

NewsHawk



NASHVILLE CHAPTER TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Programs

April 21 - Panama by Chris Sloan and Graham Gerdeman

Chris Sloan and Graham Gerdeman will share photos and stories from a trip to the Darien region of Panama in May 2021. For many years, the Darien was difficult to access and unsafe, but access and safety are no longer a concern, giving birders ready access to numerous regional endemic and other special birds. At the end of the trip, they also spent a few days in the Canal Zone at the famous Canopy Tower.

May 19 - Ecuador by Danny Shelton and Kevin Bowden

Before the pandemic, Kevin Bowden and Danny Shelton took a birding trip to the lush and cool cloud forests of Ecuador. In this program,

[continued on next page]

President's Message

Happy Spring!

The long-awaited time of the year is upon us. The time when life springs from the earth, bird songs and their colors fill the landscapes, migration is fully underway and we are filled with a sense of renewal. I hope this finds you all well and ready to hit the birding trails.

And speaking of meeting up on the trails...our annual Wednesday morning Radnor walks will begin on April 20th and continue each Wednesday thru May 11th. MANY THANKS to Ken Oeser, Danny Shelton, Pam Lasley and Chris Sloan for volunteering to lead these ever-popular walks. For information and meet-up times visit our webpage at <https://www.nashvillebirds.org/events/category/calendar/>.

A final reminder that the annual TOS Spring meeting will be hosted by the Memphis Chapter and held in Memphis April 22-24th. If you've not make your arrangements yet and plan to attend, you can find all the information and registration forms at this link: <https://tnbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Warbler-Dec21.pdf>.

We have two outreach opportunities forthcoming for those who may be inclined to assist. The first will take place at the Bells Bend Outdoor Expo on April 9th. The second will take place on

[continued on next page]



Upcoming Programs

.....
they will share both videos and photographs of some of the most beautiful and bizarre birds ever seen. They even birded with the original “Antpitta Whisperer”!

June 16 - Bermuda by Graham Gerdeman

.....
The Bermuda Petrel, or “Cahow” is one of the world’s great conservation stories. Believed extinct for hundreds of years, it was rediscovered in the 1950’s, and has slowly been guided back from the brink of extinction, due almost entirely to the efforts of two pioneering conservationists: David B. Wingate and Jeremy Madeiros. For this NTOS program, local birder Graham Gerdeman will share his experience as part of a trip in November 2021 which included meeting and birding with both of these men, seeing Cahows in-hand as they were measured and weighed, and witnessing the highest numbers at sea as have ever been recorded since the bird’s rediscovery.

April 23rd at Barfield Crescent Park’s Wilderness Station in Murfreesboro at their inaugural ‘Conservation Days’. MANY THANKS to member Mary Fitzgerald for jumping in and coordinating both events. And to Marissa Pappas, Jerry Webb and Jessi Cole for volunteering to come out and help. We could use a few more volunteers so if you’re interested in assisting these fine folks, please contact Mary (texasbirdfan@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Mark your calendar for the NTOS Spring Bird Count which will take place on Saturday, April 30th. Barbara Harris will be coordinator again. You can contact her at harrbarbara@bellsouth.net for more information or to volunteer to count. As always, thanks to Barbara for coordinating and Scott Block for providing the reporting link and compiling the data.

Hope to see many of you at the Spring TOS meeting in Memphis! Until then, be safe, be well and as always, HAPPY BIRDING!

Until next time,
Cyndi Routledge

Book Review: *Birds* by Tim Flach

Photographs make it possible to hold a single moment in time, allowing you to experience the detailed beauty of the subject in a way that’s impossible in real life. The 200 astounding images in *Birds*, the latest book from London-based photographer Tim Flach, do just that.

Birds is divided into 14 sections covering specific types of birds, such as waders and waterfowls, raptors, passerines, birds of paradise and galliforms; one of the sections is on fossils and another on eggs, which are shown in their actual size. The photographs are the main draw, but Richard O. Prum, Professor of Ornithology (and an impressive list of other titles) at Yale University, New Haven, CT has written an interesting introduction for each section. At the end of the book, Drum’s glossary has a thumbnail version of each photograph and information on the bird, including it’s scientific name and range.

Flach spent three years traveling around the world for this book;

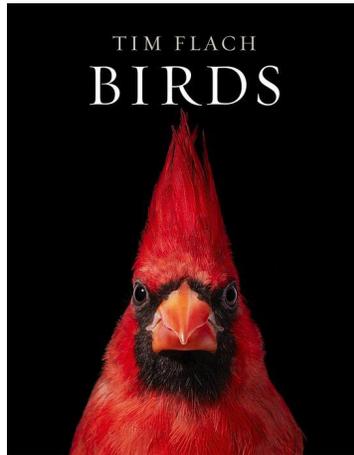
[continued on next page]

Upcoming Field Trips

April 16 - Warner Parks (Burch Reserve)

By mid-April, many neotropical migrants will be arriving back in Middle Tennessee; some will stay to breed, while others will continue their northward journey to more northern latitudes. Come join Graham Gerdeman as we seek out these new arrivals at one of Nashville's hidden gems: The Burch Reserve. Part of the greater Warner Parks system, it includes overgrown fields, wooded hollows, and high ridge tops, and has been somewhat overlooked by birders since its acquisition in 2009. We will meet at 7:00 am at the trailhead parking lot located at the intersection of Hwy 100 and Old Hickory Blvd. Please wear sturdy footwear as parts of the 2-mile hike involve some relatively steep ascents/descents as we work our way up and down the ridge, but we will take our time, looking and listening for birds along the way. For additional information, please email ms722@bellsouth.net.

most of the birds were in aviaries, and some of the aviaries were specially built. Flach specializes in up-close photos of animals



and uses a solid background to avoid distraction from the subject. Previous similar-format books include *Endangered*, *More Than Human*, and *Dog Gods*.

Birds is not a book to read while lying on the couch or in bed, unless you want to damaging your internal organs. It is, in fact, the largest and heaviest book I've read in a long time! Put it on your coffee table, however, and you're safe to enjoy

these detailed, vivid and truly stunning images for years.

-Reviewed by Cindy Kershner

Bringing Nature Into Your Home: *Animal* (Netflix)

Now in its second season, *Animal* takes on **Birds of Prey** in the 6th episode overall (four per season). Turning in at approximately 45 minutes per episode, a person could easily blitz through all 8 episodes currently available. As for myself, I decided to dive straight in to the episode focused on our feathered friends. With fast-paced action shots seemingly almost choreographed coupled with intense music backing each scene you may wonder whether you stumbled upon an action movie rather than a documentary. But with narration chocked



[continued on next page]

Upcoming Field Trips (continued)

April 30 - NTOS Spring Count

In lieu of an organized field trip, we hope you will join our annual NTOS Spring Count. Come team up with other birders as we visit the top hotspots in town during the peak of spring migration. All levels of experience are appreciated, and every bird counts, so please consider being a part of this important citizen science event! We typically tally around 150 species overall with 30+ species of warblers. A full list of the routes is listed below, so please pick the one that works best for you.

2022 Spring Count Locations: Beaman Park, Bells Bend Park, Harpeth East, Harpeth West, Old Hickory Lake, Owl's Hill, Radnor Lake, Shelby Park and Bottoms, and Warner Park.

To sign up, please email harrbarbara@bellsouth.net, and indicate which route you'd like to sign up for and you'll be put in touch with the local route leader to get the meeting time and place.

full of interesting tidbits about the species detailed you can be assured that this is indeed a documentary. Focusing on both the familiar (Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, etc.) and those not so familiar (Harpie Eagle, vultures of Southern Africa, etc.) there is surely something for both the beginner and advanced observer. Now to get those other seven episodes in (below is a list).

Season 1 Episode 1: Big Cats

Season 1 Episode 2: Dogs

Season 1 Episode 3: Marsupials

Season 1 Episode 4: Octopus

Season 2 Episode 1: Apes

Season 2 Episode 2: Birds of Prey

Season 2 Episode 3: Bears

Season 2 Episode 4: Dolphins

Tennessee Park In Focus: Seven Islands State Birding Park (Kodak, TN)

Seven Islands State Birding Park is one of Tennessee's newest state parks (opened in July of 2014) and is located east of Knoxville along the French Broad River.

Prior to its dedication, the park was mostly a farm operated by the Kelly family (which continue to be recognized by the name of the road entering the park among other things).

Since it became Tennessee's 56th state park the 410 acre park has been managed by Park Manager Justine Cucchiara and team to be a bird oasis. Each decision over the years with the core focus of diversifying the food sources and species that call the park home. eBird currently boasts a very respectful 218 species logged in the park. Although the many varieties of birds can be found within the park, the density of grassland species makes for very melodic mornings during breeding season.

Most recently the park has added an interpretive pollinator

[continued on next page]

Upcoming Field Trips (continued)

May 14 - Larkspur Conservation Area

Come join Tim Floyd as he leads us on a tour of a relatively new hotspot in northern Sumner Co. As part of the Highland Rim, Larkspur contains one of the finest examples of mature hardwood forest in our region. Together with the adjacent Nature Conservancy property at Taylor Hollow they support one of the highest densities of breeding Cerulean Warblers in Middle TN along with the large number of other forest breeders. The area also contains a cedar glade and several grassy fields, and this habitat diversity supports a high variety of warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and other neotropical migrants. Larkspur is managed as a natural burial site, and you will notice several memorial headstones throughout the park. The gravel trails are well maintained, but steep in places so sturdy footwear is a must and a hiking stick may come in handy. We'll meet at 7:00 am at the trailhead; the address is 155 Bear Carr Rd,

[continued on next page]

garden and a walking bridge to one of the islands previously inaccessible. On my last trip there, swallows were already taking advantage of the bridge and flying to and from the river bank to pack mud thereunder for their own nesting.

The park can most easily be accessed by taking Interstate 40 to exit 402 (Midway Road) and following the signage into the park (maybe 10-15 minutes from the Interstate). If you find yourself curious about what the park looked like in the early days, check out this early video Wild Side TV did profiling what to expect at the time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra34feduMg4>.

Final Thoughts From The Editor

Spring is upon us and migration is moving into full swing. Here in South Texas it seems we are getting an influx of Black-capped vireos as they have been seen at multiple sites and on South Padre Island there has been sightings of a small handful of distinct individual birds. Thus far, I have yet to tick what would be a lifer for me. However, I was able to pick up Egyptian Goose (San Antonio) and Yellow-headed Parrot (Brownsville) during a weeklong vacation with my brother and his wife who arrived from Nashville last week. The parrot was actually just an eBird lifer. Somehow I failed to enter it even though I had seen it several times previously at our local parrot roosting spot (Oliviera Park) in which as many as five parrot species can be seen if you are really lucky.

But even more exciting is what has recently transpired within the grounds of my apartment complex. The winter before last we had a bad freeze that resulted in having to lop off the top of a palm tree that guarded the apartment swimming pool. Only the trunk remained from what once was a very fertile tree that provided both shade and a visual upgrade to the landscaping. But as nature often does, this tree after being dormant for a year evolved into a new purpose.

It started with a Golden-fronted woodpecker opening a small hole this winter looking for food in said trunk. Most mornings I would walk to grab my mail and I would see him pecking away or

[continued on next page]

Upcoming Field Trips (continued)

Westmoreland, TN. From Gallatin, take Hwy 31E north for approximately 15 miles and turn right onto Phillip Hollow Rd. After 1.2 miles, turn left on Bear Carr Rd; the parking lot is 2/10ths of a mile on the left. There is a tour of the burial site at 10:00 am on the same day, and the gravel parking lot can only accommodate 8 to 10 cars, so carpooling will be essential - please make arrangements amongst yourselves. A good meeting place is the Walmart in Gallatin. For additional information, please email ms722@bellsouth.net.

May 28 - Ft Campbell

****Recent geopolitical events have made this a tentative trip as this field trip takes place on an active military installation. We will provide updates via TN-Birds, Facebook, and the NTOS website as we get closer to confirm if this field trip will take place.**

Come join Daniel Moss as he leads us through the back country of Ft Campbell in search of special species that call this active army post home. Ft Campbell offers unique habitats within our

{ continued on next page }

admiring his work. Fast forward to last week and to my astonishment the hole once used by the woodpecker had ballooned to approximately a size between a baseball and softball. And what of all things was poking its head out said hole but none other than a Red-crowned Parrot (the most abundant of the five species alluded to above). However, the story does not end there. This evening as I was leaving for a late bite to eat and the sun was in short supply I witnessed a pair of Red-crowned Parrots clear the roof of the complex guarding the pool and down toward the palm tree trunk. It is almost certain we have a nesting pair of parrots now! Oh what an exciting thought!

This whole ordeal got me thinking, along with a very brief exposure to an article about a tug-o-war between birders in Tennessee and a proposed solar farm about whether the term conservation and how it generally is viewed is too limiting. For me, the word conservation elicits a thought of trying to hang on to what we have and slowing the chipping away of nature that society has been engaged in for well over a 100 years.

However, is that enough? Can we and should we do more than conserve?

I recently had read a New Yorker article (<https://www.newyorker.com/news/essay/in-a-world-on-fire-stop-burning-things>), which I encourage you to read too, that discussed the dire circumstances our planet is in and yet we have the tools now to avert that fate. Within said article, a similar friction between conservationists and environmentalists is referenced. A dilemma indeed.

While I am not advocating for tearing up birding hotspots for purpose of installing renewable energy, I too recognize that passive engagement of just saying 'no' may be counter-productive to the long term interests of a thriving natural world.

So what is the answer? For me, the answer is that we must move beyond just being conservationists. Thankfully, this is something we already are doing to a degree. Moving beyond being limited to the moniker 'conservationist' requires being an advocate for more offensive types of actions. Offensive in the sense of removing

{ continued on next page }

Upcoming Field Trips (continued)

region. The most notable of which is one of the largest remaining tracts of native tallgrass prairie in the eastern U.S., known as The Barrens, and part of the vast Pennyroyal Plain which once covered approximately 3.7 million acres of western KY and north central TN. In addition to the expected breeding birds, our targets will be Bell's Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, and perhaps even Bachman's Sparrow. The trip should last half the day. Please dress for the weather and make sure to bring plenty of water and insect repellent. We will meet at 7:00 am at the former Ft. Campbell hunting and fishing station park lot located at the corner of Lafayette Rd and 101st Airborne Division Rd. DO NOT proceed to any of the birding destinations on your own. This trip is **limited to 10 participants** beginning with those on last year's wait list. NO CAMERAS PERMITTED. Please email ms722@bellsouth.net with heading "Ft. Campbell NTOS Field Trip" to sign up if you wish to participate.

barriers the natural world faces and focusing on interconnected interests that will help facilitate those changes. As referenced, one such effort we have engaged in is the bird safe glass demo out at one of our local parks. There are bills like S. 791 that are attempting to codify the use of these types of solutions.

But as noted earlier, on other subjects we may not be pulling in the same direction as others. This is where education, out of the box thinking, and advocating for interconnected goals comes in. To have clean energy sources and to maintain our green spaces, we need to be champions of things like solar car parks. Utilizing parking spaces at malls, apartment complexes, etc. for solar structures that both generate power and provide shade and comfort for inhabitants. Are we taking the same moments we use to contact our elected officials about conservation topics to talk to our landlords, mall operators, and city council about these type of win-win solutions?

Likewise, are we engaged in public discourse enough to understand that things like Bitcoin are completely undermining the large growth in renewable generation by essentially matching it on the demand side?

It may seem daunting but every action pulling in the right direction is a little bit less left over for the next guy (especially when we unknowingly are pulling in the opposite direction of someone with similar interests). I have faith we can get there else I wouldn't broach the topic. Perhaps like the Red-crowned Parrots in my dead palm tree, we too can reclaim what was thought to have been lost.

Happy birding! - Rick Blanton

Officer List

- President - Cyndi Routledge (routledges@bellsouth.net)
- Secretary - Margie Dunham (margiedunham@comcast.net)
- Treasurer - Pam Lasley (plasley@comcast.net)
- Program Coordinator - Susie Russenberger (susierussenberger@comcast.net)
- Field Trip Coordinator - Mike Smith (ms722@bellsouth.net)
- Media Coordinator - Rick Blanton (potofgoldfinch@gmail.com or 423.534.3182)

Bird Puzzle January 11 2022

Take the first letter of each answer and insert it into the corresponding numbered blank spot. Completed, it is a saying by a famous person.

I_ I ha_ _o choo_e, I woul_ rat_er _ave _irds _han air_lanes.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. Place with a lot of trees
2. A male duck
3. Water bird with a forked tail. Royal is a type.
4. Cory's _____. Family Procellariidae
5. Red-backed Sandpiper with brown. *Calidris alpina*
6. A female fowl
7. Little Blue _____ *Egretta caerulea*
8. Lower mandible is a birds' lower half of _____
9. Cold biome of North American with evergreen trees, not the tundra but _____
10. Large water bird with a huge bill and pouch for catching fish.

Answers:

If I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes. - Charles Lindbergh

Oct-Nov issue 2011, Birds and Blooms

1. Forest
2. Drake
3. Tern
4. Shearwater
5. Dunlin
6. Hen
7. Heron
8. Bill
9. Taiga
10. Pelican

