



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

April, 2019

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2019

Hello TOS!! It's a balmy thirty-six degrees today in Clarksville and despite the relatively mild winter, I'm definitely looking forward to spring. Full-blown migration is just around the corner and, at least at our house, our creative juices are scheming and plotting new and improved ways to attract more and more birds. Although we've lived in the same house for twenty-five years, it's always fun (and challenging) to plant that new shrub, make that new flower garden, place that new bird house, and add that extra water feature or two. Amazing to see what shows up from year to year. Hopefully, they will show up at your place, too.

The Wings of Winter Birding Festival in Paris, Tennessee was, once again, a resounding success. In only its second year, attendance climbed from 85 attendees to nearly 150. Speakers Joel Greenberg and Richard Crossley presented entertaining and educational programs and were delightful as field trip leaders. The planning committee had their share of hurdles, which they tackled head-on resulting in an enjoyable festival for everyone. So, Paris Landing State Park Lodge and Inn is being demolished? What? It was sixty degrees and thundershowers this morning and it's now snowing and icy and 20 degrees this Saturday night? You say a Government shutdown is limiting access to several venues including Cross Creeks and the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters? We say...No Problem!! TOS sends heartfelt congratulations to the Friends of Tennessee Wildlife Refuge for their diligence and perseverance in finding solutions when none appeared apparent. It's no wonder that they were recognized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as this year's "Best Friends Group" of the more than 270 national wildlife refuge friends groups in the nation. Job well done!!

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to the TOS Annual Meeting and Spring Banquet to be held in Nashville April 26-28. The host hotel is the Baymont, and the Board of Directors Meeting Saturday afternoon and the banquet Saturday night will be at the Nashville Zoo. Dr. David Pitts, a long-time favorite, will be our keynote speaker. Details and registration information are inside this edition of *The Tennessee Warbler*.

Finally, as all good things must come to an end, this will be the last "President's Message" from yours truly. The gavel will be passed to one of the first friends I made through TOS (twenty plus years ago), and someone I always look forward to seeing at meetings, Danny Gaddy. For Danny this will be his second tour of duty as TOS President. He was an excellent president first time around, and he will be excellent this time, too. As for me, the last four years have been immensely fulfilling. I want to thank all of the committee heads, committee members, and general members who have collectively volunteered their time and effort to promote and preserve the mission of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. I encourage us all to continue to be the eyes and ears for these creatures that bring so much joy to us all. I have no doubt that you will.

Let's Go Birding!!

Steve

2019 TOS Spring State Meeting Nashville, April 26-28, 2019

The Nashville chapter cordially invites all TOS members, family, and interested bird friends to the 2019 Spring meeting to be held April 26-28, 2019. Friday night registration and reception will be held at the conference hotel, The Baymont Inn & Suites, from 5-7:30pm while the Saturday afternoon meetings and the Saturday banquet will be at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.

The Baymont Inn & Suites is located at 111 Penn Warren Drive in Brentwood, TN, off I-65 at Exit 74-B. The hotel is holding 30 rooms for TOS members through March 15, 2019. **NOTE EARLY CUT-OFF DATE.** Mention your TOS membership for the special rate of \$124.99 plus tax, per night for a room. Phone 615-376-4666. Breakfast is included. Make your reservations well in advance since the NFL Draft and the Music City Marathon will be held the same weekend and hotel rooms will be scarce.

The Nashville Zoo has waived admission for TOS on Saturday. If you or your family would like to tour the Zoo, go to the will-call line near the Zoo entrance and identify yourself as a TOS member. The zoo can be accessed from either I-65 or I-24 at the Harding Place Exit. The address is 3777 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, TN 37211.

We are pleased to announce that the speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Dr. David Pitts. Dr. Pitts is a 53 year member of TOS, retired Professor of Ornithology from UT Martin, published author and researcher. His program will be "Documenting the Nesting Season Activities of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: Constantly Challenging and Frequently Frustrating but Richly Rewarding". We look forward to hosting Dr. Pitts and his lovely wife, Marion, for the weekend.

Field trips will include two new spots this year. The Burch Reserve in Warner Park has only been open to the public since April 2018 and is notable for its large trees, hopefully with many woodland species in the canopy. Timberland Park on the Natchez Trace Parkway is an especially good spot for hardwood species with excellent trails maintained from old logging roads. Perennial favorites Radnor Lake, Bells Bend, and Hidden Lake are also on the field trip list. All trips will leave from the Baymont Inn and Suites.

For additional information contact Cyndi Routledge: routledges@bellsouth.net

TOS SPRING MEETING 2019 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ TOS Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ e-mail _____

\$ _____ for _____ Meeting Registrations @ \$20 each

\$ _____ for _____ Dinner Reservations @ \$25 each

\$ _____ Total amount enclosed payable to Nashville TOS

Mail registration form and check to: **Pam Lasley, NTOS Treasurer**

5886 Willshire Dr

Nashville, TN 37215

plasley@comcast.net for registration questions

2019 TOS FALL MEETING & SYMPOSIUM September 27 - 29, 2019

The Fall 2019 TOS meeting will be hosted by the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of the TOS (Elizabethton Bird Club). It will be held on September 27 - 29, 2019.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sleep Inn & Suites, Johnson City, TN for out-of-town participants. A "meet and greet" (which includes some birding beforehand) will be held on Friday evening at the Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton, TN. Field trips to some of our favorite birding spots will be held on both Saturday and Sunday.

The board meeting, paper presentations, and a banquet will be held at the Kaycliff Center on Boone Lake on Saturday evening. The meeting presenter will be Dr. David A Buehler with the University of Tennessee's Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department.

Debi Campbell, President
dberry@btes.tv

..... ● **CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA DUE IMMEDIATELY** ●

Christmas bird count data are due as soon as possible to allow me to get my report in to the editor of *The Migrant* in a timely fashion. Besides the actual count data, please be sure to include the following effort data:

- 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

If you do not have a local compiler, you can send the data directly to me at the address/email below.

TOS appreciates your efforts to record and track our bird populations and abundance. Thanks for helping us to archive this data for future generations and researchers.

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

Wishing you migrants soon!

Note to Chapter Presidents, Treasurers and At-Large Members

All dues payments, changes of address, etc. should now be sent to our new State Treasurer
Pam Lasley • 5886 Willshire Dr. • Nashville, TN 37215 • plasley@comcast.net

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS

By Cyndi Routledge, Master Bander

My winter hummingbird banding season began before the official date of November 15th with reports of a mature male Rufous Hummingbird in Rutherford County. On a mild September morning I met up with the Lebanon TOS Chapter in Lascassas, TN and subsequently banded and released the first official winter hummer of the 2018-2019 season. I was pretty pumped hoping that this early visitor was a harbinger of a great winter season to come; time would tell. However, it was 2 long months before a report of another winter bird would grace my inbox. This time the bird was in Smyrna, at the home of a young family who had seen me band Ruby-throats at the Wilderness Station's Hummingbird Festival in Murfreesboro back in September. At my suggestion they decided to leave out a feeder this winter and see what happened. On a frosty morning, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, I banded a juvenile male Rufous Hummingbird #2, much to the delight and wonder of the family. Things were beginning to look up.

A week later a homeowner in Newbern, TN reported she had a hummer at her feeder and was concerned for the welfare of the hummingbird with the coming of a cold spell. Two days later I banded winter bird #3; a plump, juvenile male Ruby-throat.

I was up to 3 winter birds and I was pleased because, at this point in my tenure as one of the two winter hummingbird banders in Tennessee (Mark Armstrong covers from the plateau to the east and I cover from the plateau to the west and into Mississippi), my goal is to band one more bird in the current season than I did the previous season. So, I was on target and tied with last season's goal of 3.

Christmas and New Year's came and went, and I was beginning to think that perhaps my season had come to an end. Then in mid-January a banding colleague in Missouri emailed a referral of a hummingbird just over the TN border in Southaven, Mississippi. Come to find out, the hummer had been hanging out there unreported since November. Like the Newbern hummer, an ice storm prompted the homeowner to seek advice on the internet.

Immediate contact was made but The Wings of Winter Festival, a furnace on the fritz and way too many rainy days delayed me getting to the host's home as soon as I would have liked. But on a chilly Sunday morning in early February I finally made it to Southaven and banded Rufous #4. And with that I achieved my goal.

Many thanks to all my hummingbird hosts for their dedication to maintaining feeders, putting out lights for keeping birds and nectar warm, and for extending their hospitality to me so I could ID and band their winter hummingbird for my research.

I encourage you to leave out a feeder next winter. Just maybe you will be one of the lucky few who are visited by a winter hummingbird.

Larry Force - 2019 winter hummer release.
Photographer: Steve Routledge



**PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 ROBERT M. HATCHER SCHOLARSHIP
TO ELIOT BERZ OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE**



June 30th Deadline

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is June 30th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor
PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
(901) 465-4263 (home)
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Co-chairs: Melinda Welton (NTOS) and Dick Preston (MTOS)

Members: Cyndi Routledge (NTOS); Kellie Clelland (MTOS); Ashley Heeney (NTOS); Laura Cook (NTOS); and Dev Joslin (At-large).

Committee Actions:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture seeks to re-define seasonal wetlands through the use of an interim rule (non-legislative). The proposed rule would allow draining of seasonal wetlands while retaining subsidies for commodities, crop insurance and farm loans. Seasonal wetlands provide flood control and food for waterfowl and other birds and wildlife. TOS joined the letter campaign initiated by The National Wildlife Federation and the Bird Conservation Alliance in opposing this proposed rule.

The FY 2020 Interior Appropriations Bills are moving through Congress. Such vital programs as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, state and tribal Wildlife Grants, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Endangered Species Act and Recovery, and control of invasive species are all at risk for significant funding reductions and new restrictions. TOS has joined with the American Bird Conservancy and the Bird Conservation Alliance in urging full funding for these essential programs.

Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act. TOS has joined The American Bird Conservancy and over 100 other conservation organizations in urging support and passage of this Act. Collisions, primarily with windows, kill approximately one billion birds a year in North America alone. Please see additional details elsewhere in this issue.

The Nashville Chapter has had significant success working with city government (parks and recreation) installing window treatments at a number of buildings. Memphis Chapter member J. Fields Falcone continues to record window kills at the Memphis Zoo. The data will be essential in order to authorize installation of window treatments.

For the Committee: Dick Preston

BIRD-SAFE BUILDINGS ACT REINTRODUCED

U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Representative Morgan Griffith (R-VA), along with 15 other co-sponsors, reintroduced the Bird-Safe Buildings Act, H.R. 919 on January 30, 2019. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bipartisan proposal is designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials, design features, and lighting.

As many as a billion birds a year die in collisions with buildings in North America alone. A 2014 study found that White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Ovenbird, and Song Sparrow were among the species most commonly killed by these collisions with buildings. The study also reported that several species of national concern seem to be especially vulnerable to collisions. Affected species include Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Painted Bunting.

You can take action and make your opinion known to your members of Congress here:

<https://bit.ly/2RzRlXu> (this takes you to the American Bird Conservancy website)

Editor's note: TOS is a member organization of the American Bird Conservancy

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2019

The 22nd Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was conducted February 15 – 18. This annual global event provides an opportunity for bird enthusiasts to contribute important bird population data that helps scientists see changes over time.

The GBBC is a product of The University of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, The National Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada. It is made possible through the support of organizations like founding sponsor, Wild Birds Unlimited.

This year, birders in over 150 countries submitted more than 200,000 checklists. They contained 6,583 species, and counted over 32 million individual birds. The United States submitted the most checklists, with 120,000. Columbia again led the species count (1,097), followed by Ecuador (947), India (849), Brazil (845), and Mexico (756). The United States was eighth, reporting 673 species. Tiny Costa Rica reported 687!

Tennessee was 23rd among the states, reporting 150 species. As usual, Texas (367), California (352), Florida (303), Arizona (275), and Louisiana (228) led the way. For optimum species lists, it pays to live along the coast, or the Mexican border.

Hamilton County reported the most species (106), followed by Shelby (103), Blount (96), Henry (87) and Davidson (83). Shelby County submitted the most checklists, with 315. Hamilton (205), Davidson (178), Knox (169), and Blount (156) rounded out the top five. This year, only seven counties failed to generate a single checklist, a significant improvement over last year.

Dick Preston led Tennessee birders, reporting 115 species (oddly, the same tally as last year's leader, Ruben Stoll). Beth Schilling (95), Morton Massey (94), Daniel Redwine (86), and Roi and Debbie Shannon (85) complete the top five.

Leading the way in checklists submitted were Roi and Debbie Shannon with 46, followed by Tommie Rogers (34), Dick Preston (32), Warren Bielenberg (30), and with Cliff VanNostrand and Janie Finch tied with 28.

Editor's note: figures as of press time; final numbers may change slightly.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND – UPDATE

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established in 1964. It consists primarily of fees and royalties paid by gas and oil companies for leases to drill in federal waters. During 2018, the Congress failed to reauthorize the fund, allowing it to expire on September 30th.

However, on February 12th, the U.S. Senate voted 92-8 to permanently reauthorize the fund. Previously, the fund was usually reauthorized for short two to five year periods, requiring recurring battles for passage. The bill awaits final action in the House of Representatives, where it enjoys bipartisan support.

The Senate bill also designates approximately 1.3 million acres of mostly western lands for wilderness protection, along with a number of river systems in the northeast.

TOS, along with well over a hundred other conservation and environmental organizations, sent letters to Congress, urging reauthorization of the fund. Thanks to the many individual members who also took the time to send their comments as well.

FARM BILL – GOOD NEWS

Since our last issue, the Farm Bill, formerly known as the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (H.R. 2), passed the U. S. Senate on 11 December by a bipartisan vote of 87-13, and the House of Representatives passed it the following day by a decisive vote of 369 to 47. President Trump signed it on 20 December.

The 800-page Farm Bill agreement – which added up to \$867 billion over 10 years – had some fine portions for wildlife and conservation, including the following:

- 1) Conservation Compliance and Sodsaver – Established in 1985, this continues eligibility for most federal farm programs linked to standard soil and wetlands conservation practices. It denies farm program benefits for planting on former wetlands or draining a wetland to enable crop production. It can be crucial for waterfowl, shorebirds, and grassland birds.
- 2) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – The enrollment cap was raised from 24 million to 27 million acres and CRP continues to benefit high-value wetlands and water quality practices. CRP pays farmers to remove some acres from production over multi-year periods to create wildlife habitat. New revisions would also direct benefits to more crucial grassland acres in strategic regions. Many species, as varied as Northern Shoveler, Northern Bobwhite, and Henslow's Sparrow should benefit. Significantly, this is the first time CRP acres have increased in the Farm Bill since 1996.
- 3) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Only created in 2014, RCPP: is substantially increased in annual funding from \$100 million to \$300 million. This will allow for the creation and expansion of successful projects that target species with the greatest need, these include Golden-winged Warbler, Bobolink, and Tricolored Blackbird.
- 4) Hemp – Also buried in the Farm Bill was a provision (Section 10113, titled “Hemp Production”) to allow industrial hemp – for oil and fiber use in particular – to be produced and marketed in the U.S. This also could mark the potential revival of hemp seed as a backyard bird food.

Fortunately, the Farm Bill final agreement also dropped a number of harmful provisions that would have impacted federal forests, endangered species, and dangerous pesticides that could threaten millions of birds each year. Further details can be found on the Wildlife Management Institute website:

<https://wildlifemanagementinstitute/outdoor-news-bulletin/december-2018/farm-bill-passes-congress>

Recap source: The January issue of The Birding Community E-Bulletin. An archive of past issues is available on the National Wildlife Refuge Association website:

<http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin>

CHAPTER NEWS

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER - For our December meeting Caryn Ross gave a presentation on "Changes in Winter Bird Populations in Tennessee Using Christmas Bird Count Data". Caryn is a graduate student with Dr. David Aborn at UTC. She presented some interesting data on what we have less of and what we have more of than years ago, and information on how a new digital approach will make this data useful for future ornithological research.

David Stone presented our January and February programs. His January program featured a video on owls from the PBS series, Nature. In February he gave highlights from 30 years of bird observations at the Honors Golf Course.

Chattanooga Chapter held three Christmas Bird Counts: Kevin Calhoon coordinated the Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count on December 15th. David Spicer coordinated the Nickajack Christmas Bird Count on December 22nd. Kevin Calhoon coordinated the Hiwassee Bird Count on January 1st.

Ray Zimmerman, Chapter Newsletter Editor

In Memoriam

We have lost another Chattanooga TOS member. Some of you may remember Bill and Betty Wampler. Bill Wampler passed away on January 22nd. His funeral was on the 26th. - David Aborn

Remembrance of David Spicer

TOS and the birding community lost someone special last Friday. David Spicer passed away after a long illness. During the illness, David always managed to find time and energy to pursue two of his favorite hobbies. David was a calm thoughtful birder who enjoyed nature and the puzzle of identifying birds. His many years of experience helped him have good hunches as to the identity of a bird even though briefly seen. However, he would patiently wait, watch, and listen for more clues to help him be certain to get the identification right. David was not a birder who focused on seeing the most species in a day. David enjoyed seeing rare species but birded more for the joy of seeing and the challenge of accurate identification. Then a few years ago, David followed his

interest in technology into a passion for photographing birds. He took photos of rare birds and common birds as well. He used the photographs to document birds, assist in identification of birds, and to preserve the beauty of birds. Often, David would patiently take multiple photos of a bird, looking for the best image light and weather conditions allowed.

Excerpted from a longer article by Danny Gaddy. Danny's full article appeared in the *Chattanooga Chat*.

BIRDING KINGSPORT finished out 2018 with a great program featuring Cranes. Our members Susan Hubley and Belinda Bridwell, presented on Whooping Cranes, Sandhill Cranes, and the Wheeler National Wildlife refuge where both species have been seen. Birding Kingsport also made a donation to the International Crane Foundation from our conservation fund. In January we had another informative program by Kevin Brooks on the birding trip to South India led by Dr. Fred Alsop. The topic for our February meeting was the "Silent Skies" mural, recently installed in downtown Kingsport. Suzanne Barrett Justis, Signature Member of Artists for Conservation, informed us about this collaborative super-mural mosaic featuring all 678 endangered species of birds of the world. If you are in the Kingsport area in the next several months, the mural is definitely worth a visit.

Bird walks have been limited due to the rainy and inclement weather, but we have enjoyed outings to some of our favorite local spots, including Warriors Path State Park and the Kingsport Greenbelt (KBT), and the Meadowview Cattails area. The club also organized a trip to the Murrell's Inlet area in South Carolina, including the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Area, in November and a trip to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge in Alabama in January.

We had a very exciting happening on January 19th when club members Bambi Fincher and Sherrie Quillen found a Virginia's Warbler on the Kingsport Birding Trail-Riverfront Greenbelt. The sighting, verified by Rick Knight, was the first record of the bird in the state of Tennessee. (The usual range is the Rocky Mountain States.) Many regional birders made the trip to Kingsport to view this bird and add it to their life list. The last sighting of the bird was in early February.

CHAPTER NEWS

Kingsport - Continued from Page 9

Birding Kingsport meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, typically at the Eastman Employee Center in Kingsport. Meeting details can be found on our website at www.birdingkingsport.org.

Helen Sirett, President

NASHVILLE CHAPTER – We wrapped up 2018 up with our two Christmas Bird Counts. We appreciate all who ventured out to count birds on those two winter days. Special thanks, as always, to count coordinators Marion Pratt, Richard Conners and Tarcila Fox and to Scott Block for compiling the data. Our spring count is just around the corner and scheduled for May 6th. Barbara Harris will be coordinating that adventure. Please join us if you're in the area.

Our next slate of officers and committee chairs for the 2019-2021 have been nominated. Many thanks to Susie Russenberger, Mike Smith, Margie Dunham, Pam Lasley, Susan Hollyday, Barbara Harris, Ashley Heeney, Rick Blanton, Danny Shelton, Melinda Welton, Camille Monohan and Stephen Zipperer for agreeing to serve. Volunteers are the backbone of any organization and we truly appreciate each and every one of you.

Our Window Strike Prevention conservation project is in the final stages of completion. Many different anti-collision treatments have been installed on the windows at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center. As our final step, a designated fundraiser is underway to secure the remaining funds for these window treatments as well as a display showcase explaining the project and highlighting all the partners and donors. If you're interested in donating to this worthy cause, please contact me ASAP for details. Many thanks to Denise Weyer, Shelby Bottoms Director, Metro Parks for allowing us to use the facility as a showcase for this project as well as pledging funds to help make it happen, Melinda Welton for all her efforts, the American Bird Conservancy for guidance and making all your resources available to us and everyone else who supported this important conservation project. When completed it will indeed not only save birds lives but be a living legacy for NTOS.

The annual Wings of Winter Birding Festival was a resounding success with NTOS and TOS members taking leadership roles and providing an informational booth all weekend in this ever-growing event. Mark your calendars for January 24-26, 2020 and join us next year as WOW welcomes Scott Weidensaul, naturalist, author and finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in nonfiction for his book *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*.

Finally, we hope you'll join us for the Annual Spring Meeting on April 26-28th. Details and registration information can be found within this newsletter as well as at tnbirds.org. Spring is always an exciting time to be out and about and our field trip coordinators, Tony Lance and Melinda Welton, have some terrific trips planned. The Saturday night dinner at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere will also be a special time with long time TOS member David Pitts as the keynote speaker. We hope to see you in April!

Happy birding,
Cyndi Routledge, President

JOHN W. SELLARS CHAPTER – Once again this winter's weather played a factor in our activities. We joined the Nashville Chapter in Robertson County in late February for a great morning of birding lead by Tony Lance. Thanks to Tony for a fun day of birding.

For the second year in a row one of our members had a Western Tanager at her house. Beautiful bird that we hope most got to see if they tried for it. Much thanks to the Johanssons for opening their home so people could see this bird.

In March Chris Agee will give a presentation on his family's trip to Israel and birds that were seen. We continue to work on a birding trail at Cedars of Lebanon State Park with the Park staff and the Friends of Cedars of Lebanon Group. The trail route has been decided on. Hopefully by the end of the year all will be complete.

Plans are still coming together for our group hosting the Fall meeting in 2020. The Fall meeting will be held at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Good birding.

Stephen Zipperer

CHAPTER NEWS

The **LEE AND LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER**, which is based in Elizabethton, Tennessee, conducts two long-running Christmas Bird Counts.

The 76th consecutive Elizabethton Christmas Bird Count was conducted by members of the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter and affiliated friends within the birding community on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018. A total of 28 observers in six parties tallied a total of 77 species, which is above the recent 30-year average of 72 species. Two species — Osprey and Orange-crowned Warbler — were found on this CBC for the first time. Longtime count compiler Rick Knight observed that one noticeable difference between last year's count and the 2018 Elizabethton CBC was the number of ducks. Last year's CBC yielded 13 species, but only six species of ducks were found this year.

The 67th consecutive Roan Mountain CBC was held Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018. Fifteen observers in three parties found 47 species. The recent 30-year average is 45 species. Weather conditions were very sloppy this year, with heavy overcast, fog, and near-steady mist all day. Winds were strong at the highest elevations. Highlights on this count include American Black Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Pied-billed Grebe. The seven Great Blue Herons is the most ever found on this particular count. Despite the high elevation habitat, the count produced no Purple Finches or Pine Siskins.

The distribution of the Howard P. Langridge Awards for 2018 was made at the chapter's February meeting. These awards honor the memory of the late Howard P. Langridge, who once held the record for most species found in a calendar year in upper Northeast Tennessee. The record is currently held by long-time chapter member Rick Knight. Those honored and their total number of species seen in 2018 in the upper East Tennessee counties of Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington follow: Jim Anderson, 212; Debi Campbell, 216; Rick Knight, 227; Roy Knispel, 216; and Pete Range, 210.

President Debi Campbell and former President Kim Stroud are busy planning for the chapter to host the fall statewide TOS meeting. A venue and lodging have been secured, and plans are now focused on securing a speaker, organizing a field trip, and other details.



Photographer: Bryan Stevens

Chapter members, from left, honored with the Howard P. Langridge Award for 2018 were Jim Anderson, Pete Range, Roy Knispel, Rick Knight, and Debi Campbell. The award is earned by seeing more than 200 species in the five-county region of Northeast Tennessee in a single calendar year. The late Langridge once held the record for most species seen in a single year in the region.



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plasley@comcast.net

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