



October Meeting Program:

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Western Kingbird Range Expansion and Hybridization - presented by **Dr. Than Boves** and **Alex Worm** of Arkansas State University.

First question to be answered: What determines a range for a specific species?

Answer: Climate - Weather conditions prevailing in an area in general over a long period .

Habitat - A zone where an organism lives and can find food, shelter, protection, and mates for reproduction, utilizing the qualities the species has adapted to survive within the ecology of the habitat.

Through past observation many species have been assigned a “normal range” where they occur. As continued observations show, in some cases, these ranges may change in various ways (to the east, west, north, or south, as well as altitudinal, seasonal, etc.)

Next question: What constitutes a change in range?

Answer: The species must have multiple generations successfully established in a new area in order to constitute a range change or expansion. An eruption is not a change in range.

Next question: What causes changes in the range of a species?

Answer: This answer is not so simple. Among the possible answers are changes in the climate, changes in the food source, changes by humans in the way the land is used (agriculture, factories, cities, etc.), and changes in the competition for food and other resources (species population too high in an area).

Dr. Boves and his associates have been doing research to find answers to these questions. The species they have studied are the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and the Western Kingbird. They have a core research area of a stable population in central Oklahoma and are making comparisons with a peripheral population in eastern Arkansas and western Tennessee. As in most research, more questions are raised than are answered. Some of the questions they are seeking answers to are:

- If the normal behavior allows the species to be successful, how is the population maintained after the initial population is established?
- What variations are there in the habitat of the peripheral range compared with the core range?
- Are there differences in behavior of the species in the peripheral range compared with the core range?

Another area of research that they reported on is the hybridization between bird species. **Alex Worm** took the presentation in this direction as it applies to the Western Kingbird and the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The majority of this part of the program was over my head, so few details can be presented here. It suffices to say that there are cases where species are similar enough genetically that offspring can be achieved as the result of mating between the two different species. A hybridized bird cannot usually be determined by field observation alone. (C. Brown)

October Field Trip Reports

Shelby Farms Greenline - October 3, 2018: Dick Preston led the trip from the Podesta Street entrance east towards the park and back. There were five participants on this Wednesday beneath scattered clouds in temperatures in the upper 70s and low 80s. Forty four species were recorded including some interesting warblers. A list of the warblers seen is as follows: Golden-winged; Blue-winged; Tennessee; Nashville; American Redstart; Northern Parula; Magnolia; Chestnut-sided; Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green.

Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge - October 21, 2018: Van Harris led a group of 15 on the circuit of the roads and hotspots around the lake on a clear, and for us locals, very chilly day with temperatures in the low 40s-50s. The temperatures were punctuated by intermittent breezes in the 5-10 mph range. Apparently the Snow Geese (45) are beginning to arrive as they were one of the 63 species observed. Greater White-fronted Geese (65) were also seen (65). Ducks observed included Mallard (45), Wood Duck (5), Gadwall (875), N. Pintail (4), Lesser Scaup (12), and Ruddy Duck (25). High numbers of American Coot (450) and Double-crested Cormorant (550) were listed. Others of note included Bald Eagle (1), Barred Owl (1), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2), N. Flicker (9), E. Phoebe (9), Red-breasted Nuthatch (1), House Wren (1), Golden-crowned (4) and Ruby-crowned (14) Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco (4), White-throated Sparrow (18), Orange-crowned Warbler (3), Common Yellowthroat (1), and Black-throated Green Warbler (1). (text by C. Brown; data by Dick Preston)

W.C. Johnson Park, Collierville, TN - October 28, 2018: Chad Brown led....No data available yet.

Unusual sightings:

Virginia Reynolds spotted some **American Avocets** at the "Pits" recently. Virginia also says her partial albino American Robin, absent since July, has returned to harass the other robins in the yard.

Dick Preston heard a report of three, that's right, **3 Peregrine Falcons** above the Beale Street area.

Dick also reported that some of the early winter residents are arriving as he observed a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in his yard.

Notes from the Fall TOS Meeting:

Dick Preston made comments on the meeting which 40 TOS members attended.

Pam Lasley of the Nashville chapter was elected as the new Treasurer for TOS. She will be replacing **Mac McWhirter** who has held the position for 14 years. Mac will still handle the investment side of the job according to Dick, and will offer advice to Pam in order to facilitate a smooth transition. **Thank you Mac for all your hard work in the Treasurer position for all these years.**

TOS will have a new website come January, 2019.

TOS has a new "Facebook Page" Dick says.

He also announced that TWRA will be donating up to \$3000 for the printing of additional Birding Workbooks for Young People.

TOS Spring Meeting: Dr. David Pitts will be the speaker at this meeting.

Wings of Winter : Richard Crossley will be the speaker at this function.

Old Business:

Donation to Mid-South Raptor Center vote: The membership present voted to approve a \$750 donation to the Mid-South Raptor Center for the coming year.

New Business: None.

FYI:

- Remember to keep one hummingbird feeder up during the winter if the weather is not sub-freezing.
- An unscheduled trip to W.C. Johnson Park by Chad Brown and David Blaylock yielded a few interesting occurrences: An Osprey made multiple passes over one of the lakes, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were in the parking lot as were Eastern Bluebirds. We caught site of a Brown Creeper and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
- The 2019 Duck Stamp will feature the Wood Duck at the price of \$25.
- There is a new search function on eBird. You can now search by species in the “Explore” button.



The following is from a “Facebook” post.

This beautiful Great Horned Owl showed up on my doorstep last month and died shortly after I found him. I gave his body to Fish and Game for necropsy. They called me today and said that he tested positive for rodenticide and that his whole body was bleeding on the inside. This is what happens when we poison mice and rats; other animals eat them and die. Fish and Game wants the neighborhood to know that if a bobcat or coyote found the owl first and ate him, they would have also died. So 3 creatures dead from one poison. This was in west Morgan Hill near Easy Street. (city unknown)

FYI:

[ACT NOW](#)

Twice a year, the miracle of migration captivates us. Birds face many threats as they travel between their breeding and wintering grounds. This fall, [go the extra mile](#) for magnificent migrants by voicing your support for legislation critical to the continued conservation of migratory birds.

Pending in both chambers of Congress, but poised for consideration by the full Senate, The Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Act would reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA).

But the approval of the Act is far from certain. That's why it's imperative you [raise your voice now](#) to this effort by asking your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators to co-sponsor this hallmark bill for birds. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cipolletti
Director of Conservation Advocacy
American Bird Conservancy

If you wish to send a comment on this subject, copy the link below and paste it into the address line of your browser. It will take you to the ABCBirds website, where you can insert your information and send the message.

<https://abcbirds.org/action/petition-migratory-birds?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=854085f9-a436-43c3-9eba-fe7eac18ca93>

TOS Membership Information

Benefits include monthly programs, field trips, quarterly journals, and state and chapter newsletters.

Categories and dues are:

Individual	\$36
Family	\$40
Sustaining	\$55
College Student	\$23
Other Student	\$ 5
Lifetime	\$450 one time +\$18 yearly

Please send dues to:

Barbara Pyles

518 Forest Hill-Irene Rd. South

Cordova, TN 38018-4832

(901)570-1009 E-mail

brbpyles@gmail.com

Newsletter Delivery Options

To reduce printing and mailing costs, a digital version, which is usually expanded with photos and occasional articles, is provided. Notify Margaret Jefferson at mjefferson100@hotmail.com. If you have no internet access, a printed version can be mailed.

Chapter Newsletter Submissions

E-mail or call Chad Brown

cwb496@bellsouth.net or (901) 754-3385

Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 22nd of the month.

Field Cards

Please mail or e-mail your field cards and notable sightings to Dick Preston.

E-mail: dickpreston@rittermail.com

Tennessee Warbler Deadlines

*February 28 for the April Newsletter

*June 30 for the August Newsletter

*October 31 for the December Newsletter

Forward contributions to:

Theresa Graham, Editor

P.O. Box 366 Oakland, TN 38060

(901) 465-4263 or e-mail:

2graham@bellsouth.net

Chapter Meeting

November 28, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**St. George's Episcopal Church, 2425 South Germantown Rd.
Germantown, TN Phone 901-754-7282**

Program at 7:00 PM

"Movement of Louisiana Bald Eagles"

presented by **Nick Smith** of Ducks Unlimited.

Hospitality

Refreshments will be provided by **David Hill** and **Dick Preston**.

Field Trip Information

November 17, 2018 - T.O. Fuller State Park & Science Center:
Virginia Reynolds will lead. Contact (901) 767-3547 or email at vbreynolds@att.net. Meet at the Visitors Center at 8:00AM.

November 25, 2018 - Shelby Farms/ Agricenter:

Sue Cosmini will lead. Contact at (901) 326-6798 or email at susanewag@gmail.com. Meet at the amphitheater parking lot at 8:00AM.

New Members

Devon Campbell - Memphis: "Campbell.blanka@gmail.com"

Special Events

November 3, 2018 - Bird Photography Workshop, Presented by Curt Hart & Allen Sparks at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, Holly Springs, MS.

For details go to <http://strawberry.audubon.org/events>

To register, email mrrobinson@audubon.org or call 662-252-1155.

Wings of Winter Birding Festival - website seems to be inoperative at this time. Call Ranger Joan Howe (731) 642-2091 for information. Or Cyndi Routledge at routledges@bellsouth.net. (10-22-2018)

The November Meeting is scheduled for the 28th due to a conflict with church activities on our usual day.

David and Betty Blaylock and Chad Brown took a **Sunday trip to the Pits** and snapped a few pictures along the way. The TVA ash ponds do not seem to be well-attended as in previous years. A few **Great Blue Herons** took the morning sun with a couple of **Great Egrets** and **Double-crested Cormorants**.



The population of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** has increased again as can be seen by the picture below of one adult and eight or more youngsters. This group is just one example of several encounters we had with the BBWDs. According to "All about Birds" on the Cornell website, these ducks are typically cavity nesters using hollow trees and nest boxes. They will, however, nest on the ground on a shallow bed of grasses, laying a clutch of 9-18 eggs. The birds are almost independent when hatched, but they do seem to hang around Mom for a good while. Along with those birds we saw 9 immature **Little Blue Herons** and 16 immature **White**

Ibis in various stages of moult. There was also one immature Yellow-crowned Night heron hanging with the ibis at one point. I didn't get pictures of the ibis or herons.

Below -- right is a picture from the Wapanocca outing. The **Great Egret** was one of several birds seen along the waterway next to the gravel road.



The Debra & Thomas Kienzle Photo Page



Snowy Egret by Tom at Dauphin Island, AL.

Flying >>> American White Pelican by Debra at Reelfoot Lake, TN.



Green Heron w/fish by Tom at Dauphin Island.

The Ruddy Turnstone (above) by Tom at Perdido Pass, AL.

The Reddish Egret (left) by Debra at Dauphin Island.

Swimming American White Pelicans by Debra at Reelfoot Lake.

