

NewsHawk



2nd Quarter, 2024

www.nashvillebirds.org

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

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TOS www.tnbirds.org

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Deadline for the 3rd Quarter 2024 newsletter
is June 15, 2024. Please send information to
nashvillenewshawk@gmail.com

Identifying Common Birds of Coastal Alabama:



Sandwich Tern



Sandwich Thief

President's Message:

Time and tide wait for no one and here we are in the second quarter of 2024 already! Yet it may be one of the most exciting times for a birder as spring migration gets underway. It's also a busy time for NTOS with our annual TOS meeting, Wednesday morning Radnor Lake walks and the first of many volunteer events.

I hope you've made plans to attend the TOS Annual Meeting in Knoxville on April 26-28. Registration and hotel information can be found at this link - <https://www.knoxbirds.org>. Spring in and around the Smokey Mountains is always magical. I hope to see you there.

I am still in need of ONE volunteer for our spring Wednesday morning Radnor walks...April 24th is available. Thanks to Stacy Elliot, Amy Pardo and Andy Lantz for stepping up and volunteering already. Please check your calendar and if you planned on attending this walk I'd appreciate you perhaps volunteering to lead it??

We are also in need of a couple volunteers for the NTOS table at Metro Park's Migratory Bird Day Celebration at Bells Bend Park on May 18th . Can you spare a couple hours and give us a hand? It's sure to be a great celebration and a wonderful out-reach opportunity for our Chapter.

Many thanks to all who participated in February's Great Back-yard Bird count. This world-wide event reveals interesting trends and citizen science information. Be sure to check out the results at <https://www.birdcount.org>

Till next time...

Happy spring migration and good birding!

Cyndi Routledge

NTOS President

Upcoming NTOS Meeting Programs

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

April 18

Madagascar – by Chris Sloan, Board Chair, ABA

Madagascar is so biologically unique that it is often called the Eighth Continent. Though it is situated off the coast of east Africa, it was more recently connected to India than any part of Africa! As a result, the overwhelming majority of all birds, mammals, reptiles and other life forms on the island are found nowhere else. NTOS member Chris Sloan will share stories and photos of lemurs, vangas, sifakas, couas, round-rollers, fodies, and other strange and bizarre creatures found during a three week trip in October and November 2023.

May 16

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.

June 20

Bird Guy of the USS 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 bird prints, both small and large, that Earl, Jr. will bring to the meeting.

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, April 20 th – Bowie Nature Park, Fairview, TN

Join Graham Gerdeman and Mike Smith for a visit to this under-birded gem in Williamson County. Consisting of extensive stands of deciduous hardwoods and pine forests, as well as several small lakes and ponds, Bowie's varied habitat should attract a good variety of birds, especially as spring migration heats up in mid-April. It is also one of the best places in the greater Nashville area to find Red-headed Woodpeckers, Pine Warblers, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. We will hike several interconnected trails that pass through each of these habitats. We will meet at 7:00am at picnic shelter #1 near Lake Van (just past the Nature Center). For additional information, please email ms722@bellsouth.net.

See next page for a May4th outing...

Saturday, May 18th – Green Door Gourmet, Nashville

Back by popular demand! We will tour this 200+ acre working organic farm which is nestled along the Cumberland River right across from Bells Bend Park. Featuring a mix of cedar forest, upland hardwoods, and large agricultural fields, it forms a habitat mosaic that should attract a wide variety of birds. We plan to hike around the entire property along a set of gravel and grass roads that visit these different habitats, and the total distance traveled should be approx. 3 miles. The farm also features restrooms and an organic farm shop where we will conclude the trip. We will meet at 6:30am at the main entrance. For additional information, please email s722@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, June 8 th – Breeding Birds of Beaman Park

We will explore the hills and hollows of Beaman Park for the breeding birds that call this lovely park home. At least 8 warbler species, 3 flycatchers, both tanagers, Wood Thrush, and numerous other birds spend the summer months here and we will hike the Henry Hollow Loop in search of them all. We will meet at 7:00am at the Creekside trailhead parking lot located off of Little Marrowbone Rd. Please wear sturdy footwear as the trails can be muddy, especially after it rains. Parts of the hike involve some relatively steep ascents/descents as we work our way up and over the ridge, but we will take our time, looking and listening for birds along the way. For additional information, please email ms722@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, May 4th – 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. 2023 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.



IN CASE YOU MISSED THESE ARTICLES

[A Bounty for Birds: Wetlands of North America - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](https://abcbirds.org)

[A Tale of Two Marsh Birds - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](https://abcbirds.org)

The Golden-winged Warbler, a strikingly beautiful and distinctive songbird, has been honored as the ABA Bird of the Year for 2024.

The **golden-winged warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) is a New World warbler. It breeds in southeastern and south-central Canada and in the Appalachian Mountains in northeastern to north-central United States. The majority of the global population breeds in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Manitoba. Golden-winged warbler populations are slowly expanding northwards, but are generally declining across its range, most likely as a result of habitat loss and competition/interbreeding with the very closely related blue-winged warbler, *Vermivora cyanoptera*. Populations are now restricted to two regions: the Great Lakes and the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachian population has declined 98% since the 1960s and is significantly imperiled. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list the species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and is currently reviewing all information after issuing a positive finding. Upon review, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the petition to list the species as endangered or threatened presents "substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing the golden-winged warbler may be warranted."



GOODBYE COOPER'S HAWK!

Get ready to say farewell to Cooper's Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Gambel's Quail, Hammond's Flycatcher, Lewis's Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Brewer's Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole and a good many more.

No, these birds are not extinct. Their names are being changed. The governing Council of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) recently announced three important commitments related to English "common names" of birds:



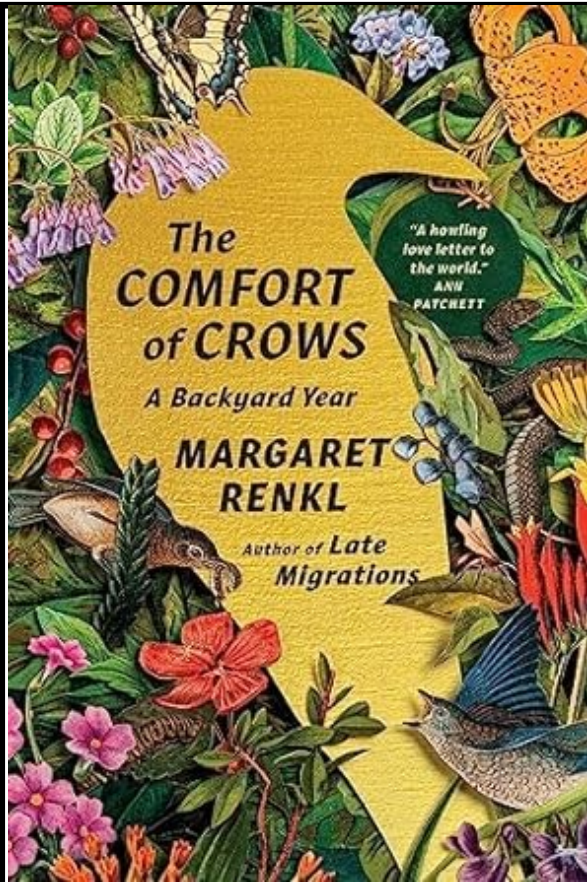
1. The AOS commits to changing all English-language names of birds within its geographic jurisdiction that are named directly after people (eponyms), along with other names deemed offensive and exclusionary, focusing first on those species that occur primarily within the U.S. and Canada.
2. The AOS commits to establishing a new committee to oversee the assignment of all English common names for species within the AOS's jurisdiction; this committee will broaden participation by including a diverse representation of individuals with expertise in the social sciences, communications, ornithology and taxonomy.
3. 3. The AOS commits to actively involving the public in the process of selecting new English names.

The project will begin in earnest next year and initially focus on 70 to 80 bird species that occur primarily in the U.S. and Canada. That's about 6% to 7% of the total species in this geographic region.

Judith Scarl, the Executive Director, and CEO of AOS, said in a statement that there has long been historic bias in how birds have been named, and scientists should work to eliminate that bias. "Exclusionary naming conventions developed in the 1800's clouded by racism and misogyny, don't work for us today, and the time has come for us to transform the process and redirect the focus to the birds, where it belongs."

The elimination of all eponyms makes this a sweeping project. The process, rationale, and opportunity are all explained here: <https://americanornithology.org/about/english-bird-names-project/american-ornithological-society-council-statement-on-english-bird-names/>.

Courtesy of the Birding Community E-Bulletin November 2023. You can access all past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community.e.bulletin>



The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year

Written by Margaret Renkl

Illustrated by Billy Renkl

Reviewed by Cindy Kershner

Local writer Margaret Renkl's weekly opinion column in The New York Times is an always-thoughtful essay that usually focuses on the environment and nature. Renkl's newest book, *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year* is a book of essays that continues in the same vein. Some of these essays evidently appeared earlier in the Times, but most did not. The book is divided into Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, with an essay for each week of the year. Crows and other birds play starring roles, as do chipmunks, foxes, snakes, spiders and many more creatures as Renkl reflects on the year. The majority of the essays are about her personal experiences with nature, the kind of experiences many of us have had. In addition, what Renkl calls Praise Songs are occasionally interspersed among the essays, and they add depth to the book.

Billy Renkl, Renkl's brother, has created artwork for each essay. If you can read a hard copy of the book instead of the digital version, do so, because the artwork shows up more clearly in the printed version. It's worth seeing more clearly.

In all her essays, Renkl wants her readers to stop and notice the natural world in all its beauty and glory, but because nature is not always soothing, some of the essays are somewhat sad. Overall, however, this is an excellent book for reading a few essays at a time, using them as a calming and thoughtful space during your day.

