



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 1, 2017** at 6:30 pm in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, located at 2505 EJ Chapman Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919

**November's Topic: Avian Wildlife presented by Dr. Cheryl Greenacre**

Approximately 1200 native wildlife present to the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM) yearly, and approximately 40% are birds. They present for a wide variety of reasons including toxins, trauma, infections, etc. Our goal is to return them to the wild at 100% athletic ability with the help of TWRA licensed rehabilitators. Using actual case studies that presented to the UTCVM, Dr. Greenacre will share information on the types of medical problems seen and what medical care is given to these birds.



Dr. Cheryl Greenacre is boarded in both Avian Medicine and Exotic Companion Mammal Medicine through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Prior to joining UT in 2001, she held a similar position at the University of Georgia for 10 years, and has been teaching avian and exotic animal medicine to veterinary students, training avian and zoological medicine residents, providing practitioner continuing education, and treating avian and exotic animal patients for over 20 years. She is the Immediate Past-President of the Association of Avian Veterinarians, and recently published a book "Backyard Poultry Medicine and Surgery - A Guide for Veterinary Practitioners".

**Item's of Business from October's Meeting**

Last month we nominated two charitable items to vote on at November's meeting:

1. Chuck Estes - Eaglebend is in need of Starling Proof Purple Martin Gourds. We will vote on how many to get for Eaglebend.
2. Tony King - Operation Migration is accepting charitable donations. T.K. suggested a donation of \$200 from KTOS.

Please note the rules of expenditures:

Expenditures above \$100, or which are not approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee, may be approved by a majority vote of members at a general meeting. For events incurring numerous expenses a budget shall be prepared and presented for approval by a majority vote of members at a general meeting.

Basically, we nominate one month and vote the next!





Please go to: [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org) for all KTOS information.

- Calendar (Fieldtrip Info)
- Newsletters
- Membership Information
- Contact Us
- FaceBook
- Photo Share
- Resources



Being part of a like minded community is important. Please remember to check the status of your membership. Morton Massey will be happy to answer any questions. You can email him at [knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.



Field trips and social gatherings are a great way of getting to know one another. Fields trips can be lead by any of our members regardless of skill level. We all can learn from one another. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, please contact Melinda Fawver at [knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Field Trip" in the subject line. Please remember to tell Melinda that she is doing an amazing job!

**Since field trips are ever changing, we will not be adding them to the newsletter. Always check the Calendar at [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org) to view upcoming Field Trips, Festivals, Bird Counts and Social Gatherings.**

Shade grown coffee is a great product and environmental friendly for our beloved feathered friends.

To order shade-grown coffee, email David Johnson and Jean Alexander at [jjadmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jjadmj@yahoo.com). Your order must be turned in Thursday night before for meeting each month. David and Jean bring orders to the monthly meetings.

Thank you, David and Jean for your continued service!

<b>Sun-Grown Coffee</b>	<b>Shade-Grown Coffee</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Grows faster</li> <li>✗ Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides</li> <li>✗ Supports less biodiversity</li> <li>✗ Degrades ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grows slower</li> <li>✓ Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides</li> <li>✓ Supports greater biodiversity</li> <li>✓ Sustains healthy ecosystems</li> <li>✓ Allows farmers economic diversification</li> <li>✓ Tastes better</li> </ul>





## **Bird of the Month: Blue Jay**

*Cyanocitta cristata*

One of the loudest and most colorful birds of eastern back yards and woodlots, the Blue Jay is unmistakable. Intelligent and adaptable, it may feed on almost anything, and it is quick to take advantage of bird feeders. Besides their raucous jay! jay! calls, Blue Jays make a variety of musical sounds, and they can do a remarkable imitation of the scream of a Red-shouldered Hawk. Not always conspicuous, they slip furtively through the trees when tending their own nest or going to rob the nest of another bird.



**Conservation Status:** May have declined initially with clearing of eastern forest, before it adapted to nesting in cities. Now common, expanding range toward northwest.

**Habitat:** Oak and pine woods, suburban gardens, groves, towns. Breeds in deciduous or mixed woods, avoiding purely coniferous forest. May be in fairly low or scrubby forest in southern part of range. Favors habitat with many oak or beech trees. Often common in well-wooded suburbs or city parks.

**Feeding Behavior:** Forages in trees and shrubs and on ground. Comes to feeders for seeds or suet. Pounds on hard nuts or seeds with bill to break them open. Will harvest acorns and store them in holes in ground.

**Eggs:** 4-5, sometimes 3-7. Greenish or buff, sometimes pale blue, spotted with brown and gray. Incubation is by both parents (but female does more), about 16-18 days. Young: Both parents bring food for nestlings. Young leave nest 17-21 days after hatching.

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**Nesting:** Courtship may involve aerial chases; male may feed female. Blue Jays become quiet and inconspicuous around the nest, but will attack with loud calls if the nest is threatened by a predator. Nest site is in tree (either coniferous or deciduous), placed in vertical crotch of trunk or at horizontal fork in limb well out from trunk; usually 8-30' above ground, sometimes 5-50' up. Nest (built by both sexes) is a bulky open cup made of twigs, grass, weeds, bark strips, moss, sometimes held together with mud. Nest is lined with rootlets and other fine materials, often decorated with paper, rags, string, or other debris.

**Diet:** Omnivorous. Most of diet is vegetable matter (up to 75% of diet for year, higher percentage in winter), including acorns, beechnuts, and other nuts, many kinds of seeds, grain, berries, small fruits, sometimes cultivated fruits. Eats many insects, especially caterpillars, beetles, grasshoppers, and others; also eats spiders, snails, birds' eggs, sometimes small rodents, frogs, baby birds, carrion, other items.

**Migration:** Present all year in most of range, but variable numbers migrate south in fall; big southward flights in some years, with thousands on the move, although they do not go south of the United States. Migrates by day.



Photo of Blue Jay on fence: Barry Spruce | Photo of Blue Jay on branch: Jimmy Tucker

## Report on the Fall 2017 TOS Meeting

The Fall meeting was held Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Meadowview Inn and was hosted by the new Fred J. Alsop, III/ Kingsport Chapter. Field trips were offered to Roan Mountain, Meadowview Golf Course, Shady Valley, Phipps Bend, South Holston-Weir Dam and the Riverfront to Holston confluence and Ft. Patrick Henry Dam.

This was my first meeting as a State Director, so I will give a synopsis of what transpired during the Board of Directors Meeting held before the banquet, with thanks to Secretary Cindi Routledge for sending me a draft of the minutes.

### Board of Directors Meeting

President Steve Routledge thanked the Kingsport group for a wonderful job in putting together a fantastic Fall Meeting and recognized 3 local Kingsport businesses with a TOS Presidential Meritorious Award for their support of the Kingsport Chapter. This was followed by several reports I will highlight below

Curator / Web page – Chuck Nicholson (KTOS) – Ashley Heeney (NTOS) reported that efforts are in the beginning stages to revamp and revitalize the TOS website. The goal is to have the new revamped site up and running by early 2018.

Migrant Editor – Bob Ford (MTOS) – March 2017 issue has been mailed. Susan McWhirter (Highland Rim/MTOS) and Martha Waldron (MTOS) have started a standard abbreviation system for Counties listed in the Migrant. Bob also asked members to please continue to submit round table notes, articles etc... for future issues.

Conservation Policy Committee – Dick Preston (MTOS) / Melinda Welton (NTOS) – Ashley Heeney (NTOS) reported that the committee has taken action and continues to follow: the Saving Pollinators Act and the Federal Bird-Safe Building Act. TOS has signed on to:

- Federal Bird Safe-Buildings Act of 2015 by ABC Bird Conservation Alliance. Bird-strike project with Shelby Bottoms Nature Center.
- Support Dedicated Funding to Recover America's Wildlife! Sent to us by the TN Wildlife Federation.
- Endangered Species Act. Sent to us by ABC BCA (Bird Conservation Alliance) on behalf of Endangered Species Coalition.
- Request Senate Judiciary Committee Urge Delrahim to Properly Evaluate Bayer-Monsanto Merger by Friends of the Earth
- National Park Service Legacy Act (S. 571) Senator Alexander cosponsored the bill. Sent to us by Public Strategies in Nashville, who was forwarding the announcement by the Pew Charitable Trust. This bill is in Committee on Energy and Natural Resources as of 10/2/17



Collateral Materials/100 Year Anniversary Patch – Donna Ward (At-Large) / Steve Routledge (NTOS) – Patches still available for \$3.00 via Steve.

Wings of Winter – Inaugural birding festival to take place near Paris, TN. January 19-21, 2018. Flyer and information will be sent to TN-Bird. To register go to: <http://paristnchamber.com/wingsofwinter/>



Loggerhead Shrike Study – Please report sightings to Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) and/or Dr. Michael Collins (MTOS) and please to continue to post on eBird.

Bewick's Wren sightings please send to David Hanni (NTOS) at TWRA. [david.hanni@tn.gov](mailto:david.hanni@tn.gov)



Danny Gaddy (CTOS) announced that the Spring Meeting will be held in Chattanooga, TN on April 20-22, 2018. Hotel and field trips TBA. Guest Speaker for the dinner will be Dr. Chris Haney – expert on Seabirds with USFWS.

President Routledge (NTOS) asked members to be on the lookout for winter Hummingbirds and to please spread the word at home Chapters.

Tony King (KTOS) updated the status of Whooping Cranes and Operation Migration in 2017 – 101 in the Eastern Migratory Population and asked for a monetary donation to be made to continue to support the reintroduction effort. Cyndi and Steve Routledge (NTOS) will look into the best way for TOS to contribute and help the on-going effort to save the Whooping Crane and send proposal to the Conservation Funding Subcommittee. For more information on Operation Migration go to: <http://operationmigration.org>



President Routledge (NTOS) reminded everyone to buy Duck Stamps. The purchase price is now \$25. Stephen Zipperer (Lebanon) recommended folks purchase from American Birding Association as they keep count of 'birders' who purchase stamps. Go to: [aba.org/stamp](http://aba.org/stamp)

Did You Know? Since the inception of the Duck Stamp in 1934, over 6 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat have been protected. 98 cents out of every dollar generated by the sale of the Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

### Field Trips

I attended the field trip to Roan Mountain on Saturday morning. It was led by Dr. Fred Alsop. It was my first time birding with him, and his grasp of birds in the field was astounding. His eyesight was just as impressive. I don't think anything got by him. We made four stops up the mountain, beginning at the state park visitor center. What pleased me the most was the great number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks everywhere, especially since I don't think I had one in my yard this fall. They are a regular in my dogwoods, but not this year, and I was concerned. The next stop was at some restrooms on the right that was surrounded by an apple orchard with large wetlands behind them. More grosbeaks with a highlight of 2 Lincoln's Sparrows. As we went higher up the wind became too noisy to bird except at Hummingbird Hill which was in a protected area below the summit. However, you could see the clouds above moving at about 50mph. We decided not to go to the top due to the wind and clouds. In the protected area we had good birds: sapsuckers, 1 siskin, 1 raven, and several warblers including a Black-throated Blue. From there we went instead to the Hampton Cove SNA which wasn't far. This is a cove-like open area lower down where we need to return to in the last week of April to the first week of May. Black-billed Cuckoos and Golden-winged Warblers breed there! Both are rare breeders in the state.



### Banquet and Program

The accommodations at the Meadowview Golf Course were excellent. We were well fed. I met many names I had only previously read about, including a man who raised the Whooping Cranes at Patuxent who knew my brother who also worked there. Very interesting conversation.

This was followed by Dr. Alsop's excellent presentation on the history of ETSU's eagle cam which has taken the world by storm. They actually have people following it from 175 countries! The story of how it began and evolved, how a young tree-climber got the cameras in the trees, and how so many got to see incredible action and inaction of such an awesome species. When someone report an interesting event, it has the capability to allow you to dial back in time so you don't miss a thing. You can view historical cams at : [http://www.etsu.edu/cas/biology/eagle-cam/ec\\_one.php](http://www.etsu.edu/cas/biology/eagle-cam/ec_one.php)



All in all it was an excellent meeting very well put together. Many thanks to our sister chapter in Kingsport. Tom Howe, State Director

Thanks Tom for the wonderful account of the State Meeting! We really missed out on a "Birding" good time! We would like to encourage all members to write articles for the newsletters. Everyone would love to hear about different birding adventures. Let's mix it up and continue the conversation! - Amy



**Member's Gallery - Keep sending them!**



Vickie Henderson  
Bee Hummingbird



Lee Smalley  
Chestnut-sided Warbler



Ron Shrieves  
Eastern Kingbird



Michael Plaster  
Road Runner



Tsuruoka Harumi  
Common Merganser



Marcia Davis  
Muscovy Duck



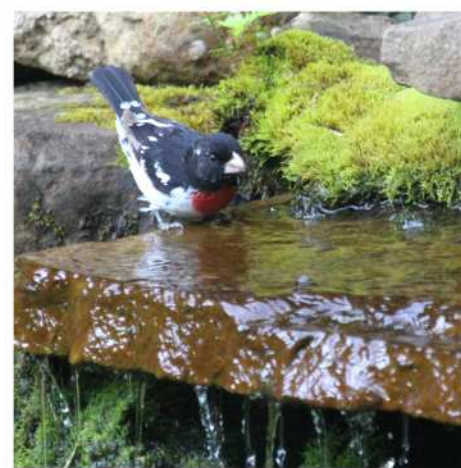
Tom Howe  
Sedge Wren



Lilac-breasted Roller  
Eric & Susan Bodker



Warren Bielenberg  
Black-throated Trogon



Billie Cantwell  
Rose Breasted Grosbeak

## Winterize Your Yard for Birds

### 1. Get Planting

Choose trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers native to your area. It's a good idea in the South, so plants can begin growing outside of the hot and dry seasons. One note of caution: Fall plantings are especially vulnerable to predators. Protect trees from bark-gnawing mice and rabbits by covering sapling trunks with plastic wrap. A three-foot-tall circle of fencing around shrubs can ward off rabbits. Where deer are a threat, protect the entire tree with a ring of welded wire or deer mesh up to five feet tall, available at hardware stores and nurseries. Pile several inches of shredded leaf mulch or wood chips around the base of new plantings to reduce the risk of frost heaving that could expose their roots to dry air.

### 2. Provide Water

Make sure there's ample water near protective shrubs. Many kinds of birds bathe in and drink from open water in frigid weather. Avoid ceramic baths; they can crack in cold weather. Instead, purchase a plastic birdbath with a built-in heater, or convert a summer birdbath by adding a heater. Baths on pedestals are ideal for reducing risks from predators such as cats, but if neighborhood cats are a regular threat, it's best not to use birdbaths at all. Clean birdbaths as needed with a stiff, rounded hand brush. Frequent refills are necessary in winter because the water quickly evaporates in dry air.



### 3. Out With the Old

Clear out nest boxes in the fall. It's wise to remove bird and mouse nests because some birds will use these boxes as winter night roosts. Clean them a second time in early spring to prepare for the coming nesting season.

### 4. Push the Limits

Create a songbird border along your property edge with plants that meet birds' needs year-round. Mimic natural flora communities by including indigenous plant species in varied heights that offer a mix of food, cover, nesting, and singing perches. A border that takes the form of a hedge can double as a windbreak if planted on a home's north side. Ideally, yours should serve to connect any isolated patches of habitat. Most plantings thrive best in full sun. Place several of each species to create clumps within your border, with the tallest in the center and shorter ones tiered away from there. Favor berry-producing shrubs such as dogwoods, hollies, chokeberries, and elderberries. Include oak and cherry trees, since they offer an abundance of fruit; in addition, many insects feed on their leaves, providing birds with essential protein-rich food. Also include short trees such as hawthorn, mountain ash, flowering dogwood, and serviceberry, as well as such evergreens as spruce, holly, and juniper for cover and nesting.



### 5. Make Mulch

Rake fallen leaves under shrubs to create mulch and to protect natural ground-feeding areas for such birds as sparrows, towhees, and thrashers. Birds prefer leaf mulch to woodchip and bark mulches. Earthworms, pillbugs, insects, and spiders—songbird delicacies—will thrive as the mulch decomposes.

### 6. Discard Old Seed

You should get rid of old birdseed, especially if it has been kept in a hot, humid place like a metal garbage can during the summer months. Although these cans are ideal for protecting seed from rodents, they can also encourage mold growth if the seed gets wet and then heats up.

### 7. Pile On

Build a brush pile in a corner of your property to offer songbirds shelter in extreme weather. During fall cleanup, set aside downed branches and tree trunks for construction. If they're available, use large logs as a foundation, then heap fallen and cut branches in successive layers. In large fields that are growing up into young forest, create living brush piles by cutting neighboring saplings most of the way through the trunks. Then pull them into a collective heap, and wire the tree crowns together. They will keep growing for years, providing excellent cover through the seasons.

### 8. Grab a Brush

Clean feeders with a bottlebrush and a 10 percent solution of non-chlorinated bleach. Rinse thoroughly and dry in the sun before refilling. Rake up soggy seed from under feeders and bury it far away to prevent the growth of bird-toxic mold. Scrub and store hummingbird feeders so they will be ready for spring.

Article by Steve Kress, [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org)



**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.



2017 - 2018

**Chapter Officers / Staff**

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Merikay Waldvogel

*Treasurer*

Morton Massey

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Tom Howe

*Field Trip Coordinator*

Melinda Fawver

*State Directors*

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For more information :

[knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com)

Please remember to put your inquiry in the subject line. Example: Membership, Discover Birds, etc...

## Presidential Perch



Happy Fall Y'all,

It is a great time to be a birder in a East Tennessee. The cooler weather brings out the beauty of our State & the birds. We have had a really productive Fall migration, as well as some unique birds from the Hurricane fallout. The club has really tried to step up our field trips to increase our time in the field. I have been able to attend or assist Melinda Fawver in leading several. Participation has been wonderful & I cannot thank you all enough. Along with increased field trips we wanted to start offering some additional training on birding related activities. Morton Massey just completed a couple in depth eBird sessions. I hope with the increased knowledge it will encourage folks to report more. Keep an eye out for upcoming field trips & trainings. Hope to see you on November 1st.

Happy Birding, Jimmy & Amy Tucker

Thank you to Bill Keeler for stepping in and helping out with the greeting! He is a natural!

Thank you to Morton Massey for doing informative and fantastic eBird Ed Sessions.

*Thank You*

Please thank Tony King for his dedication to our group. It is not easy lugging those coffee cups around. Please be sure to sign up and bring a treat to the next meeting.

Thank you to all of the author's and photographers that contributed to this newsletter.

A big THANK YOU to all those who participate in the Discover Birds Program. They are the ones molding our next generation of birders!

The first TuckahoeDown nature festival was held on Saturday, October 7th at the Seven Islands State Birding Park. Approximately 800 attendees enjoyed good food, music, craft vendors, speakers and many more fun things. The kids got to have their faces painted, be a part of a puppet parade and see wild animals. A great success and many thanks for all the KTOS members who volunteered their time to help out at the festival.



Would you like to learn more about birding apps and how to use them? Does birding photography interest you? Have you ever wanted to Bird by ear? Have you ever wanted to take a transcontinental trip but didn't know how to go about planning? All of these questions could be answered. We would like to gauge the interest of you, our members. Please let us know your thoughts by emailing us at [knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Ed Sessions" in the subject line.

Be on the lookout for new Social Gatherings. We are thinking of doing the following: Wings and Wine, Birding and Beer, Progressive Birding, Birding and Brunch.

If you would like to host a small event please email [knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Social Gathering" in the subject line.

