



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

August, 2023

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a long, beautiful spring, summer finally arrived in Tennessee. Our summer vacations, grilling, going to the lake, and celebrating holidays such as the Fourth of July are well underway. And of course, the birds of Tennessee have also adopted their summer routines: our neotropical migrants have returned, winter migrants have departed, and summer birds are well into the breeding season. Soon, shorebirds will even start fall migration. As temperatures creep into the upper 90s, I often find myself inside, enjoying the air conditioning and a cold beverage and thinking about the return of cooler weather and fall migration.

This fall, we can all enjoy the return of cool weather and the company of friends and fellow birders at the TOS fall meeting. I am pleased to announce that **the Chattanooga Chapter will host the TOS Fall Meeting October 13th-15th, and I hope many of you will make plans to attend and to bird and explore this beautiful part of our state.** Registration details are published in this issue of *The Tennessee Warbler*.

Until then, enjoy our summer birds and stay cool!

Warmly,
Michael Collins
President, TOS

TOS FALL STATE MEETING IN CHATTANOOGA OCTOBER 13-15

The Chattanooga TOS Chapter invites you to the 2023 TOS Fall Meeting, October 13-15. Please join our Friday evening reception with refreshments and field trip sign-ups at the Fairfield Inn in Lookout Valley, 40 Starview Ln, Chattanooga, beginning at 5:30 PM, Eastern Daylight Time. Saturday’s paper sessions and TOS Board of Directors Meeting will be held at Baylor School.

Field trips will be held on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at two adjacent hotels in Lookout Valley. Rooms are \$161/ night plus \$27.77 in taxes and fees. For that rate, rooms **must be reserved by Friday, September 1**. A full breakfast is included at both. (If you are booking for just one night, you must “Edit Stay”, then “Update” on the reservation form).

Fairfield Inn: [Book your group rate for TN Ornithological Society](#) or call 423-664-4222 and mention TOS.

Hampton Inn: [Book your group rate for TN Ornithological Society](#) or call 423-602-5350 and mention TOS.

The region has many accommodations, but they fill quickly, and we are sorry to say that Chattanooga weekend rates are higher than normal during this eventful season. For information on other places to stay, contact Sharon Klein at smkborder17@gmail.com

Due in part to the high cost of lodging, CTOS is not charging a registration fee.

We very much look forward to hosting you and sharing Chattanooga’s excellent field trip sites and leaders. For general questions, contact Barbara at chimneyswifts423@gmail.com

TOS Fall Meeting Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

email _____ cell phone _____

TOS chapter _____

Is this the first time you’ve attended a TOS state meeting? ____ Yes ____ No

Please register with CTOS by October 1. (**Note Sept 1 deadline to reserve blocked hotel rooms!**)

Mail registration form to:

Barbara Johnson/CTOS,
672 E. 17th St, Chattanooga, TN 37408
or email to: chimneyswifts423@gmail.com

TOS SPRING MEETING 2024

The Knoxville chapter will be hosting the annual TOS Spring meeting April 26-28, 2024.

Full information will be posted on the TOS website when details on lodging and venue are finalized, but expect a social on Friday evening, field trips Saturday and Sunday mornings, a business meeting Saturday afternoon, and a banquet and keynote speaker on Saturday evening. Speaker will be Tiffany Kersten of Nature Ninja Birding Tours providing insights on elevating women birders gained from her recent record-setting big year.

Field trips will include Seven Islands State Birding Park, local migrant hotspot Sharps Ridge, and Cove Lake State Park/Cross Mountain.

Hold the dates and plan on joining us in Knoxville in April!

UPCOMING HUMMINGBIRD EVENTS

- **July 29** – *Hummingbird banding demonstration at Bells Bend, Nashville, TN*
8 am to 11 am
- **Every Saturday in August** – *Celebrate Hummingbirds at Beaman Park, Nashville, TN*
11 am to 1 pm
- **August 12** – *Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Annual Hummingbird Festival, Springville, TN - 8 am to 2 pm. Free and open to the public.*
- **August 19** – *Hummingbird and Pollinator Festival at Rotary Park, Clarksville, TN – 8 am to 2 pm – Free and open to the Public*
- **August 22** – *Hummingbird banding demo at Bells Bend, Nashville, TN – 8 am to 11 am*
- **August 26** – *Hummingbird Banding at Cross Creeks NWR, Dover, TN – 8 am to 1 pm – Free and open to the Public*
- **September 2** – *Hummingbird Festival at The Wilderness Station of Barfield Crescent Park, Murfreesboro – 8 am to 5 pm – Free and Open to the Public*
- **September 9** – *Hummingbird Celebration at Warner Park, Nashville, TN*

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Those who attended the Fall TOS meeting, hosted by the Kingsport Chapter in 2022, will remember guest speaker, Paco Madrigal, from Costa Rica. He is doing a speaking tour in the U.S. this fall celebrating Cotinga Tour's 25th anniversary. He will be in Kingsport on Friday, October 6, and will speak at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Kingsport Center for Higher Education at 300 W Market Street. We invite you to Paco's fun and engaging talk about Costa Rica and its birds.

Contact Betty Bailey at bettybailey1979@gmail.com if you have any questions.

2023 TOS Grant Winners Announcement

The Tennessee Ornithological Society solicits applications for conservation and research grants to support projects that directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. Anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals, and individual workers, may compete for a grant.

This year the Conservation Research and Funding Committee funded three projects. Laura Cook will study Overwintering Northern Saw-whet Owls in Middle Tennessee, and Friends of Beaman Park will establish and monitor Bluebird nesting boxes in Beaman Park. Luis Mieres-Bastidas, a conservationist with the AsoJabiru organization in Venezuela, will oversee a project and submit a summary report on their work to train community biologists as a strategy for conserving bird communities in Montaña Los Pozuelos Natural Park. If you know any of these recipients, please congratulate them and ask them about their work.

TOS looks forward to hearing from these grant recipients at a TOS meeting or with an update in *The Tennessee Warbler*.

Respectfully,
Michael Collins
Conservation Research and Funding Committee, Chair

..... **Spring Count Data Now Due**

Spring Bird Count data is now due. Please send your count data and the following effort information to Ron Hoff as soon as possible for inclusion in the next issue of *The Migrant*.

1. Hours and miles by car, foot, and any night birding
2. Number of observers and parties
3. Any feeder watching hours & names
4. Start and end times for the count
5. Weather data for the count
6. Names of all the participants
7. Anything else about the count, i.e., record high or low numbers, extraordinary weather, all-time species total for your particular count, etc.

As always, TOS thanks the participants and compilers for their efforts in these surveys to help monitor our birdlife. These data are important and your efforts are much appreciated.

Ron Hoff, TOS State Bird Count Compiler
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

GLOBAL BIG DAY 2023

On Saturday, May 13th, 61,237 birders from 199 countries celebrated the birds around them for Global Big Day. Global Big Day coincides with World Migratory Bird Day. Together, the birding community submitted more checklists, reporting more species, than ever before in a single day.

The total number of checklists submitted via eBird (eBird.org) during this 24-hour event was 156,642. The number of species reported was 7,700 (nearly 71% of the world's bird species). The number of photographs submitted was 72,561 (3,667 species). This year, 3,475 audio recordings were submitted (894 species). Birders in the United States submitted the greatest number of these checklists (79,942), followed by Canada (14,939), Columbia (10,429), India (3,851) and Venezuela (3,380). Birders in Columbia reported the most species (1,534), followed by Peru (1,450), Brazil (1,294), Ecuador (1,098) and India (846). Birders in the United States came in seventh, with 743 species.

Birders in Texas reported the most species (390) followed by California (350), Arizona (300), Colorado (293) and New Mexico (288). The most checklists were submitted by birders in New York (5,551) followed by Colorado (4,948), Michigan (4,765), Ohio (4,194) and Pennsylvania (4,029).

Tennessee birders reported a total of 221 species (30th) on 1,209 checklists (24th). Cliff VanNostrand led the way, with 135, just beating Deon VanNostrand who tallied 134. Rounding out the top five were Avery Fish (127), Ruben Stoll (122) and Victor Stoll (120). Daniel Snell again submitted the most checklists (27). The most species reported by county: Shelby (159), Blount (140), Davidson (134), Knox (132), Hamilton and Lincoln (118). The most checklists submitted by county: Shelby (148), Blount (134), Davidson (105), Knox (91) and Hamilton (90). Eighty-two of the state's ninety-five counties submitted at least one complete checklist.

Source: Cornell University Lab of Ornithology (eBird).

For more details: www.ebird.org

THE SEA-EAGLE PERSISTS

The saga of the wandering Stellar's Sea-Eagle has been documented since August 2020 across North America, from Alaska, perhaps through Texas, into New England and then into Atlantic Canada. Well, it's still being seen and photographed in Newfoundland, near remote Trinity Bay, where it was reported a few times, as recently as 28 June.

Keep looking!

The Birding Community E-Bulletin July 2023.

You can access an archive of past E-Bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association:

<https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>

NASHVILLE DESIGNATED AS URBAN BIRD TREATY CITY

Nashville has joined other cities across the country as the 31st Urban Bird Treaty (UBT) city to create bird-friendly environments and provide people with opportunities to connect with nature through bird-related activities as part of the Urban Bird Treaty program. This program is a unique, collaborative effort between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and participating U.S. cities to create opportunities across the country to make cities healthier places for both birds and people. With an emphasis on bird habitat conservation, hazard reduction efforts, and collaborative and inclusive community science engagement programs, Music City hopes to provide people with opportunities to gain a greater appreciation for birds and participate in their conservation.

The [Treaty designation, hosted on World Migratory Bird Day](#), was a product of the collaborative efforts of several core group partners, including the Mayor's Office, Nashville Parks and Recreation, The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Friends of Warner Parks and Bird Safe Nashville. In addition to the core group, over 60 other organizations have committed to taking action to increase awareness of the city's birds and habitats and how essential they are to the welfare of Nashville's residents and visitors.

Home to 5,134-acres of public lands, including 178 parks and 99 miles of greenway, Nashville's lush greenspaces are important for both Nashville residents and the 325 different species of bird that inhabit this land. Nashville's designation as an UBT city reflects our commitment to creating a thriving habitat for birds. To achieve its goals, Nashville's Bird Agenda will build upon its community's programs and activities, improve habitat, and reduce hazards to ensure the city is safe, welcoming, and improving the quality of life for all birds and communities.

Learn how you can help to implement Nashville's Bird Agenda by contacting Nasyr Bey at Nasyr.bey@tnc.org, or learn how your city can join the UBT community by visiting the [USFWS Urban Bird Treaty website](#).

Friends of Beaman Park would like to thank the Tennessee Ornithological Society for their recent gift through the Conservation and Research Fund Grant.

The funds were used to install a small Bluebird trail and monitoring program on the Proctor Family Barn property at Beaman Park and State Natural Area, located in Davidson County. Through volunteer participation, Beaman Park staff intend to raise awareness for bird conservation while providing habitat for these special Tennessee residents. The historic barn property is proving to be a great location for this project. Three of six boxes have been occupied within weeks of installation; two bluebird clutches are underway, and a nest full of wrens have freshly hatched.

Since this property is not regularly open to the public, Beaman Park invites TOS members to tour the trail by joining a program through Beaman Park nature center or emailing the nature center at beamanpark@nashville.gov.

Luke Mahrenholz

CONSERVATION NOTES

U.S. House Reintroduces Bird-Friendly Buildings Bill

On June 1, House leaders Representatives Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and Mike Quigley (D-IL) reintroduced H.R. 3781, which is designed to make federal buildings more bird-friendly.

Bird-friendly buildings are needed because up to 1 billion birds die yearly in the United States from collisions with glass. Solutions exist to mitigate these deadly collisions. External insect screens, tapes and decals, window films and other creative solutions protect birds from colliding with glass.

The reintroduced H.R. 3781 recognizes the success of these solutions and seeks to apply them to federal buildings. Now is the time to encourage Congress to support this bill. Please consider sending a message to your representative in Congress (as of 17 July, no member of the Tennessee delegation has co-sponsored the bill).

Source: American Bird Conservancy (ABC).

For more information: www.americanbirdconservancy.org

Editor's note: TOS is a member organization of ABC.

Lead and Refuges

A new proposed rule to phase out lead ammunition and tackle at eight National Wildlife Refuges is currently being publicly reviewed. It is well known that lead ammunition and tackle have negative impacts on both human health and wildlife, including birds, and that these impacts are more acute in some species than others. And we also know that alternatives to lead ammunition and tackle are available.

The eight refuges – all in the Northeast or Mid-Atlantic U.S. – covered under this proposed rule are Blackwater, Chincoteague, Eastern Neck, Erie, Great Thicket, Patuxent Research Refuge, Rachael Carson and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuges, with lead phase-out expected by fall of August 2026. In addition, the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge is engaging a proposed non-lead ammunition requirement that would be effective immediately in the fall of 2023.

For more information on the proposal for the first eight National Wildlife Refuges, including how to submit testimony by 22 August on the ruling, see here:

<https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2023-06/service-promotes-public-access-hunting-and-fishing>.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin July 2023.

You can access archive of past E-Bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association:

<http://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin> .

CHAPTER NEWS

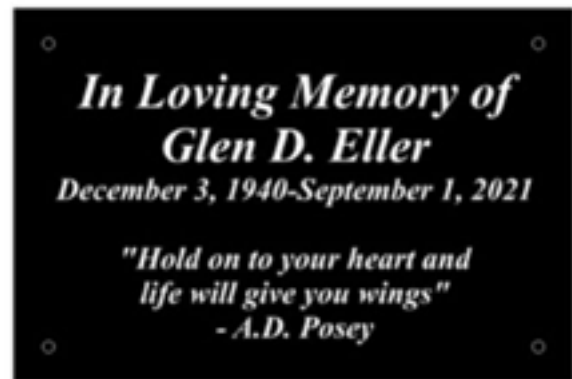
The **BIRDING KINGSPORT** Chapter focused on spring migration by hosting seven bird walks and field trips to local hotspots, and visited one location we had never birded before, a farm near Duffield, VA. On a local bird walk on March 31, we located a Grasshopper Sparrow, a new early arrival date by one day for the 5-county area of Northeast Tennessee! Trips to Seven Islands State Birding Park and Burkes Garden were very productive. In addition to these, we participated in the annual Spring Bird Count for the Northeast Tennessee 5-county area, counting birds in Sullivan County, on May 6. In celebration of World Migratory Bird Day on May 13, we had a local bird walk on the Kingsport Greenbelt. Our linear park offers several good birding locations. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nest here and provide good viewing from the trail. On July 8, we did something a little different and had a scavenger hunt followed by craft beers at a downtown brewery. We called our event "Birds, Brews, and Hunting too"!

Locally, we participated in the Warriors Path State Park's Nature Festival, hosting an introduction and bird walk. We also took part in an event focusing on National Arbor Day at Wild Birds Unlimited in Johnson City. At these events, we handed out Discover Birds Activity Books and an overview of our club.

Programs at our monthly meetings included "Trekking with a Birder in Tennessee" in March by Fred J. Alsop III, Ph.D. Our April program was "Birds and Wildlife of Northern Colorado" by Adrianna Nelson. In May, we celebrated Birding Kingsport's eighth anniversary by doing a bird walk followed by a catered dinner. For our June program, Betty & Gary Bailey shared pictures from their January trip "The Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica".

Four of our members attended the TOS Spring Meeting in Ashland City. It was a very enjoyable weekend.

Several club members purchased a memorial bench for Glen Eller, one of the area's most avid birders. It was installed at Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton in early May.



Leadership Team

The J. Wallace Coffey Chapter (**BRISTOL BIRD CLUB**) has had a busy and interesting spring, thanks to many good leaders. Field trips have been to the Weir Dam, Oceola Island, Musick's Campground at Holston Lake and the 421 Boat Ramp. There have been regular 2nd Thursday morning or evening walks at Steele Creek Park. Other trips have been to Western Washington Co., Jacob's Nature Park in Johnson City, and the Panhandle Rd. on Holston Mountain.

Events: Larry McDaniel and Janet Brown hosted an evening in March to listen and look for Woodcocks at their "Little Biscuit Mini Farm." It was a wonderful evening of food and fun! The BBC was invited to join "Wild Birds Unlimited" in Johnston City where a table was set up with lots of bird club information. Some of our members participated in the Roan Mt. Naturalist Rally in April and have done this for many years. Another event was held at "Little Biscuit Mini Farm" in June for "Whips and Chucks."

The BBC executive committee met in June to define leadership roles of officers, future goals and to establish a role for someone to keep the club website updated.

CHAPTER NEWS

Bristol Bird Club - Continued from Page 8

Another planning committee was formed in order to come up with ideas to get more people involved with the Mendota Hawk Watch led by Ron Harrington. The BBC has been involved in this since the 1990's and since 2002 has sponsored this watch in Mendota, VA.

Presentations: In March, Chris Sota, the editor of a Land Trust Alliance presented a wonderful program entitled "Italy – A Visual Feast". In April, Roy Knispel presented "Arizona Birds and Other Sites". Our May program was presented by Rachel Whiteman on "For the Birds: The Making of a Story Map for Birding the Roan Mt. Area". In June Debi Campbell, our new club president, gave a talk about a wonderful camping trip to Rock Creek Recreation Area in the Cherokee National Forest.

At the May meeting the election of officers was held with the following results:

President, Debi Campbell; First Vice President, Michelle Sparks; Second Vice President, Larry McDaniel; Secretary, Judy Moose; Treasurer, Brenda Richards. Appointments are Rob Biller for Media Specialist, Richard Lewis as historian and statistician as he has been for many years.

We were very sad to announce that John Hay passed away on April 12 following an extended illness. A resident of Kingsport, TN, John was a former President and member of the BBC for many years. John was a special person who was knowledgeable in many areas of the natural world and always willing to share his knowledge.

Judy Moose, Secretary

NOVEMBER 15th DEADLINE

The deadline date for the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is November 15th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor

(901) 489-0795

e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** has continued to have in-person meetings and events. Speakers for the monthly meetings in 2023 have included: Don Hazel and Ari Lawson Grimsley, Tennessee Bluebird Society providing information on all things bluebird; Dr. Louis J. Gross, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Mathematics, University of Tennessee - Knoxville discussing avian population modeling and how birder data is used to learn about bird populations; Tom Welborn and Dale Madden presenting status of the Knoxville Urban Forestry Master Plan and seeking birder input in the planning process; and Ron Hoff discussing the wonderful world of hummingbirds highlighted with stellar photos from his travels around the Americas.

Chapter members participated in field trips and bird walks at Seven Islands State Birding Park, Melton Lake Islands, Sharp's Ridge, Norris Songbird Trail, and Cove Lake State Park. KTOS helped with a Spring Hike and educating visitors about this year's Bird of the Year, the Eastern Towhee, at Seven Islands State Birding Park's Bird of the Year festival in March. Members have led walks for local homeschool organizations and are working on more outreach efforts.

KTOS held elections at our May meeting. Officers for the next year are: President, Chris Welsh; Vice-president, Dean Turley; Treasurer, Dawn Headrick; and Secretary, Stephanie Mueller. Knoxville Chapter State Directors with terms running June 2023-May 2025 are Dorothy DeVan, Sheila Rygwelski, and Dean Turley. Bill Keeler and Ron Hoff continue with their current terms through the end of May 2024.

The Knoxville chapter will be hosting the annual TOS Spring meeting April 26-28, 2024.

Stephanie Mueller, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

The **MEMPHIS CHAPTER** hosted three interesting presentations since our last report.

In concert with our March banquet and auction, Ron Hoff presented "Hummingbirds," a pictorial feast for the eyes, showcasing his photographic talents and providing a comprehensive overview of the many species that he and his wife Dollyann have encountered in their extensive world travels. The potluck and BBQ dinner was, as usual, extraordinary. Thanks go out to all those who contributed to and participated in this annual event.

Chapter member Scotty Heppel, highlighted the April program with his presentation "Birding in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem." Scotty was the 1976 recipient of the Sierra Club, Ansel Adams award for conservation photography. Scotty provided an extensive geographic overview of greater Yellowstone and its birding hotspots. Images of many regional species were presented by this renowned wildlife photographer.

Chapter President Jim Varner, at the May meeting presented "Audubon's Mystery Birds," a topic in which he had taken a personal interest. The talk centered around six birds illustrated by John James Audubon and included in "The Birds of America." Of interest is that none of these birds have been identified since that publication in the early 19th century. Therein lies the mystery.

Scheduled meetings and presentations resume again in September. In the meantime, we brace for an always warm summer here in Memphis and look forward to the Fall migration.

Jim Varner, President

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual TOS Spring meeting hosted by the **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** in Nashville. We had a record 92 attendees for the weekend plus another half dozen or so who popped in for our annual Board of Directors meeting on Saturday at Bells Bend. Our time at the Ganier Farm was priceless, and the fellowship and food was excellent. Noah Strycker inspired and delighted us with his wonderful presentation, and, in turn, it was our pleasure to bird with him all weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone this Fall in Chattanooga.

Our Spring Wednesday morning Radnor Lake Walks continue to be invaluable outreach events. We tallied over 140 birders over the 4 walks. Fall walks begin on September 20th and run through October 11th. If you are in the area on any of those Wednesdays, we would love for you to join us! Walks start at 7:30 am in the parking lot outside the Visitor's Center.

We were entertained with educational and delightful programs arranged by our own Susie Russenberger. Please note: our regular monthly meetings are suspended for the months of July and August. We will reconvene on September 21st with a 'Fall Flock Potluck Dinner' beginning at 6:30 pm followed by a wonderful program by member Stacy Elliot. If you are in the area, we would love for you to join us!

There are quite a few hummingbird festivals and events upcoming in the Middle TN area in August. A listing of those events is on page 3 of this newsletter.

The NTOS Fall Bird Count has been scheduled for Saturday, September 30th. Barbara Harris (harrbarbara@bellsouth.net) is the coordinator of this event. If you would like to count on us, please contact Barbara for details.

Happy Summer and good birding!!
Cheers!
Cyndi Routledge, President

CHAPTER NEWS

The **HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER** (HRC) started the year putting up twelve bluebird houses at Taylor's Creek Greenway. Chickadees and sparrows have taken up residence in a few of the houses. In February we took a field trip to Joe Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, a 35,000-acre national wildlife refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds located along the Tennessee River near Decatur, Alabama. Over 17,000 Sandhill Cranes and several pairs of endangered Whooping Cranes spend their winter here. JWNWR is also a host to approximately 50,000 ducks, as well as eagles and songbirds. Our March meeting was a "hoot." Lyle and Valerie Russell of Owls and Raptors provided our program with their knowledge of owls. They rescue and rehabilitate owls. Many are from car collisions. They brought a few beautiful non-releasable owls for us to admire and appreciate. The local Boy Scouts joined us as our special guests for this presentation. In April we had lessons on how to use eBird in identifying birds and how to share our sightings. May was our annual dinner and election of officers. As a fun program we had placemats with different birds to identify and share characteristics of with our group.

Our newest member, Jim McWhorter, brought his mother's Tennessee Ornithological Society patch for us to admire. This is his story of joining TOS in 1944.

"My Cub Scout Den Mother was a member of the TOS and shared her interest in birding, nature, etc. with her Cub Scouts. Catching my interest, my mother and I joined the Memphis chapter of TOS (Appx. 1944). Our interest continued and I was asked to be the Nature

Counselor for the Memphis (Chickasaw Council) summer camp, 1946-1952. We both were active with the local TOS.

My mother, Ruby McWhorter, stayed active with the club and friends therein. Our interests were not limited to birding, but nature in general, including botany and biology. Ben and Lula Coffee were also TOS members at that time and were known for birding all over both North and South America. Ben Coffee made many trips to Scout Camp coaching me in bird identification. They would also invite us along on some of their expeditions.

It was even more interesting with the parent and adult membership support."

Happy Birding,
Janie Denis

