



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

December, 2019

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all TOS members who are serving in local chapters or state-wide. It is amazing to think of the many opportunities that we have to be actively involved in TOS. I know that each TOS member brings key skill-sets to the organization. Thanks to all – TOS could not function effectively without the efforts of so many capable volunteers.

A great deal of effort and skill went into hosting an excellent fall meeting in the tri-cities area. The field trips, research presentations and banquet were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter for hosting and to Kim Stroud and her many volunteers. The fall 2019 meeting was a job well done.

During the business meeting, the board agreed to increase the amount of funding budgeted for conservation efforts, research projects and activities to provide education about birds and their protection. For the upcoming year, we have budgeted up to \$20,000. Please encourage individuals and groups to develop projects on behalf of birds and submit proposals to be considered for financial support through the Conservation and Research committee. Now would be a good time to increase efforts to assist the general public in becoming more aware of the 7 Simple Actions to help birds as suggested in the autumn 2019 *Living Bird* journal. The same Cornell article provides an analysis of the research of the past 50 years, summarizing the sharp decline in too many bird species and discussing ways that we can make a difference.

Finally, you are invited to attend a winter TOS birding/planning meeting. Plans are not yet finalized but details will be available soon. We will meet mid-state to bird and to brainstorm ways that TOS can best address the issues highlighted by the Cornell report. We will discuss where we have come from and where we hope to go in the future as an organization. So pack up your birding equipment along with your creativity and come spend some time discussing TOS and sharing your ideas of ways to make TOS even better. Please join us in this planning effort and enjoy a bit of winter birding.

Danny Gaddy
President, Tennessee Ornithological Society
gaddy@catt.com

2020 TOS SPRING STATE MEETING MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, APRIL 24 – 26, 2020

The Memphis chapter invites all TOS members to the Spring Meeting, to be held April 24 – 26, 2020. Friday night registration, the Board of Director's meeting on Saturday, and Saturday dinner and program will all be held in the conference room immediately adjacent to the hotel.

The meeting hotel is the Plantation Oaks Suites and Inn, 6656 Hwy 51N. From I-40, take exit 24B. Go 16 miles to Hwy 51. Go left on Hwy 51 for 2.2 miles. The hotel will be on the left. A block of rooms is being held for us at a rate of \$79.95 per night, king or double beds. A light breakfast is available beginning at 6 AM. Reservations: 901-872-8000, 901-872-8802 or 888-422-1459. Email: jaime.plantationoaks@gmail.com. Fax: 901-872-1000.

All field trips will depart from the hotel. Saturday destinations will include: Shelby Forest, Shelby Farms (and the Mid-South Raptor Center) and Ensley Bottoms, aka "the pits." Sunday will feature a trip to Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is just three miles from exit 56 off I-40, making it most convenient for those heading back east.

Our speaker Saturday night will be Dawn Hewitt, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Please send your registration to MTOS by April 10th. Registration is \$15 and Saturday dinner (buffet) and speaker is \$20. For additional information, contact Michael Collins (collinsm@rhodes.edu) or Dick Preston (dickpreston@rittermail.com).

TOS SPRING MEETING 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

TOS Chapter _____

\$ _____ for _____ Registration(s) @ \$15 each

\$ _____ for _____ Dinner Reservation(s) @ \$20 each

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed. Please make check payable to MTOS.

Mail registration form and check to MTOS Treasurer:

Barbara Pyles
518 Forest Hill Irene Rd S
Memphis, TN 38018-4832

See you there!

Michael Collins
MTOS President



The 3rd Annual Wings of Winter Birding Festival

by Cyndi Routledge

The 3rd Annual Wings of Winter Birding Festival (WOW) will take place on January 24-26, 2020, hosted and sponsored by The Friends of TN National Wildlife Refuge. With over a dozen additional sponsoring organizations, including TOS, this wintertime festival continues to grow in size and popularity.

Registration and the Friday and Saturday night events will all take place at the Convention Center in Paris, TN. All field trips, as well as lodging, will be centered at the Quality Inn in Paris just across the parking lot.

The weekend will begin with two special pre-festival field trips on Friday. Once again, we will be offering the behind-the-scenes tour of Cross Creeks NWR during the closed-sanctuary time. On this trip one can get up close to thousands of wintering waterfowl and perhaps find that 'one rarity' among them all. Rick Eastridge, Refuge Manager, will lead this adventure. We will also have a Friday afternoon boating adventure aboard the CQ Princess, cruising Kentucky Lake looking for eagles, waterfowl, gulls and other water-loving winter birds. Special guests Scott Weidensaul and Brian Ellis will be our hosts for this afternoon of fun. After the boat adventure please join us on Friday night for an 'Evening with Darwin' featuring Brian 'Fox' Ellis.

During the heart of the festival weekend, full-day and half-day field trips will be offered both Saturday and Sunday with new adventures as well as trips to local birders' favorite haunts. Have you ever done a Big Day? You can join Mike Todd and Mark Greene and spend 12 hours zipping around trying to find the over 100 species that are present in the area during the winter months. Or join our newest trip 'Birds and Brew' and spend the morning birding on a privately-owned nature preserve and end the day by sampling some local flavors at the local microbrewery. We are pleased to announce that Saturday night's Keynote speaker will be author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul, who will also be leading two field trips during the weekend. With 15 different trips scheduled throughout the weekend you're be sure to find one, two or even three adventures that suit your fancy!

Registration for this great event is open and filling up fast. Visit <https://friendstnwr.org/wingsofwinter/> to preview field trips, learn about our guest speakers, lodging options and all other information about this wonderful winter-time event. **Registration will close on January 1st, 2020.**

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me at routledges@bellsouth.net or 931-206-3517.

We hope to see you January 24-26, 2020 for this wonderful Wings of Winter Birding Festival!!

~ PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS ~
HERNDON CHAPTER HOSTS FALL TOS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27 – 29, 2019

Photographer: Bryan Stevens



Denee Mattioli, who worked with Brenda Richards to make new chapter T-shirts a reality, shows off one of the T-shirts at the social held for the TOS Fall Meeting at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton.



Attendees enjoyed a catered meal at the Kaycliff Center at Boone Lake as part of the Saturday evening festivities at this year's fall meeting of TOS, which was hosted by the Elizabethton-based Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS.



David Buehler gave an informative talk on the status of the Golden-winged Warbler in the Southern Appalachians at the TOS Fall Meeting.



A bird walk on the walking trails at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park helped kick off this year's TOS Fall Meeting.

Guidelines for Tennessee Ornithological Society 2020 Conservation and Research Grants

The Tennessee Ornithological Society invites applications for Conservation and Research Grants to support projects that will directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. A total of \$6,000 is available to be awarded for the grants, which may be divided among multiple recipients.

Anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals and individual workers, may compete for a grant. The project may already be in progress at the time of application. Applicants should submit a project proposal using the form that is available on the TOS Website (http://www.tnbirds.org/downloads/GRANT_FORM.doc). Needed information includes: name, address, telephone, E-mail address, topic, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, project location, beginning and ending dates, estimated field time, estimated total cost of project, itemized budget, funds available from other sources, how grant is to be used, experience of applicant in the project area, willingness of applicant to share results at a statewide TOS meeting or in an article for *The Migrant*, and whether the work is under the guidance of a mentor or is independent.

A letter of recommendation from a mentor or a knowledgeable associate is strongly encouraged. Up to \$50 of a grant may be applied toward the costs of attending an appropriate scientific meeting to present results of the project.

Criteria for judging applications include:

- Significance of problem addressed
- Clarity of proposal
- Adequacy of project design
- Adequacy of experience/training
- Adequacy of professional guidance
- Financial need
- Chance for achieving objectives
- Potential benefit to the species/resource
- Potential for advancing career/studies
- Potential for sharing results at a future statewide TOS meeting

The application and letter of recommendation should be emailed (preferably) or mailed to Michael Collins, Department of Biology, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN 38112; collinsm@rhodes.edu; (901) 843-3557. The deadline for receipt of applications is February 1. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decisions in early March. A check for 60 percent (60%) of the amount awarded will be mailed to the grantee(s) upon approval of award(s). The balance of each award will be paid after the project leader submits a satisfactory progress report with itemized costs and receipts to the Committee Chair, Michael Collins. All grant awards will be announced in *The Tennessee Warbler*.

Respectfully,

Michael Collins

TOS Conservation and Research Funding Committee Chair

FALL BIRD COUNT DATA DUE NOW

Fall 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 nightbirding
- 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

Compilers: please try to use a bird checklist that is based on somewhat recent taxonomy. This greatly speeds up my job compiling these reports. Our green TOS field cards are usually up to date.

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
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

BIRD-SAFE BUILDINGS ACT REINTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

U.S. Representatives Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Morgan Griffith (R-VA) have reintroduced the Bird-Safe Buildings Act (H.R. 919). This bipartisan bill is designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for Federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials, design features, and lighting. As many as one billion birds a year die in collisions with windows and buildings in North America alone.

Now is the time to make your voice heard by contacting your representative and Senators.

The American Bird Conservancy (abcbirds.org) provides a quick and easy link to submit your comments.

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

SEVEN SIMPLE ACTIONS TO HELP BIRDS

A report recently published (October 4, 2019) in the journal "Science" documents a staggering loss of three billions birds since 1970. This represents a decline of 29 % out of the total annual bird population across the Americas since 1970 (www.3billionbirds.org). Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology lists seven actions that anyone can take, at little or no cost, to help reverse this loss. For more details: (www.birds.cornell.edu):

MAKE WINDOWS SAFER – DAY AND NIGHT. Up to 1 billion birds are estimated to die each year after hitting windows in the U.S. and Canada. On the outside of the windows, install screens or break up Reflections using film, paint, or Acopian BirdSaver or other string spaced no more than 2 inches high or four inched wide. (www.abcbirdtape.org).

KEEP CATS INDOORS – There are 110 million feral and pet cats in North America. While they make great pets, cats are estimated to kill more than 2.6 billion birds annually in the U.S. and Canada. This is the number one human-caused reason for the loss of birds, aside from habitat loss. Do your local birds a favor by keeping all cats inside – it will also help your cat live a longer, healthier life.

REDUCE LAWNS – PLANT NATIVE – Lawns cover 40 million acres of land in the U.S. Convert your lawn or balcony into a native habitat with local plants to feed and shelter birds (helps pollinators, too).

AVOID PESTICIDES – One billion pounds of pesticides are applied in the U.S. each year. Consider purchasing organic food. Reduce use of pesticides around your home and garden.

DRINK SHADE GROWN COFFEE – LOOK FOR BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE – Enjoy shade-grown coffee. It's delicious, economically beneficial to farmers, and helps more than 42 species of migratory songbirds that winter in coffee plantations, including orioles, warblers and thrushes.

REDUCE PLASTICS – It takes up to 400 years for plastic to degrade, and 4,900 metric tons of it have accumulated in landfills and our environment worldwide. 91% of plastics are not recycled. Avoid single-use plastics, including bags, bottles, wraps and disposable utensils. If you do have disposable plastics, be sure to recycle it.

WATCH BIRDS – AND SHARE WHAT YOU SEE – Take part in citizen-science projects like eBird to show where birds are thriving – and where they need our help.

ADDITIONALLY - Consider contacting your congressional representative and Senators, urging support for conservation priorities to address the massive loss.

The organizations behind the study: The American Bird Conservancy, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Georgetown Environment Initiative and The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.

CHAPTER NEWS

The **HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER** officially kicked off its 2019/2020 year in August with an annual covered dish dinner. Darrell & Jean Gibson opened up their home and hosted the event. Our chapter is blessed with many fine cooks & bakers. In attendance were Dwain & Joyce Adams, Larry & Susan Bowers, Lois Bruner, Janie Denis, Darrell & Jean Gibson, Eugene Ham, Jim & Rachel Harwell, Randy & Faith Herrell, Kenneth & Suzanne Huber, Monica Oosting, Peg Rindfleisch, Rhonda Seitzinger, Kerry & Marie Syler and Lisa Trail.

After eating, talking, and a photo shoot, Lisa called our meeting to order. Dwain handed out our new program booklet which has a beautiful picture of a Towhee on the front. Lisa reviewed the book with us and changes were made. HRC/TOS Officers for 2019-20 are: President, Lisa Trail; Vice President, Marie Syler; Secretary, Janie Denis; Treasurer, Vida Sherwood; Statistician, Murray King; Historian, Jean Gibson; Christmas Count Coordinators, Larry Bowers, Jim Harwell & Murray King. Special Assignments & Committees for 2019-20 are: Hospitality, Joyce Adams & Lisa Trail; Telephone Committee, Joyce Adams, Rachel Harwell & Lisa Trail; Publicity, Joyce Adams & Janie Denis; Nominating Committee (2018-19), Cheryl King & Dwain Adams; Email Correspondent, Joyce Adams; Warbler, Chapter News, Janie Denis; Field Trip Coordinator, Jim Harwell; Program Yearbook Editor, Dwain Adams; Current Events, Rhonda Seitzinger.

Photographer: Darrell Gibson

Other Bird News. Ducks in a tree? Randy & Faith have pictures of Wood Ducks in their trees. This pair returns every spring. How cool is that!

The HRC/TOS September meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Tullahoma. Our program was Falconry with Don Hervig. Don brought Oscar, a male Harris's Hawk and Zeb, a Peregrine Falcon. Oscar is a first year bird, has a GPS transmitter, a federal band, and weighs approximately 1.25 pounds. Oscar works at the Nashville airport, library, & downtown Nashville in ridding these areas of unwanted birds. Once the unwanted birds see/hear a few of their kind get taken down by a hawk they leave the area. The Harris Hawk ranks 3rd in hunting, the wolverine is 1st and the lion is 2nd. The Harris's Hawk will hunt in packs and are called wolves of the air. The Harris hawk can live up to 11 years in the wild and 20 to 25 years in captivity. Sixty percent of birds of prey die their first year. You can only capture a first year bird. A trained captive bird cannot be re-released into the wild. Don's bird cages are 8x8x8. Don was unable to take Oscar outside to fly for us due to the removal of the large trees, and the power lines posed a threat to Oscar.

After a very informative program we held our meeting.

Janie Denis,
Secretary



Front row: Lisa Trail, Joyce Adams, Peg Rindfleisch, Lois Bruner, Jean Gibson, Rhonda Seitzinger, Suzanne Huber.

Middle row: Janie Denis, Monica Oosting, Dwain Adams, Rachel Harwell, Faith Herrell, Susan Bowers, Kenneth Huber.

Back row: Eugene Ham, Jim Harwell, Kerry Syler, Marie Syler, Larry Bowers, Randy Herrell.

CHAPTER NEWS

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** took the summer off from regular meetings and met back up in September with a pot-luck picnic at Seven Islands State Birding Park. We had a great group of attendees with lots of delicious food! The executive committee met frequently over the summer discussing ways to increase participation with the club and to involve more people, especially new birders. We've expanded our monthly KTOS led bird walks at Seven Islands to include quarterly weekend walks. We offer "New Birder" walks at Ijams Nature Center, focusing on assisting people new to birding on how to use binoculars and field guides, and what to look for when identifying birds. State directors were elected: term ending May 2020 – Ron Hoff, Bill Keeler, Tony Headrick; term ending May 2021 – Tom Howe, Chris Welsh.

JB Owen Fund has awarded \$1000.00 to Doug Raybuck for his Cerulean Warbler research in the Cumberland Mountains. Marcia Davis Fund has given \$650.00 for a Birder Information Board to be located in the Bluebird Barn at Seven Islands State Birding Park. This board will advise where bird hotspots are located within the park, what birds have been seen, a map of park with length of trail walks, etc. We hope this will improve the experience of folks birding at this exceptional park.

The 9th annual Hummingbird Festival was held at Ijams Nature Center, which was open to the public. Mark Armstrong once again banded hummingbirds while attendees watched close up and on a video screen. There were a multitude of tables and booths set up with merchandise for sale and information on birds, butterflies, wildlife, gardening, and a myriad of other topics. KTOS had a booth with information on our birding hotspots, backyard birding, feeding birds, and more. It was a great day, and many folks stopped by our booth to learn more about the birding world.

At our October meeting, Chuck Estes shared photos of birds and other wildlife that he and his wife, Lola, saw on their trip to Madagascar late last year. What a fascinating island, filled with incredible wildlife!

Rare Bird Report: On October 6th, Dean Turley found a Virginia's Warbler in the woods at his home in Union County. The bird was seen just a few times over the period of a week, and only by Dean, Toby Koosman and Barry Spruce, although many others looked fruitlessly for it. This is only the second record of a Virginia's

Warbler in Tennessee, with one having been seen in January in Kingsport.

KTOS meets the first Wednesday of each month at UT College of Veterinary Medicine, room 118, at 6:45 p.m. After a brief business meeting, we have a program on a variety of bird topics. Our meetings are open to the public. www.knoxvillebirding.org
Laura Tappan, Secretary



Photographer: Laura Tappan
Bluebird Barn at Seven Islands State Bird Park



Photo by Dean Turley - Virginia's Warbler

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRDING KINGSPORT kicked off the summer in June with a club social and picnic. Our July meeting featured David Lugo and Jonathan Lugo, who shared their adventures as young birders. In August, Megan Krager, Senior Naturalist at Bays Mountain Park (City of Kingsport), reported on the recent park improvements and plans for the future. Club member and one of our favorite speakers, Belinda Bridwell, presented "Birding Alaska" featuring photographs from several stops on her recent trip to Alaska at our September meeting.

Our community "Fun Fest" bird walks, sponsored by Riverfront Seafood, were held during the July Kingsport festival of the same name. A series of four short walks were held over the course of Fun Fest week at key birding locations on the Kingsport Birding Trail (KBT). This year we had a record 102 walkers signed in with many new and novice birders participating. Highlights from the walks included Black-crowned Night-Herons, Cliff Swallows, Louisiana Waterthrush, Spotted Sandpipers, Green Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Osprey, Tree Swallows and Eastern Kingbirds. Watching the expressions of new birders seeing birds through a spotting scope for the first time was priceless. Their awe and excitement brought back many memories of our early birding days, and reminded us of the beauty we find every time we are in the field.

Additional summer bird walks and field trips included Phipps Bend, Seven Islands State Park, Rock Creek Park in Unicoi County, Cattails at Meadowview (KBT), Kingsport Green Belt (KBT), and Jacob's Nature Park at Sinking Creek, Johnson City. Club members also helped out with one day of the Mendota Hawk Watch in September.

Several members also attended the Fall State TOS meeting, hosted by our nearby birding friends in the TOS Elizabethton (Herndon) Chapter. We extend our thanks for a great weekend!

We also would like to extend our thanks to John Whinery, who founded the Mountain Empire Birds website (host site of www.birdingkingsport.org and other regional Northeast Tennessee/Southwest Virginia bird clubs). John has faithfully maintained this site for several years and has recently transitioned this responsibility to Adrianna Nelson.

Our chapter has also been working with the City of Kingsport to design and produce panels, featuring educational information about area birds, as part of a larger project to install informational kiosks along the Kingsport Green Belt. This project has been funded in part by a generous grant from the TOS Education Sub-Committee. We expect the panels to be installed by early 2020 and look forward to sharing more information about this project next year.

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.

Happy Birding!
Helen Sirett
President, Birding Kingsport

Members of the Lee and **LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of TOS will look back at 2019 as a very busy but productive year.

The 50th consecutive Elizabethton Fall Bird Count was held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, with 29 observers in eight parties. Participants tallied 118 species, which is below the recent 30-year average of 125 species. Windy conditions throughout and dense fog on the higher mountain tops contributed to the reduced variety. The all-time high on this count was 137 species in 1993.

The Herndon chapter served as host this year to the Tennessee Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting from Friday-Sunday, Sept. 27-29. Members of the Elizabethton-based chapter planned and held a social at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park on Friday, which included a silent auction and a bird walk.

On Saturday, a variety of field trips visited prime birding locations throughout Northeast Tennessee. In the evening, a banquet was held at the Kaycliff Center at Boone Lake. The center is a multi-faceted facility, located on the shore of Boone Lake in Washington County, Tennessee, established to fulfill the educational, training and recreational mission of the Kaycliff Foundation.

CHAPTER NEWS

Herndon - Continued from Page 10

Afternoon paper sessions and a board of directors meeting were held ahead of the Saturday evening banquet and a program presentation by Dr. David Buehler, a professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Buehler is known for his research in the area of avian population dynamics and conservation. His program for the evening focused on "The Full Life Cycle Conservation of the Golden-winged Warbler."

On Sunday, additional bird trips gave TOS members from other parts of the state a chance to visit other local birding hot spots. About 65 people attended this year's TOS Fall Meeting.

Shortly before the state meeting, the chapter concluded a project to create and produce official chapter T-shirts. The finished product bears an image of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the front and a Belted Kingfisher on the back.

Upcoming projects include the production of an annual calendar, which features photography from the membership of the Herndon Chapter, as well as plans for conducting the annual Roan Mountain and Elizabethton Christmas Bird Counts.

Bryan Stevens

FEBRUARY 28TH DEADLINE

The deadline date for the April issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is February 28th. 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

It continued to be a busy time for the **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** of TOS these last few months. We successfully completed another round of Wednesday morning Radnor Lake State Park walks on October 9th. These annual spring and fall bird walks continue to be a highlight of migration season here in Middle TN. A total of 120 birders participated in the 4 walks. Our spring walks will begin on April 22, 2020.

Our Conservation project, Bird Window Strike Awareness campaign at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center in East Nashville, hit a glitch this summer/fall but we're back on track and, with a bit of luck, we should be wrapping it up as we welcome the new year. I hope to be able to report about the official unveiling and celebration of completion of this important project in our next update.

In October we had a successful Fall Bird Count. Coordinator Barbara Harris and compiler Scott Block along with area leaders and members had a good day out and about in Davidson County. Numbers were a bit lower than normal with a tally of 114 species. Our spring count is set for May 2, 2020.

Many of our members traveled to East TN in September for the annual TOS Fall Meeting hosted by the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS. It was a wonderful weekend full of great trips to the mountains, good friends and lots of birds. Many thanks to the Elizabethton Chapter for a wonderful event and all their hard work.

Our members continue to enjoy great programs at our monthly meetings arranged by Susie Russenberger, our new Program Chair. Mike Smith, our new field trip coordinator, arranged field trips to new and old places for our members. Many thanks to both of these individuals for volunteering for the first time.

If you decided to keep a hummingbird feeder up for the winter, keep watching for one of those western winter hummers. As February gives way to March these western birds will once again be on the move and looking for 'fast food' our feeders provide. If you see a hummer before March 15th, please give me a call. I'd love to hear about it.

Happy birding!
Cyndi Routledge, NTOS President



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plasley@comcast.net

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