings are held at the Radnor Lake Visitors Center at 1160 Otter Creek Road on the third Thursday of every month (except July and August). We usually gather and greet one another at 7:00 pm; have a Business Meeting at 7:15; which is followed by a program at 7:30 pm.

January 16, 2025 - "Feather Coloration vs Light Refraction" Presented by Brandon Sandoval

Brandon Sandoval is a Life Support Technician at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere. He recently joined the bird staff of the Zoo as an animal caretaker. During his time on the bird team, he was able to utilize molted feathers from a Hyacinth Macaw, Blue-bellied Roller and Livingstone Turaco to show how these birds achieve their stunning coloration through the physical reaction light has with their feathers or structural color. Brandon's presentation briefly explains the mechanism of structural colors used and is demonstrated via optical microscopy.

Brandon is currently pursuing a career as a marine biologist, with a focus on corals, however, his work with Joe de Graauw (Nashville Zoo Avian Curator) and the bird staff on the Nashville Zoo bird team this past summer has given him a great opportunity to work with his very first mentors as an animal caretaker.

February 20, 2025 – "Birding Hawaii -

Three Islands and a Pelagic" Presented by Susan Hubley
Susan Hubley, along with her husband Michael, traveled to Hawaii in October 2023. They visited the islands of Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island in search of the Hawaiian endemics, established exotics, and sea birds. The adventure included a pelagic from Kona. The Hubleys will share photos of their trip and provide some insight into the perils facing the endemic species, and the conservation efforts currently underway. Susan is a retired teacher, an avid birder and photographer who is a long-time member of the Kingsport Chapter of

First Quarter 2025 NTOS Field Trips

Saturday, January 25th – Wheeler NWR, Decatur, AL:

Back by popular demand! Wheeler hosts one of the largest wintering concentrations of Sandhill Cranes in the world, and it is also home to large numbers of ducks, geese, pelicans, and gulls. In addition to the hordes of Sandhill Cranes, one of the main targets will be Whooping Cranes from the reestablished Central flyway population that breeds in Wisconsin, several of which typically spend the winter at Wheeler (up to six have been reported this winter as of this writing). After enjoying the crane show, we will work our way around Wheeler Lake, stopping to scan for waterbirds at several key locations as well as to grab lunch. We will meet at the Wheeler Visitor's Center at 9:00am. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

****Tentative** Saturday, February 15th - Ft. Campbell Winter Trip:**

Given that Ft. Campbell is an active military installation, permissions can change rapidly and therefore this is a tentative trip. We will provide updates via TN-Birds, Facebook, and the NTOS website as we get closer to confirming if this field trip will take place. We will join Daniel Moss for a winter field trip of the fort's native tallgrass prairie, which should be home to numerous wintering sparrows, raptors, and other grassland birds. The main attraction will take place at sunset, during which time we will search for Short-eared Owls which can typically be found wintering here in numbers. As a result, the field trip itself will begin at 2:00pm at the former Ft. Campbell hunting and fishing station parking lot located at the corner of Lafayette Rd. and 101st Airborne Division Rd. where we will meet up with Daniel. For those looking to make a day of it, feel free to visit some of the other Clarksville area hotspots such as Dunbar Cave State Park or Liberty Park & Marina beforehand. Special Notes regarding this trip – the trip is limited to 10 participants and will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis. NO cameras are permitted, and I need to provide a list of names to Daniel ahead of time, so if you wish to participate, please email ms722@bellsouth.net

the Tennessee Ornithological Society. She is the past Tennessee Director-at-large on the TOS Board of Directors. When she is not birding, she enjoys reading and planning her next birding adventure.

March 20, 2025 - "Hummingbird Journeys: a Photographic Presentation" by Richard Connors

For more than 10 years Richard Connor's main hobby and passion was chasing and photographing hummingbirds. From back porches in Tennessee to the American Southwest, to California and Texas, to Mexico and Costa Rica, and finally to an ultimate experience of hummingbird diversity in Ecuador, Richard captured on film a stunning array of the flying Jewels of the Bird World. Richard, a long-time member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, is a Nashville based photographer and naturalist, who has been an avid birder for many years. He has regularly used his birding knowledge and skills in scientific projects as well as in Birding by Ear and beginning birding classes. Richard worked as a biologist with TN State Parks, using photography to document species occurrence for the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory program.

with the heading "Ft. Campbell NTOS Field Trip".

Saturday, March 29th - Henry Horton State Park:

Come join us in exploring a lesser known and under-birded destination by visiting Henry Horton State Park located about an hour south of Nashville. TOS member Chris Stafford will be our guide as we focus our exploration on the west side of the park along the "Wetland Trail" which is a grassy path that winds through forests and fields containing a seasonal wetland along the shores of the Duck River (incidentally one of the most biodiverse rivers in the country). We'll have an optional climb to the top of an observation platform overlooking the river and surrounding forest. Sparrow migration should be in full swing, and we'll also hope to welcome back some early neotropical migrants. Time permitting and for those interested, we can check out the nearby Lewisburg Reservoir after we wrap up at Henry Horton. The trails can be muddy, so boots or waterproof footwear are recommended. We will meet at the main park visitors center at 7:30am and proceed to the trail from there. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

Urgent Need...

...we need two volunteers to join Susie Russenberger and serve on the Nominating Committee. This volunteer opportunity is short compared to most and can be done completely from home and online. For job description details please contact Cyndi Routledge – routledges@bellsouth.net

Wednesday morning Spring Migration bird walk leaders needed...

Do you participate in our Wednesday morning migration walks?? If so, why not step up in 2025 and lead one? You don't have to be an expert birder...just someone willing to welcome participants as they arrive, keep the group moving, keep track of the species seen and heard – as folks call and point them out

and post them to later that day.

Dates for this spring are: April 23 rd and 30 th and May 7 th and 14 th , 2025. We all know spring migration at Radnor Lake can be magical...you never know what will show up from day to day - so be the first to volunteer to lead one of these walks and experience that magic first-hand! Contact Cyndi Routledge – routledges@bellsouth.net with the Wednesday you prefer.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

A Guide to Luring Warblers, Tanagers, Orioles and Grosbeaks to Your Yard.

[A Guide to Luring Warblers, Tanagers, Orioles, and Grosbeaks to Your Yard | Audubon](#)

WATCH: Mapping Migration Using Feathers: Dr. Kristen Ruegg was at the Cornell Lab last month to give the Paul C. Munding Distinguished Lectureship, focused on the Bird Genoscape Project. [Watch now.](#)

Attend a Bird Festival: Festivals are a great way to enjoy birds and meet like-minded people—[check out our full listings.](#)

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER DOWNLISTED

In late October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) downlisted the Red-cockaded Woodpecker from Endangered to Threatened status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This outcome was the result of five decades of cooperative conservation efforts between the USFWS, other federal agencies (e.g., USDA and Defense Department), private landowners, native tribes, state agencies, businesses, utilities, and engaged conservation organizations.

Back in the late 1970s, this woodpecker's populations were at an all-time low of about 1,470 clusters of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. (A "cluster" is considered a group of cavity pine trees used by one or more of these woodpeckers.) Today, the USFWS estimates there are 7,800 clusters ranging across 11 states from southern Virginia to eastern Texas.

While the Red-cockaded Woodpecker's status has certainly improved, the species has still not fully recovered. The Service will have to continue working with partners to help the Red-cockaded Woodpecker advance toward a full and stable recovery.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin November 2024.

You can access an archive of past e-bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association:
<https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>

NASHVILLE CHAPTER OF TOS LAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Nashville chapter of TOS held its annual 'land' Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 14th. Fifty-four hearty volunteers counted birds in our 9 areas. It was a mostly cloudy seasonably normal day in middle Tennessee with periods of light rain and temperatures from 30 degrees to 60 by count end. But to spite the weather, the group managed to find 73 species, which is on the low-side of an 8 year average. No unusual or rare species were found.

Many thanks to this year's area leaders - Richard Connors, Jan Shaw, Cherie Parker, Amy Pardo, Susan Bradfield, Laura Smith, Frank Fekel, Tarcila Fox and Melissa James - for coordinating their volunteers, their routes and meeting times. Many thanks to Scott Block for compiling all the information with an amazing computer program he created just for our counts and for getting all the information to me for entering in the official Audubon CBC database. Last but not least, MANY THANKS to ALL who counted on the 14th we couldn't do it without you! This count marked our 109th CBC in one form or another.

Our second CBC 'lake' count will take place on New Year's Day. This count encompasses Old Hickory and Percy Priest Lakes as well as Shelby Bottoms. If you're interested in starting off 2025 counting with NTOS, please contact Tarcila Fox - tarcila@bellsouth.net - count coordinator to volunteer for that event.

The entire count result will be available on our webpage in the coming weeks. If you'd like a copy prior to that please feel free to contact me.

Happiest of holidays to one and all...
Happy birding!!
Cyndi Routledge
NTOS CBC Administrator
NTOS President

Happy New Year!

Dues for 2025 for the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society are now due.

You may pay by Credit Card at this link:

<https://www.nashvillebirds.org/membership/> Please note any changes in your contact information. (You are NOT required to have or establish a Paypal account)

If you prefer to send a check, please complete the form below and mail to:

Pam Lasley, NTOS Treasurer

5886 Willshire Dr

Nashville, TN 37215

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail(s) _____

Phone(s) _____

Membership Renewal:

Individual \$30 _____

Family \$35 _____

Sustaining \$50 _____

Student \$10 (K-College) _____

Life \$450 _____

Optional Contribution to NTOS Bird Conservation Fund _____

Total _____

Dues include local and state dues and entitle one to all state and chapter publications and events. The Nashville newsletter "The Newshawk", the state newsletter "The Tennessee Warbler", and now our scientific journal, "The Migrant" are all published electronically. You will receive an e-mail when they are published on the state and Nashville websites.

Let's go birding in 2025!

Pam Lasley

615-498-8840