

NewsHawk



www.nashvillebirds.org

1st Quarter, 2023

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NewsHawk deadline is the 15th of
the month prior to publication
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On the Internet

TOS www.tnbirds.org

NTOS www.nashvillebirds.org

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President's Message:

As I sit here on a rainy December day in Tennessee sipping on a cup of organic Mexican coffee from Oro del Sur Vinca in Oaxaca, Mexico, my mind drifts back to the welcoming people, the warm sunshine, beautiful mountains, the lush forests and of course the birds! So many familiar, so many new and different but all in need of constant conservation efforts if they're to be here for future generations. As we begin this new year, think about what you can do for the birds and conservation.

Buy shade grown organic coffee for instance. Study after study has proven that coffee beans grown on these vincas outshines sun-grown coffee in terms of increased numbers of birds, improved habitat, soil protection and erosion control, carbon sequestration, natural pest control and improved pollination. We saw this first-hand while in Mexico and met a wonderful family committed to this conservation and tradition. It might cost a bit more but it's well worth it.

Pay attention to 'action alerts' and take the few minutes to call or write your Senators and Congress Persons urging them to vote to protect and conserve habitat and funding for conservation. Currently we're asking you to do that **now** for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act or RAWA: <https://act.abcbirds.org/a/take-action-rawa> Passage of this bill would benefit Tennessee directly with 13 million dollars for non-game species conservation.

Make your windows safer, day and night. Turn off lights at night and explore options like window tape and 'zen curtains' to keep birds from flying into the reflection of the foliage in your windows in the daytime. You can see some of these options and learn more when visiting Shelby Bottoms Nature Center here in Nashville.

Keep cats indoors. It's better for your cat and helps prevent needless killings of birds, amphibians and reptiles.

Lend your eyes and ears. Citizen science is an indispensable tool for monitoring our environment. Your observations along with those scattered across the globe provide valuable data. Find a project and volunteer to participate in it.

Help a child discover birds and forge a lifelong connection with nature. TOS has a wonderful resource with our own Discover Bird Activity Books. <https://tnbirds.org/education/> They're free of charge and a great resource. Ask me about how you can get them for a child in your life.



As you're planning your spring garden consider native plants. From window boxes to vast meadows the plants you grow can make a big difference to birds. Embrace your 'patch' of land and make the most of it.

Buy a Migratory Bird Stamp. A full 98% of the face value of stamp goes to maintaining land on National Wildlife Refuges.

Reduce your use of plastics and recycle

and finally,

support organizations that work tirelessly for conservation. Each of us can and do make a difference with our actions. I hope you'll consider adding one or more of these options in 2023 to what you already do for birds and conservation!

I want to personally **THANK all those NTOS volunteers** for giving of their time and talents this past year. Those who volunteered to lead Wednesday morning walks...we couldn't do them without you. **Susie Russenberger**, for contacting and coordinating presenters for interesting and educational programs for our meetings; to **Mike Smith** for planning and executing field trips each month; to **Barbara Harris** for coordinating our spring and fall counts; to **Scott Block** for providing links for compilations and summarizations for our spring, fall and Christmas bird counts; to **Richard Connors** for coordinating our Christmas Bird 'lake' count each year; to our Secretary **Margie Dunham** for keeping us informed with Minutes from each meeting. Remember you can always find them on the NTOS webpage - <https://www.nashvillebirds.org>; to our Curator **Susan Hollyday** for keeping our records and memorabilia organized and coordinated and for helping me out with special historical information when requested; to our State Directors **Amy Pardo, Jerry Webb, Hugh Barger, Angie Elmore, Ken Oeser** for representing NTOS at State Meetings and bringing forth new ideas and suggestions to make TOS better; to **Danny Shelton** for representing Middle TN as VP for TOS; to **Steve Routledge** for greeting us each month with name badges and a warm welcoming smile; to **Angie Elmore** for taking on the job as editor of our NewsHawk. Remember it's 'our newsletter' so consider sending Angie articles, book reviews or even a picture or two of a special sighting. nashvillenevshawk@gmail.com We look forward to many wonderful issues; to **Melinda Welton** for keeping up with conservation and legislative affairs that concern us; and to **Pam Lasley** for keeping our finances in order, for welcoming our new members, and for helping me out whenever I ask. You all are truly the backbone of our organization and my job as President is made so much easier and more enjoyable because of all of you. **THANK YOU!**

The Annual TOS Spring meeting will be held in Nashville on April 28-30, 2023. Our host hotel is the Hampton Inn in Ashland City. Reservations can be made directly at this link- <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/tennesseeorithologicalsociety/> and must be done so BY MARCH 30TH to get the special rate. See link above for all details. (See page [6](#) of this newsletter for registration form.)

The Friday night reception will be held at the Hampton Hotel from 5-7 pm and a potluck meal will be provided by our Club. Watch for announcements and details from Danny Shelton who will be coordinating the food and drink for this event. Field trips will take place on Saturday and Sunday mornings at locations yet to be fully determined. The Board of Directors meeting will take place in the classroom at Bells Bend Park at 1:30 pm. A happy hour reception with cash bar and dinner will take place at Green Door Gourmet <https://www.greendoorgourmet.com> and our hosts for the evening will be owners Albert Ganier III and his lovely wife Sylvia. Our keynote speaker will be Noah Stryker, author, ornithologist, photographer and 2004 Young birder of the Year - <https://noahstrycker.com/about/birdboy/>

If you are interested in being on the planning committee our next organizational meeting will take place at 5:30 pm prior to our January 19th monthly meeting or you can contact me at routledges@bellsouth.net and let me know how you'd like to help.

Until next time...happy birding and Happy New Year!!

Cheers!

Cyndi Routledge,
President

Upcoming Field Trips

January 21st – Crooked Branch & Peeler Park

Part of Nashville's impressive greenway system, these two smaller and perhaps under-birded parks are both located close to one another in northern Davidson County making them ideal to explore together. Crooked Branch contains a seasonal wetland, and if conditions are right hosts large numbers of wintering waterfowl. It also has a one-mile paved loop trail through successional forest habitat which can be good for sparrows and local winter residents. Peeler Park lies at the "bottom" of Neely's Bend and contains a mix of overgrown fields and woods, and is very reminiscent of Shelby Bottoms. We will meet at the Crooked Branch parking lot at 7:00 a.m. (116 Ray Ave, Lakewood, TN). The parking lot is very small, so carpooling is highly encouraged. Once we finish up there, we'll make the short drive over to Peeler Park where we will meet at the Menees Ln. trailhead. We should finish up around lunchtime. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

February 18th - Robertson Co. with Tony Lance:

Come join our annual tradition of winter birding in Robertson County! There are thousands of acres of rolling farmland home to Horned Larks and Eastern Meadowlarks year around which are joined in the winter by American Pipits, Lapland Longspurs, numerous sparrows (including White-crowned, Savannah, and occasionally Vesper), Loggerhead Shrikes, and Merlin. We will explore several quiet, infrequently traveled farm roads by car looking for these species. We will also pass several

farm ponds and small lakes where we'll be sure to look for wintering waterfowl. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Sudden Service gas station/ Dunkin' Donuts at Exit 24 (Pleasant View/ Springfield) on I-24 where we will join our expert trip leader, Tony Lance. The outing should finish around mid-day, so be sure to bring a snack and water and dress warmly. Some may want to meet in Nashville in the lower parking lot of the Adventure Science Center to carpool to the field trip site. If this is your choice, please leave no later than 7:00 a.m. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

March 25th - Bells Bend Park:

Join us for an early spring outing as we explore the overgrown fields and pastures of Bells Bend Park. We'll begin just before dawn at Bells Bend Park to look and listen for owls and American Woodcock, the males of which hopefully will still be "peenting" and displaying their way into the hearts of the females just before dawn. Once things lighten up, we'll meander along the trails in search of sparrows, waterfowl, Northern Harrier, and other early spring arrivals. We'll meet at 5:30 a.m. at the Poplar Creek trailhead (the FIRST park entrance) for the pre-dawn portion of our trip. For those wishing to sleep in a bit, you can join us around 7:00 at the nature center parking lot (the SECOND park entrance) for the daytime portion of our trip. We should wrap up around lunchtime. Please dress in layers, and wear appropriate footwear as the grassy trails can be damp. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

Upcoming NTOS Meeting Programs

January 19th – Alaska

Those who have been to Alaska always remember the first glimpses of the snow-capped mountains as they fly into the state. The seabirds and whales of Kenai Fjord, the mammals and scenery of the Denali Highway and the tundra around Nome will impress even the most casual observer. Join the Routledges and Lasleys as they bring it all to you and share their tales of traveling various parts of Alaska in June of 2022.

February 16th – Nashville Zoo

Zoos have come a long way from being 'just menageries'. Today, the Nashville Zoo and hundreds of other zoos have committed time, energy and money to saving species - locally and globally. Joe de Graauw will highlight what's going on at the Nashville Zoo as well as collaborative efforts among the Association of Zoos and Aquarium institutions.

March 16th – Guatemala

In March 2022, NTOS members Chris Sloan, Graham Gerdeman, and Mike Smith took a ten day trip to Guatemala. Aside from having some of the most spectacular scenery imaginable, Guatemala plays host to myriad beautiful and unique birds. Tops on any birder's list is the Horned Guan, aka the 'Guatemalan Unicorn', which is considered by many to be one of the coolest birds in the world. Chris will share pictures and stories of Guatemala's beautiful landscapes, birds, and reptiles, as well as pictures from the spectacular Mayan ruins of Tikal.

We need your help:

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and managed to get out to see the birds. Just wanted to make sure that everyone felt welcome to submit to this newsletter

- articles
- quotes
- jokes
- book reviews
- birding resources
- favorite birding sites
- birding events
- stories about birds or birders
- birding tips
- poems
- sketches
- photos of birds or people at events or field trips
- any other bird related items

I am happy to help with the newsletter but I am not a writer. I am relying on all of you to help make it useful to us all.

Deadline for the 2nd Quarter 2023 newsletter is March 15, 2023. Please send information to *nashvillenews-hawk@gmail.com*

Angie Elmore

The 2023 ABA Bird of the Year was revealed December 10th. The bird of the year is the "Queenfisher", also known as the female Belted Kingfisher.

Just a few Bird Resources:

- [Birding Trails - Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency \(tnbirdingtrail.org\)](http://tnbirdingtrail.org) There are so many great places to go birding in Tennessee. Have you checked out this website that tells you all about Tennessee Birding Trails?
- [Parks and Recreation | Nashville.gov](http://Nashville.gov) Many Metro Parks lead birding hikes. Check out Warner Parks, Bells Bend, Beaman and Shelby Bottoms. I am sure there are others. Check them out!
- [Birding in Tennessee State Parks — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com) Many of the state parks in Tennessee also lead birding walks. You may find new favorite places to bird at some of these parks.

Please let me know of other resources you have found to be helpful. I'm sure there are many out there.

2023 TOS State Spring Meeting

Nashville, April 28-30, 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Nashville chapter of TOS will be hosting the Annual Spring TOS State Meeting, April 28-30, 2023. Friday night registration and reception will be held at the conference hotel, The Hampton Inn Ashland City, from 5-7:30 pm. The Saturday afternoon board meeting will be held at Bells Bend Outdoor Center at 4187 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, 37218

The Hampton Inn Ashland City is located at 1609 Hwy 12 South, Ashland City, 37015. Phone: 615-845-1609 The hotel is reserving a block of rooms for TOS members through March 28, 2023 at a special rate of \$139 for King or Queen. Link to reserve your room here: [Tennessee Ornithological Society \(hilton.com\)](https://www.greendoorgourmet.com) If you call for reservation, please mention that you are a TOS member and confirm the special rate. Breakfast is included.

The Saturday night reception and program will be held at the Green Door Gourmet, 7007 River Road Pike, Nashville, 37209. <https://www.greendoorgourmet.com> This farm-to-table venue has ties to TOS, as it is the home of Albert Ganier III and his wife, Sylvia, grandchildren of one of the TOS founders, Albert Ganier Sr. Happy Hour will be from 4:30-6 pm with a cash bar. You will be able to browse and shop at the Green Door’s farm store and enjoy historical displays. Dinner will be at 6pm followed by our keynote speaker.

Our speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Noah Strycker. <https://noahstrycker.com> Noah is an ornithologist, 2004 ABA Young Birder of the Year, and global Big Year adventurer. His 2017 book, *Birding Without Borders* is a personal account of his epic quest in 2015 to see more than half of the planet’s bird species in a single year. We will have a limited number of books available at the banquet for purchase, or you may bring your previously purchased copy for Noah to sign. We also look forward to birding with Noah on our field trips throughout the weekend.

Field Trips are still being finalized but will include the Green Door Farm property along the Cumberland, directly across the river from Bells Bend Park. Nearby birding hot spots Beaman Park and The Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail will most likely be on the menu as well.

For additional information contact Cyndi Routledge: routledges@bellsouth.net

TOS SPRING MEETING 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ TOS Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ e-mail _____

\$ _____ for _____ Meeting Registrations @ \$10 each

\$ _____ for _____ Dinner Reservations @ \$35 each

\$ _____ Total payable to Nashville TOS

Via Mail: Pam Lasley, NTOS Treasurer

5886 Willshire Dr

Nashville, TN 37215

On-line payment: Click the yellow “Donate” Button here: <https://www.nashvillebirds.org/donate> Please include the above information in the note. A Paypal account is NOT required. Contact plasley@comcast.net for registration questions.

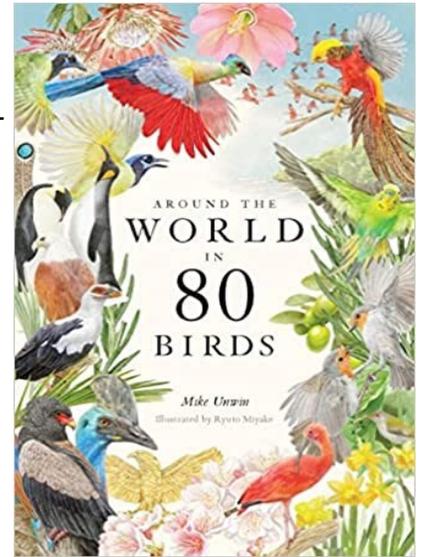
Around the World in 80 Birds

By Mike Unwin

Book Review by Cindy Kershner

There are thought to be some 11,000 bird species, based on the new DNA- based classification systems. Choosing only 80 to represent all parts of the world must have involved many difficult decisions!

This well-written book is grouped into seven sections: Africa, Eurasia, North America, South and Central America, South and Southeast Asia, Australasia, and Oceans and Islands. Each bird entry covers 2 to 4 pages, making the book easy to pick up and put down, while still covering a surprising wealth of information. The vivid, beautiful and plentiful illustrations by Ryuto Miyake continue to tell the story of each bird.



From the highest flyer (Bar-headed goose, China) to birds that spend time underwater (Emperor penguin, Antarctica); from birds that don't fly at all (Common ostrich, Botswana) to birds that average 55,000 miles a year (Arctic tern, Norway); from birds that live in caves (Oilbird, Venezuela) to birds that build and live in huge communal nests (Sociable weaver, Namibia) to birds that burrow (Atlantic puffin, Iceland) to birds that now live mostly in human-made houses (Purple martin, USA); from the plentiful—at least in my neighborhood! (Northern mockingbird, USA) to a bird that was only discovered in 2019 (Tororoi bailador, Colombia), *Around the World in 80 Birds* showcases the diversity of the avian world.

Author Mike Unwin specializes in conservation and natural history and is an award-winning writer of both adult and children's books, as well as an illustrator and photographer. He's traveled and lived around the world.

Around the World in 80 Birds is the third book in a series, with a previous book on plants and one on trees. It's a fascinating look at birds from all corners of the globe.

SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The 32nd annual Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival will take place January 14-15 from 8 am to 4 pm daily, featuring over 20,000 Sandhill Cranes that stop over during their winter migration at the Hiwassee Refuge. The calls of these magnificent birds can be heard from over a mile away. You will see the mating dances of these 4-foot tall birds and their 6 to 7-foot wingspan on display. As always there will be entertainment, vendors, and activities for children. For information on the schedule of events visit www.tn.gov/twra



BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL



The 19th annual Bald eagle Festival at Reelfoot Lake will take place Feb. 3-5.

More than 40 nesting pairs of Bald eagles now reside at this unusual lake that was created by an earthquake in the winter of 1811-1812 causing the Mississippi River to flow backwards for as long as 24 hrs. Tours, educational programs, and activities are available. Tours and accommodations fill up pretty quickly so if you want to attend you may want to start planning now. Lots of different birds can be seen around the lake including White Pelicans.

CONTACT— 731-253-2007 or visit

www.reelfoottourism.com for more information.