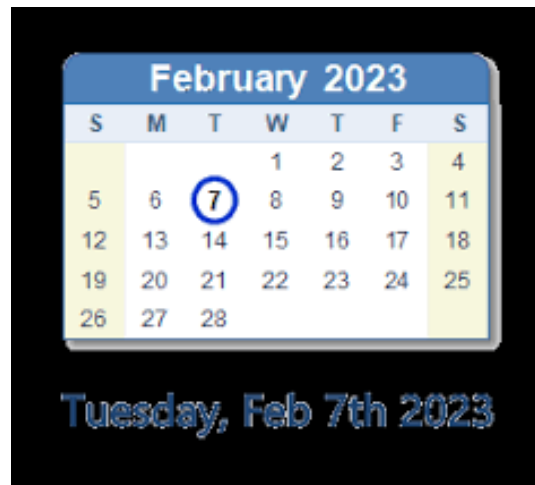


Tellico Village Birding Club Newsletter – January 2023

Next Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place at 6 PM Tuesday February 7th in Room D of the Chota Recreation Center.



Guest speaker Nick Smith, a PHD student at UT, will present “Utilizing songbird banding data to learn about seed dispersal”.

2023 Monthly Meetings

Room D of the recreation center has been reserved for birding club meetings for the first Tuesday of each month at 6 PM for all of 2023. **Important:** Since the first Tuesday in July is the 4th of July, the meeting date has been changed to Wednesday July 5th. Also, since the first Tuesday in November is election day there is the possibility that the meeting will also be moved to the following day if the recreation center is not available.

Upcoming Speakers:

February 7th: Nicholas Smith, University Of Tennessee - Birds as seed dispersers.

March 7th: Danielle Lincoln, Maryville College – Topic TBA

April 4th: David Hanni, TWRA Bird Conservation Coordinator - Non-game bird work, bird conservation.

New “Links” Page

A “Links” page has been added to the TV birding club web page <http://tvbirdingclub.org/>. The page currently has links to:

Knoxville Area Birding / KTOS
Watershed Association Of The Tellico Reservoir / WATER
Blue Bird Society / Valley Chapter TBS

Suggestions for additional links would be appreciated.

Communicating Rare/Uncommon Birds

I have been contemplating ways for club members to notify each other when rare or uncommon birds are around. For example, there is currently a Ross’ Goose at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville and some members may be interested in going to see it with other members.

Using the club’s email list is not suitable for a variety of reasons:

It is meant to be a one way communication from me to the club members. Using it for rare/uncommon bird sightings would require me to relay a member’s report to all the members.

Not all members would be interested in these communications.

Two way communication between members interested in a sighting would not be easy.

Looking at alternatives I came across the “Signal Private Message” app which is available for both I-phones and Android phones. The “Signal Private Message” app would facilitate a private group chat among participating club members. If you are interested in testing using Signal for rare/uncommon bird reporting among members please do the following:

Load the “Signal Private Message” on your phone.

Create an account using your phone number

Send a message to me (Joe Lewis) at 708-712-4630 with your name

I will then create a private group chat name “TV Birding Club” and we can all exchange messages to see if it suitable for the desired purpose.

Website and TVN Possibilities For Birds Of the Village

After discussing “The Birds of Tellico Village” at the January club meeting I realized that beginner birders and experienced birders who move to the village from other parts of the country will be joining the club in the future. It would be nice to have resources where new members can learn about local birds without my having to repeat the same presentation at future meetings. I have thought of two ways to accomplish this. Feedback on these two mechanisms would be appreciated.

First and easiest is to add a “Birds” page to the club’s web site with a list of the local birds. For each bird there would be a thumbnail image and a link to the corresponding Cornell Lab web page for the bird. It would be nice to note which birds are year round residents, winter residents, spring/fall migrants, etc.

Second and definitely more work is to produce a series of videos, each one covering a half dozen or so birds, that would provide a narrative describing the birds along with images and audio clips. The videos would be produced with the help of TVN, the Tellico Village Network. TVN makes videos available in three places; Their own web site (<https://tellicovillagebroadcasting.org/>), YouTube, and Vimeo. I am going to pitch the idea at the next TVN zoom meeting and see if they are able to provide the resources needed to get the videos made. If this project moves forward I will need volunteers to write the scripts for each video.

Member Contributions

The birding club’s newsletter is published around the third Tuesday of each month. Member contributions to the newsletter are appreciated. E-mail your contribution to <mailto:tvbirdinglub@gmail.com> at any time.

From Carla Wuenschel – Soar Along Birds, a beautiful three minute National Geographic video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QAjfH05IUE>

From Carla Wuenschel – Reelfoot Lake eagle watching tours
https://www.reelfoot.com/eagle_tours.htm