

# NewsHawk



[www.nashvillebirds.org](http://www.nashvillebirds.org)

3rd Quarter, 2025

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the month prior to publication  
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NTOS [www.nashvillebirds.org](http://www.nashvillebirds.org)  
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*The Serenity Prayer for Gull Birding*

Grant me the serenity to accept the  
gulls I cannot identify, the courage to  
try even though wow it's not going  
well and I'm also freezing, and the  
wisdom to know the difference.



President's Message:

Spring has sprung and summer is all but here. I hope you had a chance to get out and enjoy the new season, perhaps finding an old, feathered friend or discovering a new habitat or long desired species. The beauty of nature's rhythms stand as a reminder to all of us of the importance of preserving our environment and cherishing the wildlife that enriches our lives. This is especially important as this Administration assaults long standing conservation efforts with policies that undermine the protection of our natural resources and jeopardize the future of our environment.

Being an active 'birder' is so much more than just ticking a species off a list. True joy comes from knowing that our feathered friends are safe and thriving in their natural habitats. This requires a collective effort from all of us, by advocating for policies that protect our environment, by donating to conservation organizations, and by educating others about the importance of preserving nature. Every bird we see is a testament to the success of these efforts, and every species we lose is a call to action. Let us continue to support and engage in bird conservation, so that future generations can experience the same wonders of nature that we cherish today.

Please be aware of **action alerts** as they're posted. Your prompt response and insightful opinions are important. Staying engaged and heard will make a difference even if it seems an uphill climb.

One easy way to stay engaged is to sign-up for timely Action Alerts at <https://abcbirds.org/program/take-action/> or if you have charitable funds available by joining the American Bird Conservancy. <https://act.abcbirds.org/a/donate-membership> Not only will you be supporting bird conservation, but you'll receive a lovely and informative magazine.

Our commitment to preserving nature is not just for us, but for the generations to come. Let us strive to create a world where bird songs continue to fill the air, where habitats thrive, and where our natural heritage is safeguarded for all to enjoy not and into the future.

Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you all in September!!

Happy birding!

Cyndi Routledge  
NTOS President

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...**

[Proposed Bird Banding Lab Closure Endangers Bird Research - American Birding Association \(aba.org\)](#)

[This exquisite Archaeopteryx fossil reveals how flight took off in birds \(sciencenews.org\)](#)

**THIRD 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.**

**JULY 17 – NO MEETING**

**AUGUST 14 – NO MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 18 - “Birding Hawaii - Three Islands and a Pelagic” Presented by Susan Hubley**

We will begin our Fall Season of meetings with a **Potluck Meal**. Please **bring your favorite dish to share. (NTOS will provide all drinks and paper products.) We will begin gathering at 6:00 p.m.** and eat together. We will have a short business meeting at 7:15 followed by the program, **Birding Hawaii – Three Islands and a Pelagic** presented by Susan Hubley.

Susan Hubley, along with her husband Michael, traveled to Hawaii in October 2023. They visited the islands of Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island in search of the Hawaiian endemics, established exotics, and sea birds. The adventure included a pelagic from Kona.

The Hubleys will share photos of their trip and provide some insight into the perils facing the endemic species, and the conservation efforts currently underway.

Susan is a retired teacher, an avid birder and photographer who is a long-time member of the Kingsport Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. She is the East Tennessee Director-at-large on the TOS Board of Directors. When she is not birding, she enjoys reading and planning her next birding adventure.

**2025 SPRING BIRD COUNT**

From Barbara Harris

We've completed our 2025 spring count. We had 43 participants. There was a total of 153 species and 7533 individuals. High area counts were Old Hickory Lake, with 113 species, and Bells Bend, with 94 species. Noteworthy sightings were a Pacific Loon, a Little Blue Heron, and a Red-Necked Grebe in the Percy Priest area, and a Peregrine Falcon in Warner Parks. See pages 7-11 of this newsletter for full counts.

## THANK YOU FROM THE BIRD ALLIANCE GROUP...

As you all are aware from past Newsletters and announcements at our NTOS meeting, we gifted a \$1000 grant to the Bird Alliance Group in Clarksville for purchase of five pairs of high-quality binoculars the students could use with their volunteer counts and outings.

As promised, here's a 'thank you' from the group and a couple pictures of the kids using them. This gift is truly one that will continue 'giving' for years to come!!

*We are incredibly grateful to the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society for generously providing our Bird Alliance student group with five pairs of high-quality binoculars through the NTOS Conservation Fund Award. These binoculars have already enhanced our birding experiences—students have used them during campus bird walks and at our APSU feeding station, with many using binoculars for the first time.*

*These tools will be invaluable as Bird Alliance continues to grow. With this support, we are now better equipped to fulfill our mission: engaging students in local conservation efforts by filling critical gaps in regional bird population data. The binoculars will be used during the Audubon Christmas and Spring Bird Counts, as well as regular bird walks and feeder monitoring. Data collected will be uploaded to eBird, helping contribute to long-term studies of Tennessee's avian biodiversity.*

*Beyond research, the binoculars will also strengthen our educational outreach. We aim to introduce younger students to the joys of birdwatching and conservation, teaching them how to use binoculars effectively and fostering a lasting appreciation for the role birds play in healthy ecosystems.*

*Thank you to the Nashville TOS Chapter for empowering the next generation of birders and conservationists!*



## News about AviList

Learn more about AviList at the link below:

<https://ebird.org/.../avilist-a-unified-global-checklist..>

A unified global bird checklist, **AviList**, was released last week. Developed by a global team including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BirdLife International, the American Ornithological Society, and more, AviList recognizes 11,131 bird species across 252 families.

The eBird/Clements taxonomy—the backbone for the species list in eBird, Merlin, All About Birds, and Birds of the World—expects near 100% alignment with AviList by its 2026 update and eBird users probably won't notice any major changes. eBird taxonomic updates will continue to occur in October, will continue to stay current with scientific advances relevant to taxonomy, and will continue to provide regional common names in all languages that are familiar for a given region. But behind the scenes, instead of our eBird/Clements team independently assessing each potential taxonomic change, we will now be part of the global AviList collaboration which should ensure better, more stable decisions that draw on expertise from taxonomists that know each species best.

## 3RD QUARTER NTOS FIELD TRIPS

**July – no organized field trip.**

**August – no organized field trip**

**Saturday, September 20th – Ravenwood/Lytle Park, Nashville**

We'll explore Nashville's newest park around the peak of fall migration. Last October's field trip to Lytle proved very popular so we'll visit again about a month earlier to search for a different assortment of migrants in this very under-birded spot. This will also allow us to check on the progress of the native prairie restoration work being done in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. We will meet at 7:00am at the newly completed parking lot and playground in adjacent Ravenwood Park in Hermitage, which in and of itself boasts a nice array of habitat on the former golf course property. Trails are unimproved for the most part so sturdy shoes and bug spray are recommended. (Contact information: s722@bellsouth.net Please include "NTOS Field Trip" in the subject line.)

**October 4 th – NTOS Fall Count**

In lieu of a field trip, we hope that you will join other members of NTOS for our annual fall count. This important citizen science project allows us to track long-term population trends of species and can be a vital part of making informed conservation decisions...and the best part – no experience is necessary, just bring your enthusiasm and a pair of binoculars! There are routes all around town, including Old Hickory Lake, Shelby Park and Bottoms, Radnor Lake, Bells Bend, etc... so pick a count that makes sense for you and count for as long as you you'd like. For those interested, please contact Barbara Harris at harrbarbara@bellsouth.net so she can put you in touch with the route leader for the count of your choice.

## We Need You! Volunteer for a Leadership Role



*A note from Pam Lasley and Susie Russenberger,*

*NTOS Nominating Committee*

It's almost time to elect new officers for the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. We've been incredibly fortunate to have had a dedicated and effective group of officers who have served us well. Now, it's time to build on their legacy and continue leading our

chapter forward - and we need **you** to help shape the future of our group!

We are looking for the following officers:

President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president, Programs

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president, Field Trips

Secretary

Treasurer

State Director

Whether you're a long-time member or newer to the chapter, your talents and enthusiasm can make a difference. If you're interested in volunteering for a leadership role – or just want more information - we'd love to hear from you.

**Please contact:**

Susie Russenberger – [susierussenberger@comcast.net](mailto:susierussenberger@comcast.net)

Let's keep our chapter thriving—**we can't do it without you!**



**Volunteers Needed** for Fall Wednesday Morning Radnor Lake migration walks...

Our Wednesday morning fall walks begin on September 17th and end on October 8th. I am looking for 4 volunteers to each lead a walk. You don't have to be a 'birding expert' just someone willing to give a few hours, lead fellow birders and keep the 'official' list. If interested please contact me, [routledges@bellsouth.net](mailto:routledges@bellsouth.net) and let me know what date you'd like. Thanks!





# SAVE THE DATE

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency invites all nature enthusiasts, from professionals to backyard wildlife watchers, to the inaugural Tennessee Biodiversity Summit. This event will celebrate the actions taking place for the betterment and longevity of Tennessee's species.

## OCTOBER 22, 2025



MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT UNION



### Summer Hummingbird Festivals:

**August 2nd & 3rd** – Woodland's Nature Station HummerFest – 10 am to 4 pm. Land Between the Lakes - Cadiz, Kentucky. Admission charge

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** – Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Hummingbird Festival – 8 am to 2 pm - Springdale, Tennessee – free event

**August 16<sup>th</sup>** – Hummingbird and Butterfly Event – Rotary Park – 8 am to 1 pm – Clarksville, Tennessee – free event

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Hummingbird Festival – 9 am to noon - Jeffer's Bend Environmental Center – Hopkinsville, Kentucky – free event

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** – Hummingbird Fest – 8 am to 4 pm – Barfield-Crescent Park Wilderness Station, Murfreesboro, Tennessee – free event

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** – Hummingbird Celebration – 9 am to 2 pm, Warner Park, Nashville, Tennessee

## 2025 NTOS Spring Count

Date: 26Apr2025

Species	Bella Bend	Cheatham Co.	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owls Hill	Percy Priest	Rodnor Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	Total
<b>Geese, Swans, Ducks</b>											
Canada Goose	21	10	16		26	5	5	8	5	7	103
Wood Duck	1	2	2		5		2	16	5		33
Mallard	1		65	3	45		12	2	2	1	131
Blue-winged Teal				1							1
Common Goldeneye				1							1
Hooded Merganser				1							1
Red-breasted Merganser							1				1
<b>Quail, Turkeys</b>											
Northern Bobwhite	8										8
Wild Turkey	9	3	6	3	8	1		6	2	4	42
<b>Loons, Grebes</b>											
Pacific Loon							1				1
Common Loon				2			64				66
Pied-billed Grebe				2			1				3
Red-necked Grebe							1				1
<b>Cormorants, Pelicans</b>											
Double-crested Cormorant	1	18			205		13	4			241
<b>Hérons, Ibis, Vultures</b>											
Great Blue Heron	2	12	3	2	36		18	6	1	2	82
Great Egret				3							3
Little Blue Heron							1				1
Green Heron							1		3	1	5
Black-crowned Night-Heron				5							5
Black Vulture	30	67	20	27	42	4	17	1		21	229
Turkey Vulture	27	20	14	26	29	1	13	2	1	12	145
<b>Hawks, Eagles</b>											
Osprey	1	3			5		11				20
Cooper's Hawk			3		1	1					5
Bald Eagle	1			1				2			4
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	3	1	1	2				3		11
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1		2	2		1				7
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1	3	7	4	2		1		4	25
<b>Rails, Coots, Cranes</b>											
American Coot					16						16
<b>Plovers</b>											
Semipalmated Plover				2							2
Killdeer	1	9	5	2					2	5	24
<b>Sandpipers, Phalaropes</b>											
Spotted Sandpiper				2			2		2		6
Solitary Sandpiper				1	1	1					3



## 2025 NTOS Spring Count

Date: 26Apr2025

Species	Bells Bend	Cheatham Co.	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owl's Hill	Percy Priest	Rodnor Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	Total
American Woodcock	1										1
<b>Gulls, Terns</b>											
Bonaparte's Gull				2							2
Ring-billed Gull				19		6					25
Herring Gull				5							5
Caspian Tern				1							1
Forster's Tern				5							5
<b>Doves</b>											
Rock Pigeon		20		2							22
Eurasian Collared-Dove		1		2							3
Mourning Dove	12	15	24	8	15	6	3	5	1	10	99
<b>Cuckoos</b>											
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		2		1	1		2	2			8
<b>Owls</b>											
Eastern Screech-Owl				1		1					2
Great Horned Owl		2		1							3
Barred Owl	2	5	2	1	1	1	2	1			15
<b>Goatsuckers</b>											
Common Nighthawk				1			1				2
Chuck-will's-widow						1					1
Whip-poor-will		4									4
<b>Swifts, Hummingbirds</b>											
Chimney Swift	3		25	7	15		6	8	12	33	109
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1		1	2			2		2		8
<b>Kingfishers</b>											
Belted Kingfisher	1		2	1	5		1		2		12
<b>Woodpeckers</b>											
Red-headed Woodpecker			5	3				3			11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	12	5	13	6	4	4	13	2	37	108
Downy Woodpecker	2	2	4	2	5	4	2	5	3	19	48
Hairy Woodpecker		1	1	2	1			1			6
Northern Flicker	5		1	2			1	2		2	13
Pileated Woodpecker	3	5	3	6	3	1	1	8		7	37
<b>Falcons</b>											
American Kestrel	2	1	8	1						1	13
Peregrine Falcon										1	1
<b>Flycatchers</b>											
Eastern Wood-Pewee		1	1	2				1		8	13
Acadian Flycatcher		2		4				3		5	14
Least Flycatcher									2		2
Eastern Phoebe		2	3	2	1		1	1	1	3	14



## 2025 NTOS Spring Count

Date: 26Apr2025

Species	Bella Bend	Cheatham Co.	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owl's Hill	Percy Priest	Raccoon Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	Total
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	4	4	3	2		3	5	1	5	29
Eastern Kingbird	11	10	9	6	7		9	4	1	1	58
<b>Vireos</b>											
White-eyed Vireo	67	15	10	20	5	2		8	3	22	152
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	2	3	2			1	1		4	15
Blue-headed Vireo	1			1				1			3
Warbling Vireo		7	4		9		1				21
Red-eyed Vireo	8	2	5	10	6	1	2	10	4	46	94
<b>Jays, Crows</b>											
Blue Jay	16	5	26	15	10	5	12	4	6	16	115
American Crow	23	20	10	2	9	4	9		7	13	97
Fish Crow					1				1		2
<b>Larks, Swallows</b>											
N. Rough-winged Swallow	7	15	4	7	61	3	21	12	3	1	134
Purple Martin	11		18		4			1		20	54
Tree Swallow	7	1	20		40	2	4	7	9	19	109
Bank Swallow			1		2						3
Barn Swallow	7	4	25	11			8	1		48	104
Cliff Swallow	1	60	14	20	23					4	122
<b>Cickadees, Titmice</b>											
Carolina Chickadee	37	6	12	16	10	2	13	9	10	50	165
Tufted Titmouse	34	11	10	11	5	6	18	28	6	83	212
<b>Nuthatches, Creepers</b>											
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	5	4	4	1	3	1	4		19	44
<b>Wrens</b>											
House Wren	1				4		1		1		7
Sedge Wren	1									1	2
Carolina Wren	38	12	16	12	19	4	5	21	6	58	191
<b>Kinglets, Gnatcatchers</b>											
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	40	18	20	15	16	2	6	29	11	53	210
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		2		1		1	2			8
<b>Thrushes</b>											
Eastern Bluebird	20	13	16	10	10	15	1	5	4	29	123
Veery	1							1		3	5
Gray-cheeked Thrush				1							1
Swainson's Thrush			2				5	1		12	20
Hermit Thrush	1										1
Wood Thrush	4	5	2	19	1	1		4		27	63
American Robin	34	10	25	19	27	2	3	9	2	65	196
<b>Mockingbirds, Thrashers</b>											
Gray Catbird	2		1	1	8			1			13

2025 NTOS Spring Count  
Date: 26Apr2025

Species	Bella Bend	Cheatham Co.	Harpeeth East	Harpeeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owls Hill	Percy Priest	Raccoon Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	Total
Northern Mockingbird	17	12	12	14	13	1	6	1	2	13	91
Brown Thrasher	10	1	2	5	11	1	1				31
Starlings, Pipits, Waxwings											
European Starling	32	25	30	34	80		6	1	4	96	308
Cedar Waxwing	2		16		5		100			29	152
Warblers											
Ovenbird								1	1		2
Worm-eating Warbler			1	2						1	4
Louisiana Waterthrush				1				1		2	4
Northern Waterthrush	4	1	1		6		1	3	1		17
Blue-winged Warbler	13		1	6							20
Golden-winged Warbler	1										1
Black-and-white Warbler			2					2		2	6
Prothonotary Warbler	3	9			3		6	7	1		29
Tennessee Warbler	1	1	10	14				19		41	86
Orange-crowned Warbler					1		1				2
Nashville Warbler	3			3				2	1	6	15
Kentucky Warbler		4		4	1		1	2		8	20
Common Yellowthroat	79	10	5	18	5	2		5	5	11	140
Hooded Warbler				6				3		7	16
American Redstart								4		2	6
Cape May Warbler			4					1		1	6
Cerulean Warbler		1						1			2
Northern Parula	15	8	5	10	3	1	1	13	2	24	82
Bay-breasted Warbler			2					2		1	5
Blackburnian Warbler							1			1	2
Yellow Warbler	2	3	1		2				2	1	11
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2							3		2	7
Blackpoll Warbler			2	5	2		5	14		5	33
Palm Warbler	6		10	2	17		9	17	2	3	66
Pine Warbler				1	2						3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		20	2	13		14	57	1	7	115
Yellow-throated Warbler	2	7	3	7	4			3		6	32
Prairie Warbler	53	3	1	8	1				2		68
Black-throated Green Warbler			2	3				6		4	15
Yellow-breasted Chat	57	6		6	1			1		1	72
Sparrows											
Eastern Towhee	33	8	6	18	13	4	2	4	2	10	100
Chipping Sparrow	1	18	4	9	1	2				22	57
Field Sparrow	61	5	6	12	17	3		2	3	16	125
Savannah Sparrow		3			1				3	4	11

## 2025 NTOS Spring Count

Date: 26Apr2025

Species	Belle Bend	Chestnut Co.	Harpeth East	Harpeth West	Old Hickory Lake	Owl's Hill	Percy Priest	Rodnor Lake	Shelby Park	Warner Parks	Total
Song Sparrow	1	2	1	3	9	1				1	18
Lincoln's Sparrow	3				1						4
Swamp Sparrow	7				4	1			1		13
White-throated Sparrow	47	12	8	3	11	3	4	16	8	36	148
White-crowned Sparrow	3		1		2					2	8
<b>Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings</b>											
Summer Tanager	6	4	8	10	2		1	10		22	63
Scarlet Tanager	3	2	3	7	1	1	1	3		12	33
Northern Cardinal	107	25	14	19	56	12	9	32	21	73	368
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	3	6	11	2	1	3	8	2	5	42
Blue Grosbeak	4	1		1	2				1	2	11
Indigo Bunting	50	7	9	21	15	5	4	6	9	39	165
<b>Blackbirds</b>											
Red-winged Blackbird	49	22	16	10	9		20	4	14	6	150
Eastern Meadowlark	6	3	25	1	4					3	42
Common Grackle	3	15	4	4	30		28	1		6	91
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	30	11	19	12	1	7	11	5	33	144
Orchard Oriole	23	3	10	7	7		7	3		2	62
Baltimore Oriole	1		1	1	11		7	2	1	1	25
<b>Finches</b>											
House Finch	8	1	3	14	12	8		3		42	91
American Goldfinch	11	6	6	6	14	5	3	4		21	76
House Sparrow		1		2	6					2	11
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Total Number of Birds</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>7533</b>

