

## TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

At the 1989 TOS Fall Meeting the Board of Directors approved the establishment of annual awards to be given to persons who have made significant and lasting contributions to the Tennessee Ornithological Society. A committee consisting of Ron Hoff (Chair), Barbara Finney, and Richard Newton reviewed nominations and selected ten recipients based on past contributions and geographical location. Numerous worthy members could not be honored this year. Some of the persons submitting nominations asked to remain anonymous; these requests have been honored and, to be consistent, none of the other persons who prepared nominations are listed. Copies of the nominations and the decisions of the committee have been placed in the editor's files. On behalf of the committee I thank all of the individuals who prepared nominations. On behalf of TOS I express thanks to all of the recipients for their contributions. The recipients are listed alphabetically. The contributions of each recipient are numerous; in fact, an entire issue of *The Migrant* might be necessary to adequately describe their activities. Consequently, a synopsis of their contributions is presented.

by Ron Hoff

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 109- 113,1990.

## RECIPIENTS of the TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

(More information is available in the noted sources)

### 1990 First Year the TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS were given:

Sue Bell - Nashville

Sue Bell served as TOS State President, Chapter President and member of the Chapter Records Committee. She participated in Breeding Bird Surveys and was the instigator of the Hawk Watch at Bon Air. She hosted many bird-related gatherings at her home.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 109, 1990.

Miss Mary Davant - Memphis

Mary Davant served several times as a TOS State Director and prepared the history of the chapters of TOS for the Golden Anniversary in 1965. She was a charter member of the Memphis Chapter, organized in 1930. She participated in many of the famous Memphis Chimney Swift banding sessions.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 109, 1990.

### Ken Dubke -Chattanooga

Ken Dubke has served as TOS President, Treasurer, and Conservation Committee Chairman in addition to being on numerous other committees and a State Director. He has diligently supported and promoted the Chapter, served as President and in many other capacities. He has run Breeding Bird Survey routes and has travelled many miles, written a multitude of letters, and made myriad phone calls on behalf of habitat conservation.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 110, 1990.

### Lil Dubke - Chattanooga

Lil Dubke has served as TOS Vice-president and on numerous TOS committees. She has been Chapter President and for many years compiled "*The Chat*", the chapter newsletter. She has conducted Breeding Bird Surveys and worked many blocks for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project. She was a leader in the effort to preserve Amnicola Marsh and has done surveys for Raptors, Sandhill Cranes, and Eagles.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 110, 1990, 71(4):125-126, 2000.

### Dr. Katherine Goodpasture - Nashville

Dr. Goodpasture joined the Nashville Chapter in 1940. She soon became one of the leaders in ornithological studies and activities in the area. She has banded numerous birds, maintained accurate records, and written many articles for state, regional, and national journals. For twenty years she coordinated the Breeding Bird Surveys in Tennessee and ran several routes. She directed the monitoring of TV tower kills in Nashville. She has participated in all counts and activities of the Nashville Chapter and has held many offices. Her name is synonymous with careful work, accurate recording, and scholarly writing.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 110, 1990.

### Lois Herndon - Lee R. Herndon Chapter, Elizabethton

Lois Herndon was a charter member of the Lee R. Herndon Chapter of TOS. This chapter grew from a Bird Life Study Club Lois and her husband, Lee R. Herndon, started in 1944. She

participated in many state and local TOS activities.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 110, 1990

and *The Migrant*, 68 (3): 96, 1997.

### J. B. Owen - Knoxville

J. B. Owen became a member of TOS in 1947. Since then he has served in a variety of offices at both the chapter and state level. By way of his regular columns in the Knoxville newspapers Mr. Owen reached and influenced more of the general public than perhaps anyone else in TOS. His columns were published in the *Knoxville Journal* from 1960- 1972 and in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* from 1973 to the present. Drawing on his own field experiences, the records of the local chapter and its members, and the publications of recognized authorities he has explained bird life and its study to thousands of readers.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 111, 1990.

### Dr. Arlo Smith - Memphis

Dr. Smith has been an active member of TOS since the 1950's. During this time he has demonstrated his concerns about environmental issues in a number of ways. He was a leader in the successful efforts to prevent the construction of Interstate 40 through Overton Park and the Memphis Zoo. He participated in the Eagle Hacking Program at Reelfoot Lake. He authored a definitive work on the wildflowers of the Mid-South. For years he has been a stalwart member of organizations which seek to protect the environment and preserve the natural areas of our state and nation. He has delighted audiences with his presentations and photographs of wildflowers and birds.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 111, 1990.

### Noreen Smith - Memphis

Noreen Smith has been a member of TOS since 1953. She has served as Chapter Secretary and President and State Director, Vice-President, and President. She has run Breeding Bird Survey routes each year for 23 years, in addition to participating in chapter counts and hikes. She assisted in compiling and tabulating fifty years of bird sighting records in Shelby County for publication. On a statewide basis she is best known for her efforts in the Eagle Hacking Program at Reelfoot Lake. During the first year, she and her husband Arlo ran the project with relief only on weekends. In the following years she continued to recruit and coordinate volunteer participants. Both she and Arlo continue their active participation in the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project.

*The Migrant*,  
61 (4): 111, 1990.

## Dr. James T. Tanner - Knoxville

Dr. Tanner became a member of TOS in 1940. Since then he has served the society as President, Editor, and Curator in addition to his involvement in numerous committees and other activities of TOS. He was a founder of the chapter in Johnson City and later an active member in the Knoxville Chapter. He has published many articles in *The Migrant* and other journals, but he is most recognized for his study of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Many students have benefited over the years from his patient and perceptive counseling and from the high standards of research and writing that he both demonstrated and expected of others.

*The Migrant*, 61 (4): 111, 1990.

## 1991 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Ben and Lula Coffey - Memphis

Mention the city of Memphis to an ornithologist, birdwatcher or birder almost anywhere in North, Central, or South America, and the response will probably be, "How are the Coffeys?" Space is not available here to do justice to their many contributions. They have played a major role in building the reputation of TOS and its journal, *The Migrant*, directly by way of their many field records and indirectly by way of the many individuals they have influenced (and housed and fed).

*The Migrant*, 62(4):99, 1991.

### Helen Dinkelspiel - Memphis

If this lady wrote a book, it would surely be called "The Joy of Birding". She did extensive field work, carefully studied species and habitats, loved to travel, and had a great sense of humor. She served as Chapter Secretary, Vice-president, and President. She has been State Secretary twice. She participated in Breeding Bird Surveys for over twenty years and in most chapter counts. Perhaps her greatest attribute is her willingness to always take new birders under her wing, a service that is invaluable to TOS.

*The Migrant*, 62(4):99, 1991.

### Robbie Hassler - Member-at-Large, Byrdstown

Robbie has been a TOS member since 1967. Even before becoming a member she recorded

observations on Sandhill Cranes and continues to do so. She has attended most state meetings since becoming a member. She hosted a state foray in 1979 and has participated in most of the state forays. She participates in most counts, contributes to the Cornell Nest Record program, leads bird walks in state parks, gives numerous slide programs, and has participated in Breeding Bird Surveys. She consistently reports observations to *The Migrant* and has published three articles. She has served as Director-at-Large for Middle Tennessee several times. In most of these activities she was assisted by her husband, David. She has apparently not been hampered by the absence of a local chapter; instead, she has demonstrated, again and again, that "one person can make a difference." *The Migrant*, 62(4):99, 1991.

### George Mayfield, Jr. -Mayfield-Gray, Columbia

George was the son of a TOS founder, an avid birder since childhood, and father of a family of birders. He has been a TOS member since 1961 and has been banding birds since 1978. He has consistently contributed records to *The Migrant* for many years. He helped revive the Columbia chapter where he has been active in virtually all of the chapter activities. He served as TOS President in 1968-70. He served as a member of the Tennessee Conservation Commission during Lamar Alexander's second term as governor. More recently, he has done extensive work on the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. He has been one of the strongest supporters of TOS and conservation efforts in Tennessee. *The Tennessee Warbler* August 2004, p. 6

## 1992 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Ruth McMillan - Middle Tennessee

Ruth served as president of the John Sellars (Lebanon) Chapter and was a former member of the Murfreesboro Chapter. She held many of the offices in her local chapter and was a State Director from 1985-1992. She worked on the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. Also interested in native plants, the property owned by Ruth and her husband Melville "Mac" McMillan was designated a State Natural Area by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Ruth was forever a teacher, in the classroom or the great outdoors. Her legacy lives on in those who knew and learned from her. *The Migrant*, 63 (2):44, 1992.

and *The Migrant*, 75 (1): 20-21,2004.

### Chuck Nicholson - Knoxville

Chuck has been President and Vice-president of the Knoxville Chapter and has served as a State Director for several years. In the 1970's he was the bird compiler for the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region, and has been director of several county forays. He has been a writer for and editor of *The Migrant*. During the six years of work for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* Chuck worked many blocks and served as chairman for the *Atlas* for several years.

*The Migrant*, 63 (2):44, 1992.

### Martha Waldron - Memphis

Martha has held several offices in the Memphis Chapter including President, served as Chapter Curator, and has participated in all chapter activities. She has been the mainstay of West Tennessee records, compiling over fifty years of bird records of the Memphis Chapter. She was an enthusiastic participant in the Bald Eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake 1981-1988. Martha also was a bird bander and aided in projects run by other agencies such as the Memphis Zoo and the Council for the Memphis Earthplex.

*The Migrant*, 63 (2):44, 1992.

## 1993 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

### Virginia Price - Nashville

Virginia Price has been a member of the Nashville Chapter since 1971. She is a bird bander, has held various TOS chapter officer positions, and has graciously hosted numerous chapter bird count compilations. She was recognized for her 10 years of operation of the Amelia Laskey Memorial Wildlife Refuge for rehabilitation of birds. She has given numerous talks to garden clubs and other organizations. Her enthusiastic and contagious attitude about birds has influenced many people for the good of our bird life.

*The Migrant*,  
64 (2): 38, 1993.

## 1994 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

### David Pitts - Member-at-Large

David joined TOS in 1965. He served as Seasonal Editor and *The Migrant* Editor for several years

and was symposium director for several fall TOS meetings. He participated in many Reelfoot Christmas Counts. David published many professional papers including studies on Eastern Bluebird, nesting Bank Swallows, and Lark Sparrows. His career as an ornithology professor at University of Tennessee, Martin allowed him to reach the next generations of birders.  
*The Migrant*, 65(2):38, 1994.

## **1995 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

George Payne - Memphis

George was honored for his fourteen years as TOS Treasurer and six years as *Regional Breeding Bird Atlas* coordinator. He participated in the Reelfoot Lake Bald Eagle hacking program. George was a dependable leader and participant in the Memphis Chapter.

*The Migrant*, 66 (2): 39, 1995.

## **1996 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

Carolyn Bullock - Memphis

Carolyn was a member of the Memphis chapter for thirty-three years. She participated in over 100 CBC's and ran a Breeding Bird Survey route for ten years. Carolyn spent countless hours in the field during the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project. She was instrumental in the work of the Reelfoot Lake Bald Eagle Restoration project. She had a deep and abiding respect for nature her entire life.

*The Migrant*, 67 (3):58, 1996. and *The Tennessee Warbler* Aug. 2010, p.11.

Jim Campbell - Knoxville

Jim served as Vice-president and Board Member of the state TOS. He was President of the Knoxville chapter and very active in leading field trips. He was particularly interested in bird song. Jim shared that skill with many folks locally with TOS and University of Tennessee and across the nation, including the National Park Service and the National Wildlife Federation.

*The Migrant*, 67 (3):58, 1996. and *The Tennessee Warbler* Dec. 2022, p.9.

## **1997 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Ann Tarbell - Nashville

Ann served as Secretary and Vice-president of NTOS and served as a State Director. She was Vice-president of TOS and organized several of the TOS state meetings. She was editor of *The Newshawk* and NTOS yearbook for over ten years. She has written for *The Migrant* and was responsible for the Birdline for several years. Dating from her early work with Katherine Goodpasture, Tarbell has been involved in numerous local and statewide programs including the Breeding Bird Survey in middle Tennessee, Raptor Surveys, the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project, and the MAPS programs at Grassmere and the Warner Parks. She was a prime mover in the campaign to save Radnor Lake from development in the early seventies.

*The Migrant*, 68 (1): 7,1997; 69 (1): 26,1998.

## **1999 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Robert M. Hatcher - Nashville

Bob joined the Tennessee Ornithological Society in 1979 and was a committed leader and mentor for the organization. Over the years he held several leadership positions with both the Nashville chapter and the state society, including State Secretary from 1991 – 1995. Bob may be best known for his success in reintroducing Bald Eagles; he oversaw the hacking of 274 Bald Eagles between 1980 and 1988, and watched as wild eagle nests increased dramatically from one in 1983 to 38 in 1988. He enlisted the aide of TOS members (many from the Memphis chapter) to help with this monumental project. Bob was able to accomplish much for conservation with his kind and humble ways. *The Migrant*, 69(3):123-124, 1998; 85(3):85, 2014.

## **2001 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

Dr. Fred Alsop III - Knoxville & Lee R. Herndon Chapter,  
Elizabethton

Dr. Alsop has served TOS in a variety of ways, including three terms as President of the Knoxville chapter and later President of the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter. He was a Season Report editor for *The Migrant*. He is a widely known ornithologist, professor, writer and wildlife

photographer.

*The Migrant*, 72 (2): 60, 2001.

### Susan McWhirter - Memphis

Susan joined TOS in 1981. She describes those first meetings and chapter hikes as incredible experiences, and with the help of such mentors as Noreen and Arlo Smith, Ben and Lula Coffey, and Martha Waldron, she says her life list expanded dramatically along with her appreciation and knowledge of ornithology. As her participation in TOS grew, she began helping with breeding bird counts, the Bald Eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake, the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project, forays, and held several offices including Chapter President 1993-1995. She has participated in point counts for the past six years and has written articles for *The Migrant*. In 1990 she took on the job of state count compiler for *The Migrant* and continued in this position until 1994. She has served as a State Director and member of the State Nominating Committee, and from 1997-1999 she served as T.O.S. President.

*The Migrant*, 72 (2): 61, 2001.

## 2002 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Jim Ferguson - Memphis

Jim joined TOS in 1975. He regularly participated in the Memphis chapter activities including Christmas Bird Counts and as President of the chapter. He served as TOS President and has been a member of several state and local committees including Finance and By-laws. He participated in the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project.

*The Migrant*, 73(3):45, 2002.

### Ruth Luckadoo - Highland Rim Chapter

"Ruth Luckadoo is the backbone and spirit of the Highland Rim Chapter of the TOS". She has been active in all areas of TOS, both state and local. She led field trips, helped with spring and fall migrant surveys, and participated in the Breeding Bird Surveys. She was particularly concerned with new members and sharing the world of birds with them.

*The Migrant*, 73(3):46, 2002.

## 2004 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

## Barbara Wayman Finney - Columbia and Knoxville

Barbara was a member of TOS for thirty years. She was TOS President, Secretary and Treasurer. She served many offices of the Columbia and Knoxville Chapters. She worked on the committee to establish the House Mountain State Natural Area. "Those who knew Barbara will remember her for her conscientiousness, perseverance, unselfish sharing of her time and many talents, and high standards for excellence in everything she undertook."

*The Migrant*, 75 (3):86-87, 2004.

## 2005 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Theresa Graham - Memphis

Theresa has been an active TOS member in her chapter and at the state level. She ran the Moscow Breeding Bird Survey for ten years and participated in all years gathering data for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. For many years she has prepared the chapter directory. Her diligent efforts as editor of *The Tennessee Warbler* have allowed members from across the state to share their news, projects and goals of the Society.

*The Migrant*, 76 (4): 122, 2005.

### Jon A. "Tony" Koella - Knoxville

Tony joined the TOS Knoxville Chapter in 1967 and became a leader at both the chapter and state levels. He helped launch the 1985 project which produced the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. He participated in many of the counts and surveys and was always happy to share his special birding locations. Rankin Bottoms was one of his finest discoveries, becoming a favorite shorebird birding spot.

*The Migrant*, 76 (4): 123, 2005.

### Nelle Moore - Memphis

Nelle Moore was a member of TOS for more than sixty years. She held many offices at the state and local levels. She served as chairperson of the committee to study and revise the TOS Constitution which was presented at the Annual Meeting in 1987. She was one of many "little old ladies in tennis shoes", many of whom were from the Memphis Chapter of TOS, who managed to save Overton Park from becoming an interstate highway.

*The Migrant*, 76 (4): 121, 2005.

## **2008 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

### **Neal Frisbie - Buffalo River Chapter - Lawrenceburg**

Neal Frisbie has been an active member in his chapter. His most amazing contribution has been his dedication to building and distributing Eastern Bluebird boxes. The boxes are not-for-sale but given with the understanding that the boxes will be maintained and monitored. He has developed several styles of boxes and continues to develop new and improved designs for Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and Wood Ducks. *The Migrant*, 80 (2): 42-43, 2009.

### **Knox Martin - Memphis**

Knox was given this award for his long-standing contributions to TOS, MTOS and bird conservation and education in Tennessee and surrounding states. He has served as Secretary for TOS, participated in the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project, and has led many field trips and contributed articles to *The Migrant* and *TN Conservationist* magazine. He was part of the Bald Eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake and worked on the release of thousands of young Mississippi Kites in western Tennessee. He has presented thousands of talks in the Memphis area including Northern Mississippi and Arkansas. Employed by the Memphis Zoo and founder of the Mid-South Raptor Center, Knox has been an amazing beacon for ornithology.

*The Migrant*, 80 (2): 43-44, 2009.

### **Virginia Reynolds - Memphis**

Virginia was a very active member of TOS, serving on a committee for the revision of the TOS By-laws, Vice-president from west Tennessee, and President of TOS. She was also very active in the Memphis chapter. She led many hikes and was a member of the "Wednesday ladies' birding group". Virginia participated in forays, Christmas Counts and ran a breeding bird survey for many years. She worked all six years on the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* and helped with the Bald Eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake. *The Migrant*, 80 (2): 44-45, 2009.

## **2009 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

## J. Wallace Coffey - Stephen M. Russell Chapter - Bristol

Wallace first participated in a TOS state meeting in 1965 at the Golden Anniversary of the Society in Nashville. He has served as TOS Vice-president and has held several positions with *The Migrant*. He served as a TOS Conservation Committee member and on the TOS Sandhill Crane Working Group 2008-2009. He developed Valley Birds Net, the nation's first major regional internet birding listserve from 1995-1999 and created TOS' first web site, TN-Birds. He learned from some of the TOS founders, and mentored many who have become leaders in the field of ornithology. He was truly devoted to birds, birding and birders.

*The Migrant* 81(1): 35-36, 2010.

## Donette Sellers - Buffalo River Chapter - Lawrenceburg

Donette has served as president of her chapter and has led many field trips and given many programs both to the chapter and to the general public. She participated in Christmas Bird Counts, bird surveys and did field work for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. Her surveys included seven years on the TWRA Laurel Hills Wildlife Management Area in Lawrence Co. Introduced to birding by her Mother, Donette continued the tradition to share her love of birds with all who met her.

*The Migrant* 81(1): 35, 2010.

## 2010 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Chris Welsh - Knoxville

Chris began work at the University of Tennessee in 1993. He joined TOS in 1994 and began participating in the Hiwassee and Knoxville Christmas Bird Counts in 1995. Chris has also participated in breeding bird surveys, birdwalks and field trips with the Knoxville TOS chapter. Chris served as Knoxville TOS president and State Compiler from 1999-2001 and has been a State Director since 2004. Chris became editor of *The Migrant* with the June 2000 issue, and will soon have served the Society in that position for ten years. He believes it is important to encourage young birders and has presented introductory bird talks to local elementary students. He works with the Bearden Middle School Science Olympiad team in Knoxville, coaching the ornithology team to a state championship in 2010.

*The Migrant* 82(1): 30, 2011.

## Melinda Welton - Nashville

Melinda has served TOS at the state and local levels. She has participated in many of the spring, fall and Christmas counts and has served in several offices. She has been very active in following state and federal legislative activity, serving as the Legislative Affairs Chairman for NTOS. Melinda has been involved with the new TN Watchable Wildlife website and has been involved in several proposals put forth by TWRA. She has done extensive field work here and abroad, research which benefits our neo-tropical migrants. *The Migrant* 82(1): 30-31, 2011.

## 2013 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Richard L. Knight - Lee R. Herndon Chapter, Elizabethton

"Rick" joined the Herndon Chapter in 1977 and is also a member of the Bristol Bird Club. He has served in many offices both state and local. He helped form the Tennessee Bird Records committee and was a major contributor to the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*, serving as Regional Compiler. Rick has authored or co-authored more than thirty notes and articles for *The Migrant* and penned *The Birds of Northeast Tennessee* in 1994. His published papers and editorship of TOS publications and bird records has had a resounding impact on Tennessee ornithology.

*The Migrant* 84(2):60, 2013.

### Richard D. Preston - Memphis

"From time to time, a Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society may be fortunate to have a real "sparkplug" join their group – a member who willingly serves in any capacity when asked, takes the initiative to energize the group, and volunteers within and beyond the Chapter to advance the mission of the TOS. Memphis and the Society are fortunate to have such an activist in Richard D. "Dick" Preston." Dick served as Chapter President 1997 to 1999, and again in 2009 to 2010. Other MTOS offices include Vice-President, Local and State Director, Curator, Slide Librarian and Committee Chairperson for Conservation, Hikes, and Programs. He has served as TOS president, Vice-president, and served on the Bird Records Committee and the Conservation Policy Committee. He has been involved in point counts, Christmas counts and helped with the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* project. Dick has been an inspiration to all.

*The Migrant* 84(2):61-62, 2013.

## **2014 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

### **N. P. "Mac" McWhirter - Memphis**

"N. P. "Mac" McWhirter began his birding career in a bit more dramatic fashion than most of the rest of us when, at the age of six, he joined Ben and Lula Coffey on the rooftops of Memphis helping band Chimney Swifts." Mac has been an active member of TOS since 1985 and has taken part in many different state counts and Christmas counts and has represented the Memphis Chapter as a State Director for several years. It is his role as TOS Treasurer for which he earns the Distinguished Service Award. For over nine years, through extremely trying economic times, he has managed the finances of the Society with a steady and knowledgeable hand. His wise investment decisions benefit TOS and result in increasing our ability to contribute to bird study, education, and conservation throughout the state. He works closely with all chapter treasurers and folks from across the state, which is just fine with him because after all, Mac McWhirter is truly a people person. *The*

*Migrant* 85(2):55, 2014.

### **David Vogt - Chattanooga**

David Vogt joined TOS in 1978 and has remained an active and engaged member with numerous significant contributions to Tennessee ornithology. He has been a consistent and trusted leader in the state society, as well as the Nashville and Chattanooga chapters and served in various capacities, including field trip leader and holding chapter offices. David has participated in numerous Spring, Fall, and Christmas Bird Count, and notably, worked many hours gathering data and writing species accounts for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. As a certified Master Bander he has led many long-term banding sites that have added to the knowledge base about Tennessee's birds. He established and ran the banding station at Whigg Meadow in Cherokee National Forest for 15 years. For that effort he was awarded the U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Region Individual Volunteer Honor Award, and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

*The Migrant* 85(2):56, 2014

## **2015 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

### **Marcia Davis - Knoxville**

Marcia joined TOS in 1976. She has held various state and chapter offices including chapter president and newsletter editor. She compiled the fall bird count in Knoxville for many years and served as TOS Vice-president from East Tennessee. She served on the TOS Nominating

Committee and TOS Conservation Committee. Marcia led birdwalks at the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg and gave many talks about birds to garden and civic groups. In April of 2001 she began writing the Birdlife Column in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, after the death of TOS member J. B. Owen who had written the column for years. *The Migrant* 86(2):55, 2015.

## **2016 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Glen Criswell - At-Large

William Glenn Criswell grew up in Dyer county and has added immeasurably to the knowledge about birds in the West Coastal Plain Region. His records, often written up for *TheMigrant*, included many rarities, early and late migrants, and many nests. He has led several hikes and field trips for TOS and has contributed slides to the Memphis Chapter for use in educational programs. He also provided nesting data and photos for Breeding Bird Surveys and the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. He has donated many books and nature resource materials to the Learning Resource Center at Dyersburg State Community College.

*The Migrant* 87(2):66,2016.

## **2017 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

Bill Haley - Chattanooga

Cynthia Wilkerson - Chattanooga

Jimmy Wilkerson - Chattanooga

The Soddy Mountain Hawkwatch, established over 25 years ago, has provided a steady stream of valuable information regarding migrating raptors of all kinds. While many people have volunteered with this project over the years, three people are most responsible for the continued success of this hawkwatch located just north of Chattanooga. Over the past quarter century they have devoted thousands of hours on the mountain and have accumulated and shared vast amounts of migrating raptor data with the Hawk Migration Association of North America. In honor of their dedication and determination in manning the Soddy Mountain Hawkwatch and providing a wealth of knowledge to the understanding of raptor migration, the Tennessee Ornithological Society Distinguished Service Award recipients for 2017 are Mr. Bill Haley, Mr. Jimmy Wilkerson, and Mrs. Cynthia Wilkerson. *The Migrant* 88 (2): 89, 2017.

## 2022 TOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Bob Ford - Memphis

Bob joined the Tennessee Ornithological Society in 1987. At the state level he served as Vice President in 1990 and was a member of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee from 1990-1992. Bob served two terms as TOS President. He served as a regional coordinator for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* and wrote species accounts. From 2014 to the present he has served as Editor of *The Migrant*. Bob's career in ornithology has included work for TN State Parks, TN Department of Environment and Conservation, Partners in Flight, and The Nature Conservancy. Since 2000 he has been with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, always concerned with the study and conservation of birds. *The Migrant* 93 (2):2022.

### Ron Hoff - Knoxville

Ron's work for the Tennessee Ornithological Society has been ongoing since he first joined over 40 years ago. He has served the Knoxville Chapter as State Director, newsletter editor, field trip leader and participated in many counts. He has served in many capacities at the state level, including President 2013-2015 and TN Bird Records Committee since 2015. Ron helped with the Chattanooga Bald Eagle hacking project and was a coordinator for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. His photographs and tales of adventures have been shared with many, a joy to his audiences. *The Migrant* 93 (2): 2022.