

NewsHawk



www.nashvillebirds.org

2nd Quarter, 2025

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

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

President's Message:

Happy Spring Migration!

As birders we eagerly await this time of year watching for signs of this amazing annual seasonal movement. Perhaps you've been able to see your first of the season Louisiana Waterthrush, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow or Ruby-throated hummingbird already? Have you said farewell and safe travels to the White-throated Sparrows, Brown Creepers, or Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers?

Spring is definitely a time of change and renewal, shedding the old and embracing the new. One way to do this is to embark on a new volunteer adventure to celebrate the season and support NTOS. Perhaps you'd be interested in joining Susie Russenberger and serving on the Nominating Committee. We need two willing folks to step up for this short term, yet important opportunity. The job can be done from the comfort of your home and at your convenience. Or maybe you'd like to help lead NTOS into the future by volunteering to hold an Office? Not one of these positions take up much of your time. But the dividends paid are priceless! If you're remotely curious about any position or have any questions about what they entail, please reach out to me. I'll be happy to fill you in. I promise it's not as scary as you might think! And speaking of volunteers...I want to thank Kathy Ware, Melinda Welton, Kevin Bowden and Cameron Cohen for each volunteering to lead a Radnor Lake Spring migration walk. The first of these walks will take place on April 23rd beginning at 7:30 am in the west parking lot outside the Visitor's Center. We will wrap up this season with the May 14th Walk. Please remember to thank these volunteers when you join them on one of these 4 walks.

Mark those calendars and join NTOS on Saturday, April 26th for our annual Spring count. This count, like the Fall count, encompasses ALL of Davidson County. So, if you live within the county limits you can even participate in your own backyard! Whether you count there or on a traditional route, we ask that you contact Barbara Harris - harrbarbara@bellsouth.net so that areas are not 'double-counted'. Thanks in advance for participating in this long-running citizen science project.

Your Executive Board of Directors would like to announce the awarding of an NTOS Conservation Grant to The Bird Alliance Group at Middle College in Clarksville. This group of public-school 11th and 12th young adults are led by biology teacher and avid birder, Brandy Schnettler. Brandy created the group to focus on citizen science, habitat preservation and improvement, and community engagement. So far this group of young birders have participated in local bird counts, the Cornell Feeder Watch program and volunteer each August at The Rotary Park Hummingbird Festival. The award of \$995



purchased 5 pairs of Vortex HD 8 x 42 binoculars for the group to enhance and help with their initiatives. These binoculars will be housed with Brandy and will be available 'on loan' to those students who don't have a pair of their own. It is truly a gift that will keep on giving year after year!! Watch future NewsHawk for updates and information from these young birders.

Finally, I hope you have or plan on signing up for the annual Spring TOS state meeting to be held in Chattanooga on May 2-4. The Chattanooga Chapter has been hard at work planning this meeting and good attendance is a great way to thank these folks for the hard work that goes into planning one of these events. Information and registration forms can be found in the upcoming Warbler or at tnbirds.org. It's always a good time when birders from around Tennessee get together. We hope to see you there!

Until next time...
Happy birding!
Cyndi Routledge

SECOND QUARTER 2025 OF NTOS PROGRAMS

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society 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.**

April 17, 2025 – “A Trip to Diversity, Three Weeks in Panama” – presented by Jody Stanton

Our April Program will be presented by Jody Stanton, retired Chief Geologist of the Nashville District Corps of Engineers and long-time nature enthusiast. The diverse ecology of Panama was enjoyed by Jody, his wife Vickie and brother David during a three-week birding trip hosted by The Canopy Family Eco-Tourism Company. Expert guides lead them through rich and varied habitats in search of the feathered fireworks of Central America. Please join us as Jody shares photographs and stories of birds and other denizens they encountered in this amazing country.

May 15, 2025 - “Jammin’ in Jamaica” presented by Steve Lasley

Steve and Pam Lasley, along with other NTOS members, recently visited the island of Jamaica where they experienced an unanticipated cultural adventure mixed with beautiful endemic birds. Jamaica's natural beauty is a paradise for nature lovers and birdwatchers alike. The island boasts lush rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and stunning beaches, creating diverse habitats for wildlife. Please join us as Steve shares photographs and stories from their experience on this beautiful Caribbean Island.

Steve Lasley, an avid birder and bird photographer, is a long-time member of the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

June 19 - “Zambia (or 6 Ways You Can Die Birding)” presented By Dr. David Kirschke

David Kirschke is a medical epidemiologist with the Tennessee Department of Health, and as an epidemiologist is pre-occupied with risk and death. Actually, he says Zambia was literally wonder-ful (and safe), although he will discuss his anxiety about camping with lions and hippos and tsetse flies. Please join us as David shares stories and photographs from his three weeks of travel in Zambia in August 2023.

David was active in the Nashville birding scene circa 2008-2010, where he learned his chops from the local birding community. Since then, he has been living and birding in Northeast Tennessee, putting up insane numbers (of checklists) at his local urban patch. He feels grateful to have had the opportunity to travel widely for work, education, and recreation to Asia, Africa, and Latin America. He can boast no particular birding expertise but specializes in self-guided birding trips and birding as an adjunct to other travel. Otherwise, he is trying to section hike the Appalachian Trail but is stalled out at the halfway point.

SECOND QUARTER 2025 NTOS FIELD TRIPS**Saturday, April 19th - Fremont Farm, Davidson Co.:**

Come join us for a unique opportunity to explore the private property of Sarah Fremont and her avid birding son Ari. They have graciously offered to lead us on a guided birding walk of their 45-acre property in southeastern Davidson County between Nolensville and Smyrna. It contains a mix of gardens, woods, and pastures which should be inviting to a large array of neotropical migrants. At the conclusion of the walk, cookies and coffee will be provided as well! We will begin at 7:00am - the address is 8856 Rocky Fork Road, Smyrna TN 37167. Once onto the driveway, head past the black barn and turn left up the gravel road to the back of the property where there is ample parking and where the trails are located. There is a small "cabin" where we will have coffee and cookies, and which has bathrooms as well.

Saturday, April 26th - NTOS Spring Count

Please consider joining in on some important citizen science during the NTOS Spring Count: team up with other birders as we visit the top hotspots in town as we near the peak of spring migration. All levels of experience are appreciated, and every bird counts, so please consider being a part of this important 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.

2025 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.

Saturday, May 17th – Bells Bend Park

We will explore the fields and woods of Bells Bend Park in the hopes of locating not only all of the breeding birds found here (which include bobwhite, buntings, orioles, chat, yellowthroat, Prairie and Blue-winged Warblers, and in the last few years, Dickcissel), but also some of the later migrating warblers, flycatchers, and grassland birds such as Bobolink that should be moving through during this time. In order to maximize the number of birds seen and take advantage of cooler morning temps, we'll plan on an early start and cover at least 3 to 4 miles, meaning this walk will be on the slightly more intense side. We will meet at the visitor center at 6:00am. Waterproof footwear and bug spray are highly recommended.

Saturday, June 7th – Larkspur Conservation Area, Sumner County

Located in northern Sumner County, Larkspur contains one of the finest examples of mature hardwood forest in our region, and together with the adjacent Nature Conservancy property at Taylor Hollow they support large numbers breeding tanagers, thrushes, and warblers, including Cerulean. The area also contains a small cedar glade and several grassy fields which complete the habitat mosaic. 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 7:00am at the trailhead; the address is 155 Bear Carr Rd, Westmoreland, TN. The gravel parking lot can only accommodate 8 to 10 cars, so carpooling is highly encouraged – please make arrangements amongst yourselves. A good meeting place is the Wal-Mart in Gallatin.

For additional information on any field trips, please email ms722@bellsouth.net

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

◆ [A Guide to Luring Warblers, Tanagers, Orioles, and Grosbeaks to Your Yard | Audubon](#)

◆ This was just published by USFWS on Nov. 19, 2024. I think some will find this interesting.

<https://www.fws.gov/media/2022-birding-united-states-demographic-and-economic-analysis>

Here's a snapshot of what you will find in Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis:

1. Nearly 96 million people aged 16 and older are birders in the United States.

2. The average age of birders is 49 years, with the majority age 65 and older.

3. Ninety-one million people watch birds around their home.

4. Participation in birding between men and women is nearly equal.

5. Twenty-four percent of birders fish; a separate 8 percent of birders hunt; and 6 percent of birders both fish and hunt.

6. Male birders are more likely to also fish and hunt.

7. African American birders tend to fish and hunt more than other races.

8. Birders spent \$107.6 billion on trips and equipment, with cameras, nest boxes, bird food and more accounting for \$12.6 billion of that total.

Summary excerpt:

The report provides economic and demographic information on bird watching in the United States. The information is of use to a litany of public interest groups and policy makers. This report identifies the characteristics of those who watch, feed, or provide habitat for birds, such as where they live, and their level of interest or avidity toward birds and bird watching. In addition to demographic information, this report also provides economic measures of birding. It estimates how much bird watchers, hereafter called birders, spend on their activities and the economic contribution of these expenditures.

TIP OF THE MONTH: BIRD-FRIENDLY CHOCOLATE

This year, the start of the Great Backyard Bird Count overlaps with Valentine's Day, and you may be wondering what unique gift to give to that special someone in your life. Here's a suggestion to consider: bird-friendly chocolate!

While you may be familiar with the bird certification scene when it comes to shade-grown coffee, you may be less familiar with its chocolate counterpart. Similar to coffee, cacao can be cultivated within a forested environment, maintaining the shade provided by native trees. But also like coffee, chocolate is often grown at near-industrial scale in landscapes simply cleared of native habitat.

Researchers at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center have observed that cocoa farms with 30-40% canopy cover and a variety of shade trees can support as many bird species, including endemics, frugivores, and insectivores, as undisturbed forests. You can find the details from Smithsonian here: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-cocoa>

You can also go further into the subject in a fine article by Bryony Angell in *BWD* for Jan/Feb 2025:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5607674fe4b0ffbc0fea7192/t/67656deea744a545d935e4b0/1734700536357/67-71_BWD_FEATURE_CHOCO_JF25v2+JV+APPROVED.pdf

Tennessee Ornithological Society Spring Meeting, 2025

The Chattanooga Chapter will host the 2025 TOS Spring Meeting, May 2-4. We at CTOS are eager to share our scenic city and birding hotspots with you!

The meeting sites are a short walk apart, and steps from Aquarium Plaza in downtown Chattanooga.

Friday evening's reception will be held at the [Courtyard by Marriott Chattanooga Downtown](#), from 5-8 PM. **Registration packets, name badges, and field trip sign-ups will be available during the reception, and also in the morning prior to field trips.** Saturday afternoon's Board of Directors meeting will also take place at the Courtyard Marriott. Saturday night's banquet and program, beginning at 6PM, will be at nearby [Puckett's Restaurant](#). Dinner will be a buffet with conventional and vegetarian choices. There are numerous other restaurants in downtown Chattanooga and the vicinity. We will be able to accommodate only 70 people for the dinner and speaker program on Saturday evening, so register soon.

For Saturday night's program, Dr. David Aborn, professor of ornithology at UTC, presents "What's in a Name? Background and Discussion on the Proposed Changes to North American Bird Names". Dr Aborn has developed a highly entertaining and informative visual presentation, guaranteed to generate a lively discussion!

A block of rooms will be held for TOS through April 2 at the Courtyard Marriott at the special rate of \$189/night. Breakfast and parking are included. The price for the banquet/program is \$25. [Book your group rate for Chattanooga TOS](#)

The Tennessee Aquarium will discount their entry fee by \$5 with your TOS lanyard and name badge throughout the weekend.

TOS Spring Meeting 2025 Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Cell phone _____

TOS Chapter affiliation or County _____

Chapter or State Officer position, if applicable _____

Is this your first TOS meeting? yes _____ no _____

\$ _____ for _____ Registration(s) at \$10 each

\$ _____ for _____ Banquet/program reservation(s) at \$25 each

\$ _____ payable to Chattanooga TOS

Via Mail: David Stone, CTOS Treasurer

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