



6th Annual Native Plant Symposium “Designing for Nature”

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones will be holding their sixth annual Native Plant Symposium, “Designing for Nature,” on **Saturday, March 18, 2017** at University of Tennessee Chattanooga. The symposium will take place in the University Center Auditorium, 642 E. 5th St., Chattanooga, Tenn. from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. with on-site registration beginning at 7:30 A.M. “Designing for Nature” will feature four speakers and the Native Plant Marketplace.

The morning will conclude with “Challenges to Using Native Plants in Commercial and Residential Design: A Landscape Architect’s Perspective” with Steve Sanchez, La. Sanchez is a landscape architect and principal at HGOR Planners & Landscape Architects in Atlanta, Ga. The afternoon presentations include “Practical Considerations in Native Plant Landscapes” with Mike Berkley, owner of GroWild Nursery in Nashville, Tenn., and “Native Plants and Sustainable Landscapes” with Rick Huffman, BLA, founder of Earth Design, a landscape architecture firm in Pickens, S.C.

Lunch is included in the registration fee: \$50 in advance for Wild Ones members; \$60 in advance for non-members; \$70 at the door or after March 15, 2017 for everyone; \$20 for students with valid student ID. For more information and to register, please see tiny.cc/tgigjy.

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization with more than 50 chapters around the country. For more information or to become a member, visit the national website www.wildones.org or the Tennessee Valley chapter website tiny.cc/z4igjy.

March Meeting: "100 Years of Birding in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park" by Kristine Johnson

Please join us on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, for a presentation by Kristine Johnson, the Supervisory Forester of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, who will discuss birds and birding habitats in the GSMNP and how they have changed over 100 years. She plans to mine e-bird data for some historic material.

Kristine, a long-time member of KTOS, was recently selected one of the Top 100 People of the Smokies for “her persistence and resolve to save the park from being entirely overrun with invasive non-natives. Over several decades, she has faced a myriad of difficult tasks protecting the park’s native ecosystems from an onslaught of exotic plants such as kudzu and Japanese honeysuckle, as well as coordinating efforts to save remnant populations of native Fraser fir and eastern hemlock trees from non-native pests.” –Smokies Life Magazine, (2016).

The KTOS meeting begins at **6:45 P.M.** in room 118 of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, visit the KTOS website at www.knoxvillebirding.org or contact Merikay Waldvogel at (865) 806-7505.

Please note: Doors automatically lock at 7:00 PM at the College of Veterinary Medicine. If you arrive late, you may have to call, text or email someone inside at the meeting to open the doors.





Presidential Perch

Greetings everyone. I trust you are enjoying the balmy weather we have been having. As good as it feels, it could cause some issues for the birds. Trees are blooming too early and some of them have already been nipped by cold nights. Food supplies may be affected if cold weather returns. This can put extra pressure on birds starting their breeding too soon. I remember one year, decades ago, when early migrants experienced a cold snap that decimated their caterpillar food supply and tanagers were starving and sluggish. You could pick them off the branches. Hopefully things will smooth out and we won't have any extreme "Tennessee winters" – you know, dogwood winter, blackberry winter, even black snake winter (?).

If you want to be ready for spring birding, you might like to learn about early detection of heavy migration by using weather radar. I have not found any organization that sends out alerts when movements are detected, but I would definitely start with eBird. You can easily track the observation of particular species to help predict their arrival times. They also have a good article with links to begin your investigation at tiny.cc/y6jgijv. And to hone your identification skills on a few of tricky look-alikes such as Coopers vs Sharp-shinned Hawks, Carolina vs Black-capped Chickadees, Hairy vs Downy Woodpeckers, and more, visit tinyurl.com/jqbbxnt.

We had three field trips in February with one more to come at the time of my writing. I hope to develop an archive of field trip results on our website where one can look back and learn what to expect on any given future trip. Most likely it will be made of links to eBird checklists – no need to duplicate work when they have such a phenomenal database at our disposal. If you use eBird frequently, I hope you consider giving (no matter how small) towards their cause. But here are the birds we saw on our trips:

- Cades Cove, 2-18-17, tiny.cc/jcigijv;
- Maryville Greenway, 2-16-17, tiny.cc/1djgijv; and
- Concord Park and Vicinity, 2-11-17, tiny.cc/l6jgijv.

Thanks to Tony King, we had excellent views of the Peregrine Falcon which is in its 6th winter in downtown Maryville. We also saw a leucistic American Robin. I've seen white ones occasionally, but this one was quite attractive in its butterscotch plumage. I highly recommend you read about this phenomenon and its causes written by Sibley available at tiny.cc/tjgijv. If you haven't registered for the Spring TOS meeting, the form and instructions are in our December Newsletter. We need advanced notice of how many participants will need to be catered. We will have Dr. Beuhler speaking about his Golden-winged Warbler research on Cross Mounting and elsewhere. It should be an inspiring time. We need everyone to get on board and make this a great success. Thank you, and enjoy getting out birding!

Tom Howe

Get Out and Get Birding! March Field Trips

Kyker Bottoms

Saturday, March 11, 2017, Meet at 7:30 A.M.

Leader: Tom Howe (407-9620)

Meet at the paved parking lot on Big Gully Road at 7:30 A.M. We will be done before lunch, but may extend it for those who wish to explore the north entrance or visit the nearby Foothills WMA that has areas opened up for red-headed woodpeckers and brown-headed nuthatches.

Halls Greenway

Thursday March 23, 2017, Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Tony King (988-6172)

Meet at the Food City parking lot near the Halls Greenway. (7202 Maynardville Highway, Halls Plaza Shopping Center, Knoxville, Tenn.)

Seven Islands State Birding Park

Wednesday, March 22, 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Leader: Jay Sturner (865) 244-7819 (call/text) and Morton Massey (865) 806-9967

Meet in the main parking lot at the entrance to the park. Many species from a variety of habitats will be seen. This event is part of a monthly birding series held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Please see www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/SevenIslands.htm for additional information and directions to Seven Islands.



Leucistic Rock Pigeon, Note the normally colored legs and eyes, Source: By Howcheng (Own work)

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Spanish Discover Birds Activity Books Travel to Cuba by Vickie Henderson

Inspired by a desire to take activity books to Cuba on a planned visit in 2017 and made possible by a slew of generous volunteers, we now have a Spanish translation of the Discover Birds Activity Book!

This translation was accomplished by Barbara Routledge of Calera, Oklahoma, a Spanish teacher at Durant Middle School in Durant, Oklahoma, and recruited by her sister-in-law, Cyndi Routledge of Clarksville, Tenn. The translation process took about two months and Barbara expresses gratitude and appreciation to her students, Jhoana Ramirez and Angel Lopez, who helped her, and to Jhoana's parents who also helped out when they were 'stuck.'

The initial translation was further edited and refined for science-related meaning by Toby Koosman of the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), www.nimbios.org, in Knoxville, Tenn., a valuable contribution.

As with every new edition of the publication, Mindy Fawver of Knoxville is our go-to person for design, arrangement and print-ready format. Mindy reviewed the book as she worked and found a few activities that had to be further revised to accommodate the letters in the Spanish version (such as the crossword puzzle!)

While the translation was being completed, Naturalist Journeys, www.naturalistjourneys.com, owned by Peg Abbott of Arizona, agreed to fund the printing of 125 Spanish books to take to Cuba and other Spanish-speaking countries during their visits in 2017. Additionally, they received 125 English books courtesy of TOS. The printing of the Spanish books was coordinated by Cyndi Routledge, of Clarksville, and with a tight time-table, Cyndi shipped both English and Spanish books to Naturalist Journeys in time for our January 2017 trip to Cuba!

The outcome of all this effort was the very rewarding experience of gifting English and Spanish activity books — a total of 80 books — to educators in Cuba while we enjoyed seeing endemic birds and learned about the Cuban way of life. My touring companions included Billie Cantwell and Colin Leonard from KTOS. One of our guides who received books said that he hoped they would help him teach children to keep Cuba's birds in the wild and out of cages.

A big thank you to all the generous volunteers who made the translation, printing and gifting of these books possible! The Spanish translation of Discover Birds is now available as a free pdf on the Tennessee Ornithological Society website, www.tnbirds.org/education.html



Billie Cantwell, Vickie Henderson, Otis Campa, and son, Source: Colin Leonard



KTOS membership: Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Morton Massey, 6932 Westland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



knoxvillebirding.org

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Bee Hummingbird, the smallest bird in the world, Source: Vickie Henderson