

NewsHawk



www.nashvillebirds.org

4th Quarter, 2025

•President•

Cyndi Routledge
(Routledges@bellsouth.net)

•Secretary•

Margie Dunhum
(margiedunhum@comcast.net)

•Treasurer•

Pam Lasley
(plasley@comcast.net)

•Program Coordinator•

Cherie Parker
(cherieparker726@comcast.net)

•Field Trip Coordinator•

Mike Smith
(ms722@bellsouth.net)

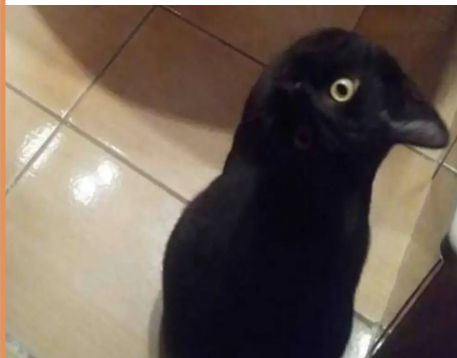
•NewsHawk Coordinator•

Angie Elmore
(nashvillenewshawk@gmail.com)
NewsHawk deadline is the 15th of
the month prior to publication
.....

Our Websites

TOS www.tnbirds.org
NTOS www.nashvillebirds.org
NTOS Facebook [Nashville TOS](#)

The funny thing about this bird
picture is that it's a cat.



President's Message

Time, relentless and mysterious, carries us forward whether we are ready or not and here we stand on the threshold of the fourth quarter of 2025. It seems only weeks ago that we greeted January with resolutions, fresh bird lists, new goals and planned adventures. Yet as autumn's golden light signals the approach of another year's end, I wonder daily—how did we get here so soon?

We 'flocked' back together after our summer hiatus on Thursday, September 18th with our annual Pot-luck dinner and a wonderful (postponed due to storms) program on the islands of Hawaii by fellow TOS/Kingsport Chapter member Susan Hubley.

A day prior, on the 17th, our fall Wednesday morning Radnor Lake bird walks began with **Ken Oeser** leading the group. The second in the series of four fall walks took place on September 24th with young birder **Ari Freemont** leading that day's adventure. There are two more upcoming walks; October 1st with **Avery Fish** leading and we'll finish out the season on October 8th with **Andy Lantz** leading our group. ALL walks begin at 7:30 in the west parking lot of Radnor Lake State Park. We gather in the front of the Visitor's Center. The route is the same each time, up the road, across the spillway and down the trail to Long Bridge. So, if you get caught in traffic or are running late it's easy to catch up with the group. These walks continue to be a wonderful outreach resource for our Chapter, and we THANK our volunteers for stepping up and leading them.

Please join me as well in thanking our 2025 Nominating Committee – **Pam Lasley** and **Susie Russenberger**. They have spent countless hours brainstorming and calling members in search of volunteers willing to lead our Chapter for the next two years. Please see their related article within this newsletter as well as the Slate of Nominees they have prepared.

On a related note, I'd like to take this moment to personally send out a special **THANK YOU** to **Cherie Parker**, **Mike Smith** and **Margie Dunham** for their dedication and hard work as 1st VP/Program coordinator, 2nd VP/Field Trip coordinator and Secretary respectively.

When you see these three dedicated volunteers at a monthly meeting or on a field trip please join me in thanking them for all they've done for our Chapter through the years!!

Many thanks to all members who attended the Fall TOS meeting hosted by the Elizabethton Chapter in Johnson City. It was a wonderful weekend to spite a few rain showers. Many THANKS to the good folks who organized and hosted the meeting. Fall in the smokies is always a magical time.

The **Fall NTOS Bird Count** will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2025. As with the spring count, all of Davidson County is included so we need YOU. If you're able to participate please contact **Barbara Harris** - harrbarbara@bellsouth.net or an area leader for details and times. If you've never counted with us before, we'd LOVE to have you join us! If you live within the county and want to do a yard or feeder count, that is possible as well, but please contact Barbara and let her know so there is no 'double' counting of areas.

National Audubon has announced the **2025 Christmas Bird Count** period. It is set for December 14th to January 5th. The NTOS 'land' count will take place on the traditional FIRST SATURDAY of the count period which this year is Saturday, December 20th. The 'lake' count will take place on Thursday, January 1st. The 'land' encompasses a historic circle, divided into 9 areas. Each area has an area leader who sets the time and place to meet. I will be coordinating the overall 'land' count - routledges@bellsouth.net so if you're interested in counting or for more information please don't hesitate to contact me. The 'lake' count takes place on New Year's Day. It also has very specific boundaries that are divided into areas as well. The lake count will be coordinated by **Tarcila Fox** - tarcila@bellsouth.net Please contact Tarcila to start off the New Year counting birds! Finally, I am in search of a volunteer to eventually take over coordination of the NTOS CBC. It is NOT DIFFICULT. In fact, our complier Scott Block truly makes it easy-peasy. If you're interested in learning about coordinating this historic yearly count, I'd LOVE to hear from you.

Looking way ahead...please mark your calendars for the **NTOS Spring Count** which will take place on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**, and the **Annual Spring TOS meeting** which will take place in Kingsport and **hosted by the Kingsport Chapter on May 1st- 3rd, 2026**. The Keynote speaker for the Annual Spring meeting in Kingsport will be Sheri L Williamson, ornithologist, naturalist, conservationist, artist, hummingbird expert and author of Peterson's Guide to "Hummingbirds of North America". Sheri is also diligently working on her new updated guide to hummingbirds for Princeton University Press. Stay tuned for information about the new book.

Finally, I'd like to continue to invite you to embrace the adventure of volunteering and share your special talents with NTOS. It is a powerful way to create positive change. Every hour you spend volunteering ripples outward touching lives, inspiring others and connecting you with like-minded people. The rewards and friendships formed are priceless.

Till next time,
Happy birding!
Cyndi Routledge
NTOS President

FOURTH QUARTER 2025 NTOS FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, October 11th – Fremont Farm, Davidson Co.:

We're excited to return to the beautiful Fremont Farm for a fun morning of birding. Ari Fremont, a passionate young birder, and his family have once again graciously invited us to explore their stunning 45-acre private property nestled between Nolensville and Smyrna in southeastern Davidson County.

This time of year offers a fresh seasonal perspective, with the farm's mix of gardens, woodlands, and pastures providing excellent habitat for fall migrants. Ari will lead us on a guided walk through the diverse landscape across their farmland.

We'll begin at **7:00am**. The address is **8856 Rocky Fork Road, Smyrna, TN 37167**. Once on the driveway, pass the black barn and turn left up the gravel road to the back of the property where there is ample parking and access to the trails.

After the walk, we'll gather at the cabin for coffee and cookies. Restrooms will be available there as well. Come enjoy the beauty of fall migration with us!

Saturday, November 1st – Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge

For our November walk, we will be guided by Daniel Redwine as we continue our annual tradition of visiting the Duck River Unit just before its seasonal closure. This beautiful refuge is a prime birding spot in early November, with large numbers of waterfowl already returned for the winter. With luck, we could spot up to 20 species of ducks and geese. Duck River is also a reliable location for wintering raptors such as Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, and perhaps a falcon or two. We'll also focus on sparrows, with the potential to see at least 10 species. If conditions are favorable, we'll possibly offer an optional "sparrow stomp" through marshy fields in hopes of flushing out LeConte's Sparrow and other skulking species.

Carpooling is highly encouraged for this trip due to limited parking and group coordination. For those who wish to carpool, please meet at the **MTA Park-and-Ride in Bellevue and depart promptly at 6:15am**, or you can meet us directly at the **refuge entrance (35.97407, -87.95305) at 8:00am**.

Please dress in layers for the weather, bring water and snacks, and if you plan to participate in the sparrow stomp, waterproof shoes or muck boots are strongly recommended. We expect to wrap up by mid-day or early afternoon. Come join us for one of the season's best birding outings!

No Bird Trip in December:

Instead of a traditional field trip this month, join in on the Christmas Bird Count on **December 20th**—a long-standing tradition that combines the joy of birdwatching with the power of citizen science! Your observations help track bird populations, guide conservation efforts, and deepen our understanding of local wildlife. Plus, it's a great way to enjoy the winter landscape, connect with fellow birdwatchers, and be part of a nationwide effort that's been running for over 120 years.

For more information or to sign up, contact coordinator Cyndi Routledge at routledges@bellsouth.net.

FOURTH QUARTER 2025 OF NTOS PROGRAMS

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (NTOS) 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; followed by a program at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Membership in NTOS is not required.

OCTOBER 16 – “Radnor Lake State Park”; State Natural Area 2015-2035” presented by Steve Ward

Join Park Manager Steve Ward for a presentation and discussion on the management of Radnor Lake for the past 10 years and what is ahead for Radnor Lake State Natural Area for the next 10 years.

Steve Ward has been the Park Manager at Radnor Lake State Natural Area State Park since December 2001. He is a Native of Donelson, Tennessee. Steve is a USMC Veteran, graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a BS degree in Geoscience, and a state park ranger with Tennessee State Parks since 1995. Please join us to learn more about this beloved State Natural Area and State Park where NTOS meets monthly and hikes in Spring and Fall during bird migration.

NOVEMBER 20 - “The Birds and Wildlife of Brazil’s Pantanal and a Brief Glimpse of Iguazu Falls” presented by Jon May

In July of 2024, Jon May and his traveling companions embarked on a two-week trip taking them from north to south through Brazil’s Pantanal, the vast UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in central South America. The expedition concluded with a three-day visit to Iguazu Falls, certainly one of the world’s most spectacular waterfalls. Please join us as Jon shares a photographic sampling of the dazzling variety of birds and wildlife encountered throughout the Pantanal, including Jaguar, Hyacinth Macaw, Crested Caracara, Jabiru Stork, Giant River Otter, and Giant Anteater.

Jon May is a long-time member of NTOS – probably since the late 1970’s or early 1980’s. He has had a lifelong interest in outdoor activities, travel, and nature photography. Since retirement eleven years ago he has been fortunate to be able to pursue those interests more actively. Jon, his wife, and daughter have traveled extensively in natural areas and parks in the US, in Africa, and in Central and South America.

DECEMBER 18 – “Birding India” presented by Ken Oeser

Our December program will be presented by Ken Oeser who traveled to India with a WINGS Birding Tour earlier in 2025. The tour was of northern India from Delhi all the way to the lower Himalayan Mountains including several National Parks.

Ken Oeser has always lived in and around Nashville and is a long-time member of NTOS. In addition to birding in Tennessee counties, Ken has recently completed birding in all 50 states with a total of over 100 species.

Please join us for our final 2025 NTOS monthly meeting and program which will include a Holiday Potluck meal. Please bring your favorite dish to share. (NTOS will provide all drinks and paper products.) We will begin gathering at 6:00 p.m. and eat together. We will have a short business meeting at 7:15 followed by the program, Birding India when Ken Oeser will present photographs and stories from his time in India.

New NTOS Officers for 2026–2027

From Pam Lasley and Susie Russenberger, Nominating Committee:

The following slate of officers has been nominated for NTOS leadership for the years 2026 and 2027. Members will elect this slate at the December meeting.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our new members who have stepped up to serve and to the continuing officers, state directors, and committee chairs who give so much of their time and energy to our group.

President – Cyndi Routledge

1st Vice President & Program Coordinator – Tim Ryan

2nd Vice President & Field Trip Coordinator – Shelley Smith

Secretary – Kathy Ware

Treasurer – Pam Lasley

Curator – Susan Hollyday

State Directors:

Angie Elmore, Ken Oeser, Hugh Barger, Susie Russenberger, JoAnn Staples

Committee Chairs:

Finance – Pam Lasley

Legislative Affairs – Melinda Welton

Spring and Fall Bird Count – Barbara Harris

Membership – Steve Routledge

NewsHawk Coordinator – Angie Elmore

Got a Winter Hummingbird?



HAVE YOU SEEN A HUMMINGBIRD AT YOUR FEEDER
BETWEEN **NOVEMBER 1ST AND MARCH 15TH?**

OR

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING OUT A
HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER ALL YEAR LONG?

HELP **SOUTHEASTERN AVIAN RESEARCH** CONTINUE OUR
ONGOING '**WINTER HUMMINGBIRD**' PROJECT!



SCAN ME

Click on the QR code to find out more about
winter hummingbirds and how you might
become one of the lucky few who host one of
these rare visitors.

SOUTHEASTERN
SEAR
AVIAN RESEARCH

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



holiday Potluck

● BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE! ●

DECEMBER 18 | AT 6 PM

RADNOR LAKE STATE PARK
VISITOR CENTER

NTOS Book Reviews

The holiday gift-giving season is approaching, so here are some recently published bird book suggestions for the youngsters in your life. These books are also all available through the Nashville Public Library.

Bird Bath written and illustrated by Steve Antony. You and your child will smile at all the birds having fun in the bathtub with bubbles and toys in this very cute book! Ages 0-5

Hard Hat Hank and the Sky-High Solution, written by Charlotte Gunnufson and illustrated by Brian Biggs. Hank is a builder who likes to do things the right way, but one day he's faced with something outside the plans—a bird's nest! Hank is up to the challenge of making sure everything is okay in this Disney Planet Possible book! Ages 3-5

Bob and Dob: A Tale of Tattling, written and illustrated by Sean E. Avery. Dob tattles to get his big brother Bob in trouble, until the day no one believes him and Bob really is caught in a tight, toothy spot of trouble! Ages 4-8

To See an Owl, written and illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Matthew Cordell. Janie really wants to see an owl, and encouraged by her teacher, Mr. Koji, and helped by her mother, the magic finally occurs. This lovely book contains additional information about owls. Ages 4-8

The Urban Owls: How Flaco and Friends Made the City Their Home, written by Christian Cooper, the Emmy award-winning host of Extraordinary Birder and illustrated by Kristen Adam. Owls live everywhere, even in a big city like New York, and Cooper tells the stories of Flaco, Barry, Geraldine and Rocky and their adventures in NYC. This informative book ends with three pages of information and additional reading suggestions. Ages 4-8

Sun Bird: The Amazing Journey of the Arctic Tern, written and illustrated by Lindsay Moore. Arctic terns are the birds that fly the farthest distances and spend the most time in the sun. In this lovely book, you'll follow them from south to north and north to south. Ages 4-8

Birdlore: The Iridescent Life of Florence Merriam Bailey, written by Jess Keating and illustrated by Devon Holzwarth. Do you know who wrote the first field guide to American birds? Or who was instrumental in stopping the fashion of using birds and feathers on ladies' hats? You will after you read this interesting and informative book. Ages 4-8

Blue, written and illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman. This is an enchanting and beautifully illustrated tale of friendship between a boy and a great blue heron that is just plain dreamy. Ages 4-8

The Flock We Found, written and illustrated by local artist Mary Reaves Uhles and published by the American Psychological Association. If a child has a parent who is unpredictable or unreliable, finding a flock to support them is important, as demonstrated in this beautifully written and illustrated book. Ages 5-9

Bear and Bird: The Cave and Other Stories, written and illustrated by Jarvis. The fourth in a series, Bear and Bird don't always understand each other, but they're still best friends in these four short stories. Ages 5-9

Ron Roy's A to Z Animal Mysteries: The Emerald Egg, written by Kayla Whaley and illustrated by Chloe Burgett. Eight-year-old Abbi and her friends solve the mystery of the missing beautifully carved emerald emu egg in this fun chapter book. Ages 6-9

Reviewed by Cindy Kershner

