

NewsHawk



www.nashvillebirds.org

1st Quarter, 2024

• **President** •

Cyndi Routledge
(routledges@bellsouth.net)

• **Secretary** •

Margie Dunham
(margiedunham@comcast.net)

• **Treasurer** •

Pam Lasley
(plasley@comcast.net)

• **1st VP/Program Coordinator** •

Cherie Parker
(cherieparker@comcast.net)

• **2nd VP/Field Trip Coordinator** •

Mike Smith
(ms722@bellsouth.net)

• **NewsHawk Coordinator** •

Angie Elmore
(nashvilnewshawk@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 [NashvilleTOS](https://www.facebook.com/NashvilleTOS)

President's Message:

Happy New Year!! Hope your first bird of 2024 was memorable.

Elections for Officers and Committee Chairs were held at the November 2023 meeting.

Congratulations and many THANKS to the following volunteers:

President – Cyndi Routledge
1 st VP/Program Chair – Cherie Parker
2 nd VP/Field Trip Chair – Mike Smith
Secretary – Margie Dunham
Treasurer – Pam Lasley
Membership – Steve Routledge
Finance – Susan Hollyday
Media Coordinator – Angie Elmore
Legislative Liaison – Melinda Welton

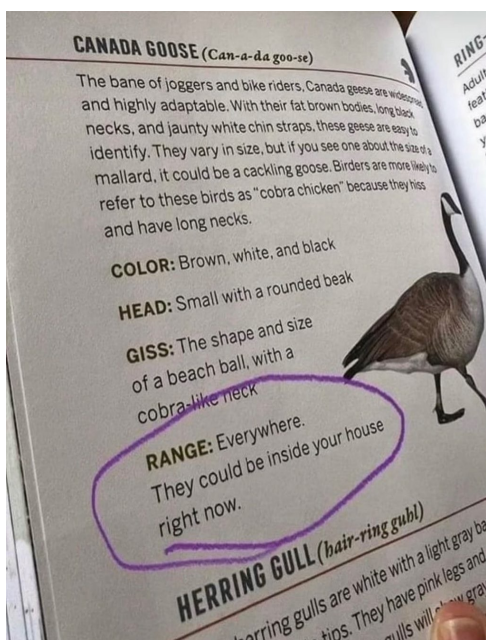
We hope you'll be inspired by these volunteers who continue to work for the success of NTOS and to ensure it continues into the future strong and healthy. If you think you might consider stepping into one of these leadership roles in 2026, we can certainly arrange for you to 'shadow' one of these folks and learn about the job/role. Sometimes true knowledge of what it takes sheds the apprehension about a certain role and replaces it with the knowledge that you too can and will make a difference in our birding community. Please consider this possibility and what you can do for your TOS Chapter!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to personally thank VP and Program Chair, Susie Russenberger for providing programs for us the last 4 years. We traveled, we learned, we laughed, and we enjoyed each and every one of them she arranged for NTOS. When you see Susie, please take a minute to show your appreciation.

We had a wonderful Christmas Pot-Luck celebration in December. Food and drink were abundant, and we all very much enjoyed the program presented by Steve Lasley on Cuba.

Many THANKS to all who participated in our annual Christmas Bird Counts. We had a few 'new' Areas Leaders who did a wonderful job recruiting, seeing to details and reporting results. Scott Block remains a crucial and behind the scenes integral part of all our counts by not only supplying a reporting link but compiling all the results into one report which makes the job of coordinator so much easier. When you see him out and about, please do THANK him.

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

Also special thanks to Richard Connors and Tarcila Fox for co-coordinating the New Year's Day 'Lake' Count. What a wonderful way to start off a new year with the comradery of counting birds together.

Upcoming field trips and monthly programs are listed within this publication as well as on the NTOS webpage. Take a minute to put them on your personal calendars and join us. Mike Smith and Cherie Parker do a great job in supplying us with varied trips and programs. Show them your appreciation by attending them and thanking them for the work they do.

A quick reminder to continue keeping an eye out for any 'western winter' hummingbirds you might see or hear about and contact me – routledges@bellsouth.net – to let me know. As migration begins in March hummingbirds will once again be 'on the move' so it's a good time to hang a feeder and be watching.

Finally, the next deadline for your NewsHawk is March 15, 2024. Please consider making a contribution to your newsletter.

Until next time, Happy Birding!

Cyndi Routledge, President

Conservation Grant Recipient Follow-up

By Cyndi Routledge

Back in April 2023 we received a conservation application for a one-time grant to help support the Autumn Migratory Bird Banding Station on Guanahacabibes Peninsula, run by the Instituto de Ecologia y Sistemática in Havana, Cuba. Our membership subsequently voted unanimously in favor of the \$2500 grant and in October 2023 our good friends at The Gulf Coast Observatory in Lake Jackson, Texas, volunteered to transport the funds to Cuba, as well as a donated computer, camera and 2 copies of the new version of "The Identification Guide to North American Birds" by Peter Pyle, since mailing anything to Cuba is impossible.

We will receive updates and a report in the coming months so stay tuned. In the meantime here are a few pictures from the evening presentation and of the banding station on Guanahacabibes Peninsula.



Upcoming NTOS Meeting Programs

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

January 18, 2024

Birding on Ice - A Winter Tour of Japan by Graham Gerdeman.

Steller's Sea Eagles gliding by at close range.. the mythical dance of the Japanese Red-crowned Crane... spending a night with the largest owl on Earth... and Snow Monkeys! Touring Japan in the heart of winter includes these iconic wildlife experiences and much more. TOS member and photographer Graham Gerdeman will present images from 2 weeks of birding and exploring the sights, sounds, and tastes of Japan this past January.

February 15, 2024

A Week in Belize by Mike Smith

Michael Smith and his daughters took a week-long trip to Belize over fall break, and although not strictly a birding trip, there was plenty of time dedicated to finding some of the local specialties. They visited the area in and around the Mayan Ruins at Lamanai, Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, and the island of Caye Caulker along the amazing Belizean coral reef. Mike will share some photos and stories from his trip and even discuss a potential future NTOS trip to Belize.

March 21, 2024

Bird Guy of the Indianapolis by Earl Henry

NTOS Member Earl Henry will present a slide program about his father, Dr. Earl Henry (1911 - 1945), a dentist and noted TOS member who died in the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in 1945. Dr. Henry was a member of the Knoxville Chapter and also served as the president of the Memphis Chapter while a student in dental school. Dr. Henry had many talents but is best known for his colorful paintings of birds during the last three years of his life. Attendees will get to choose from among several free prints, both small and large, that Earl, Jr. will bring to the meeting.

Upcoming Field Trips

January 20th - Pace Point/Britton Ford:

Come join us for a trip to the Big Sandy unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge as we explore the many bays and inlets for wintering ducks, geese, loons, and gulls as well as the surrounding uplands for raptors and songbirds. An impressive number of rarities have occurred at this location and it can hold staggering numbers of waterfowl and sparrows in the winter. All seven woodpecker species can be found with regularity, and the open fields can be good for larks, longspurs, and pipits. This area is also fairly reliable for wintering Golden Eagle and LeConte's Sparrow. We will meet at 8:00 am at the Sunoco Gas Station at the corner of Hwy 69A and Main St. in the town of Big Sandy. For logistical reasons, carpooling is highly encouraged to maximize everyone's chances for seeing all the birds. For those wishing to carpool from Nashville, meet at the Bellevue Park-and-Ride and leave no later than 6:15 am. The outing should last through mid-afternoon with a lunch stop back in Big Sandy as we travel from Pace Point over to Britton Ford. Please dress for the weather as it can be windy along the water. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

February 17th – Bells Bend Park:

We will take a mid-winter tour through Bells Bend Park. We'll start just before dawn in search of owls and woodcock: this is a great time of year to watch woodcock displaying in the fields behind the nature center. Once things lighten up, we'll wander along one of the main trails which loops down to the river and back in search of sparrows, finches, waterfowl, raptors, etc...We'll meet at 5:30 a.m. at the Nature Center Parking lot. For those wishing to sleep in a bit, you can join us around 7:00 at the Nature Center parking lot (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

March 23rd – Bledsoe Creek State Park:

Join Tim Loyd for an early spring outing to explore Bledsoe Creek State Park located just east of Gallatin. Bledsoe Creek packs a lot of different habitats into a relatively small area, making it one of the top birding destinations in Sumner County. It contains a mix of bottomland forest, a small marsh, open water, and upland forest, all easily accessible via the network of trails that crisscross the park. We will meet at 7:00 at the recently constructed visitor center and start by working our way along the relatively flat lakeshore trail, before heading up a short, but steep and somewhat strenuous incline to an area of upland forest bordered by a large pasture. The trail then meanders through the woods and ultimately back down to the visitor center. The total distance is approx. 2.8 miles and we should wrap up late in the morning. Please dress in layers, and wear appropriate footwear. (Contact information: ms722@bellsouth.net. Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

Wednesday Morning Radnor Lake Leaders needed....

It's time to secure 4 volunteers to lead our Spring migration Wednesday morning walks at Radnor Lake State Park. Walks begin at 7:30 am from the Visitor's Center Park lot off Otter Creek Rd and continue up the road, across the spillway and down to Long Bridge. The dates are April 17 th , April 24 th , May 1 st and May 8 th this spring.

Leaders are responsible for being the point of contact that morning, welcoming participants, keeping folks moving and keeping the group list. You DO NOT have to be an expert birder. If you have any questions or would like to sign up to lead please contact Cyndi Routledge – routledges@bellsouth.net. THANK YOU for considering...

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TN-BIRD?

TN-bird is a birding communications network covering the entire state of Tennessee where you can:

- report and receive rare bird sighting information
- share timely information about bird outings and chapter field trips
- interact with members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and other bird-related organizations.

To subscribe to TN-bird, go to: <https://www.freelists.org/list/tn-bird>

To post to this mailing list, simply send email to: tn-bird@freelists.org. TN-Bird requires you to sign your message with your first and last name and the city/town and state where you live. You should also report the county and the date of observation of all sightings.

To unsubscribe, send email to: tn-bird-request@freelists.org with 'unsubscribe' in the subject field.

TN-Bird Net was created by the late Wallace Coffey, and is owned and managed by the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

TN-Bird Net Archives are at <http://www.freelists.org/archives/tn-bird/>

**2023 "land" Christmas Bird Count results are available at:
<https://www.nashvillebirds.org/bird-count-results-and-updates/>**

NTOS Fall 2023 Bird Count

By Barbara Harris

We were blessed with good weather for our fall count this year, and subsequently we had a high turnout. We tallied 129 species, with Shelby Park and Bottoms having the highest count (80 species). Highlights were a lesser black-backed gull in the Old Hickory area and two merlins at Bells Bend. There was also a scissor-tailed flycatcher at Shelby Bottoms. Thanks to all who participated!

See the following pages for all the tallies...

NTOS Fall Count

Date: Sept. 30, 2023

Species	Bell's Bend	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Ow's Hill	Percy Priest	Radnor Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	WS Davis Marsh	Total
Geese, Swans, Ducks											
Canada Goose	1	12	25	56		1	81		12		188
Wood Duck				17		20	15	2	4		58
Mallard	2	6		112		2	8	1			131
Blue-winged Teal				2							2
Hooded Merganser				1							1
Quail, Turkeys											
Northern Bobwhite	1										1
Wild Turkey	3	6	12	5			2	30			58
Loons, Grebes											
Common Loon						1					1
Pied-billed Grebe				6		1					7
Cormorants, Pelicans											
Double-crested Cormorant				102		1	6	1			110
Hérons, Ibis, Vultures											
American Bittern							1				1
Great Blue Heron	1	2	2	19		1	2	2	1	1	31
Great Egret	1			4			2		4		11
Green Heron					1		1	1			3
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1							1
Black Vulture	59	26	15	73	2	10	16	12			213
Turkey Vulture	8	10	4	4		5	5	4			40
Hawks, Eagles											
Osprey	1										1
Northern Harrier							1				1
Cooper's Hawk		1		1		1	2				5
Bald Eagle	1	1				2	2				6
Red-shouldered Hawk	2					1	4				7
Broad-winged Hawk	1						1				2
Red-tailed Hawk	2	4	3	2		1	2	3			17
Rails, Coots, Cranes											
American Coot				4							4
Plovers											
Killdeer	2	24		8		1	14	25	5		79
Sandpipers, Phalaropes											
Spotted Sandpiper				1							1
Pectoral Sandpiper							1				1
Gulls, Terns											
Ring-billed Gull				27							27
Lesser Black-backed Gull				1							1
Doves											
Rock Pigeon		50		2			1				53

NTOS Fall Count
Date: Sept. 30, 2023

Species	Bells Bend	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owl's Hill	Percy Priest	Raccoon Lake	Shealy Park	Warner Parks	WS Davis Marsh	Total
Mourning Dove	4	8	1	29		1		10	10	15	78
Cuckoos											
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1							1			2
Owls											
Barn Owl								1			1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3			2		3					8
Great Horned Owl		2				1		2			5
Barred Owl		1		1		1	1	1			5
Goatsuckers											
Common Nighthawk								7			7
Swifts, Hummingbirds											
Chimney Swift	28	10	2	4	4	1	50	19	16		134
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	5	2	1			2		12	2	27
Kingfishers											
Belted Kingfisher	6	4	1	2			1	2	2		18
Woodpeckers											
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	2					4				7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	18	13	4	2	5		10	42		118
Downy Woodpecker	9	8	4	9	3	7	7	7	42		96
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2				1	2	1			8
Northern Flicker	11	4	1	1	1	3	1	4	4		30
Pileated Woodpecker	7	2	2	3			2	3	13		32
Falcons											
American Kestrel	3	3	3	2				1			12
Merlin	2										2
Flycatchers											
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	7	4	7	1	4	4	7	16		51
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1		1								2
Acadian Flycatcher			2								2
Alder Flycatcher	1										1
Least Flycatcher	1										1
Eastern Phoebe	4	3	1	1	1		2	4	10		26
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher								1			1
Vireos											
White-eyed Vireo	15		5	3	3			5	5		36
Yellow-throated Vireo		2	3				1	1	1		8
Warbling Vireo	1							1			2
Philadelphia Vireo	2			3				1			6
Red-eyed Vireo	3			1				1			5
Jays, Crows											
Blue Jay	89	50	24	11	8	9	8	15	56	2	272
American Crow	23	20	8	20	7	8	2	25	16		129

NTOS Fall Count

Date: Sept. 30, 2023

Species	Bells Bend	Harpheth East	Harpheth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owfs Hill	Percy Priest	Rodnor Lake	Sheby Park	Warner Parks	WS Davis Marsh	Total
Larks, Swallows											
N. Rough-winged Swallow				22		2		6			30
Tree Swallow						3					3
Barn Swallow		2				4		12			18
Cickadees, Titmice											
Carolina Chickadee	28	36	13	29	9	21	11	14	76		237
Tufted Titmouse	20	32	7	14	5	14	7	9	65		173
Nuthatches, Creepers											
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1										1
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	12	4	2	4	2	3	1	38		72
Wrens											
House Wren	7		1	2				1	4		15
Sedge Wren	2							1	1		4
Marsh Wren	1							3	1		5
Carolina Wren	57	27	12	11	9	16	15	19	65	2	233
Kinglets, Gnatcatchers											
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4				1				1		6
Thrushes											
Eastern Bluebird	4	15	5	14	8	5	1	44	88		184
Veery									2		2
Gray-cheeked Thrush		2				1			2		5
Swainson's Thrush	3	4	3			2	1	3	4		20
Wood Thrush		2									2
American Robin	16	55	1	15		1	2	43	19		152
Mockingbirds, Thrashers											
Gray Catbird	50	11	3	3	2	1		8			78
Northern Mockingbird	19	20	21	11		3		14	24	2	114
Brown Thrasher	17	4	3	6		1		7	5		43
Starlings, Pipits, Waxwings											
European Starling	39	50		64		2		68	59	500	782
Cedar Waxwing	6			13			110		19		148
Warblers											
Ovenbird	1	1							2		4
Northern Waterthrush		1							1		2
Golden-winged Warbler							1				1
Black-and-white Warbler	1	1		1		2	2	3	1		11
Tennessee Warbler	1	35	4	9	3	1	5	19	67		144
Orange-crowned Warbler									1		1
Nashville Warbler	1			1				2	3		7
Common Yellowthroat	33	1					1	3	4		42
Hooded Warbler									1		1
American Redstart	3	12		7		3	1	14	12		52

NTOS Fall Count
Date: Sept. 30, 2023

Species	Bells Bend	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owls Hill	Percy Priest	Radnor Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	WS Davis Marsh	Total
Cape May Warbler		3		1							4
Northern Parula		2		3				1	2		8
Magnolia Warbler	4	30	1	24	8	7	4	56	29		163
Bay-breasted Warbler		6				2	2	1	9		20
Blackburnian Warbler		1				2	1	2	1		7
Yellow Warbler						2		1			3
Chestnut-sided Warbler		2							1		3
Palm Warbler		7						1			8
Pine Warbler				3							3
Yellow-throated Warbler				2				1			3
Prairie Warbler	2										2
Black-throated Green Warbler		5		2		4	5		3		19
Yellow-breasted Chat					1						1
Sparrows											
Eastern Towhee	33	3	4	3	4	3			12		62
Chipping Sparrow									1		1
Field Sparrow	68	1	1	2		2			16		90
Savannah Sparrow								1			1
Song Sparrow		1						3			4
Swamp Sparrow		1									1
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings											
Summer Tanager	1	1	2	3		1		3	11		22
Scarlet Tanager		1							1		2
Northern Cardinal	76	38	14	19	9	15	11	21	101		304
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	4	4			3	3		18		33
Blue Grosbeak	1										1
Indigo Bunting	17	4	3		3			3	82		112
Blackbirds											
Red-winged Blackbird		12						1		30	43
Eastern Meadowlark		8						10	15		33
Common Grackle		25				6		3	11		45
Brown-headed Cowbird		1	2					2			5
Baltimore Oriole									1		1
Finches											
House Finch	1	5	8	2	7	4	3	28	40		98
American Goldfinch	18	9	9	3			2	6	67	1	115
House Sparrow	6										6
Total Species	74	72	45	68	25	54	40	80	70	13	129
Total Number of Birds	878	786	263	843	106	205	309	726	1313	580	6009

NTOS Fall Count

Date: Sept. 30, 2023

Harpeth East	
Date	30 September 2023
Start & End Time	6:30am-2:00pm
Temp & Weather	mid 60s to low 80s, Clear to partly cloudy, humid
Car Miles & Hours	19 miles, 1 hour
Foot Miles & Hours	11 foot miles, 5.5 hours
Owling Miles & Hours 0 miles, 10 minutes	
Observers	Steven Goodbred, John Kell, Trae Bradfield, Susan Bradfield

Bells Bend	
Date	Sept. 30, 2023
Start & End Time	7:15 AM-7PM
Temp & Weather	65-87; clear skies
Car Miles & Hours	13 mi.
Foot Miles & Hours	9 mi
Owling Miles & Hours 0	
Observers	Lise Brown, Tim Cook, Paul Edelman, Joe Hall, Barbara Harris, Suanna Sherry, Linnann Welch, Melinda Welton

Harpeth West	
Date	Sept. 30, 2023
Start & End Time	7:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Temp & Weather	62-80F fair no wind
Car Miles & Hours	35 mi. 2.0 hrs
Foot Miles & Hours	1.5 mi. 4 hrs.
Owling Miles & Hours N.A.	
Observers	Richard Connors, Judy Luna, Sarah Scott, Sheila Shay, Kathy Smith

Old Hickory Lake	
Date	9-30-2023
Start & End Time	5:22am-3:00pm
Temp & Weather	60's and dense fog in the morning, 80's and sunny from late morning through afternoon
Car Miles & Hours	25 miles, 2 hours
Foot Miles & Hours	4 miles, 3 hours (1 total hour stationary observation at lake)
Owling Miles & Hours	.5 mile 30 minutes
Observers	Tim Loyd, Jordan Rex, Brad Dowd

Owl's Hill	
Date	Sept 30, 2023
Start & End Time	7 am - 11:15 am
Temp & Weather	Clear, 70s
Car Miles & Hours	0
Foot Miles & Hours	2
Owling Miles & Hours	0
Observers	Jean Buchanan, Lisa Stevenson, Marcus Snyder, Anne Snyder, Laura Smith

Percy Priest	
Date	9/30/23
Start & End Time	5:30am-11:18am
Temp & Weather	0
Car Miles & Hours	0
Foot Miles & Hours	4.3 miles
Owling Miles & Hours	0
Observers	Serena Pedane, Avery Fish, Grant Winter

Radnor Lake	
Date	9/30/23
Start & End Time	7:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Temp & Weather	low 70's, mostly sunny and calm winds
Car Miles & Hours	0
Foot Miles & Hours	3.4 miles, 3 hours
Owling Miles & Hours 0	
Observers	Chris Sloan
Shelby Park	
Date	September 30, 2023
Start & End Time	6:30 AM-12:00 PM
Temp & Weather	0
Car Miles & Hours	6 miles 30 minutes
Foot Miles & Hours	4 miles 5 hours
Owling Miles & Hours 0	
Observers	Phillip Casteel, Ariel Dunham, Mark Hackney, Ruben Stoll, Cassy Dorff, Andrew Cameron, Suzanne Cameron.
Warner Parks	
Date	09/30/2023
Start & End Time	6:30AM - 9:00PM
Temp & Weather	Started at 67F and foggy, went up to 87F with clear sunny skies
Car Miles & Hours	17 miles, 2 hours
Foot Miles & Hours	17.7 miles, 20 hours
Owling Miles & Hours	0
Observers	Graham Gerdeman, Frank Fekel, Laura Cook, Rachel Anderson, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw, Deana Mcknett Burke, Amy Pardo, Steve Pardo, Benjamin Pardo, Hannah Pardo, Kren Teren, Jessica Robb

Walter S Davis Marsh	
Date	Sept 30, 2023
Start & End Time	9:51 AM - 10:07 AM
Temp & Weather	Sunny and warm. No wind.
Car Miles & Hours	0
Foot Miles & Hours	0 miles / 16 minutes (~.25 hr)
Owling Miles & Hours	n/a
Observers	1

What An Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds

Book Review by Cindy Kershner

On the Richland Creek Greenway, not far from where the entrance from Target meets the greenway, there's a hill I call Owl Hill. I often walk there in the late afternoon or early evening to listen to the conversation between two great horned owls (as identified by Merlin).

So when I saw Jennifer Ackerman's newest book, it seemed like a good next read.

Ackerman has been a science and nature writer for more than three decades and is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds* and *The Bird Way*. Her latest book, *What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds* is an interesting and thorough look at owls.

Humans have evidently always been fascinated by owls; there are paintings in the Chauvet Cave that are at least 30,000 years old, as well as owl images in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and Greek mythology. And there have always been plenty of beliefs about owls, from how wise they are to the idea that they're harbingers of death. Today, we're learning more about owls than we've ever known, thanks to increased effort and new technology and techniques.

How owls communicate (more complicated than previously understood), court and raise their young; how they hunt; how they learn; and how they sense the world are all topics covered in the book. Researchers are studying wild owls, but also learning much from the close contact spent with captive owls that cannot be released. There are some 250 species of owls and, while the birds have always been considered mostly solitary and nocturnal, the new research has shown some are quite different.

Owls are found on every continent except Antarctica, and in her quest for knowledge, Ackerman seems to have traveled the world and connected with a variety of groups working to learn more and help the enigmatic bird, as information about owls from many countries is included. There are black and white photos throughout the book as well as a section of color photos.

And in case you didn't know, there is another local and better-known Owl's Hill, which is a nature sanctuary in Franklin. They have several owls that cannot be released into the wild, and they sometimes have programs featuring those owls, as well as other programs and hikes. <https://www.owlshill.org>.

