

# Tellico Village Birding Club Newsletter – April 2023

## Next Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place at 6 PM Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Room D of the Chota Recreation Center. The guest speaker will be Lukas Coe-Starr, the “Oak Ridge Bird Man” who you may know from the weekly farmer’s market.



## Gaggle

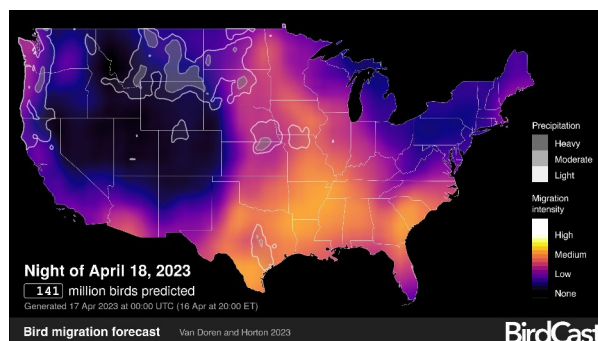
Gaggle is now the official email listserv of the birding club. It allows cross-communication between members of the club. Posting bird sightings and links to birding related articles or events is encouraged.

If you have not yet joined the listserv and wish to, send a request to Joe Lewis using the club’s main email address which is <mailto:tvbirdingclub@gmail.com>. An invitation to join our Gaggle listserv will be sent to you.

Once you have joined the listserv you contribute by composing emails using your normal email client and sending them to <mailto:tvbirdingclub@gaggle.email>. There have already been some wonderful posts by your fellow club members.

## Checking The Migration Map

In last months newsletter, member David Burns provided a link to a web page featuring Cornell Lab’s migration tools. You can check it out at <https://birdcast.info/news/the-return-of-migration-tools-for-spring-2023/>. I am repeating it in this month’s newsletter because this is the time of year it is most applicable.



### **Speaking Of Migration**

There has been quite a lot of spring like birding activity in the village. Arrivals over the past couple of weeks include Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Osprey, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow and American Robins. On the last Wellness Center bird walk we saw Eastern Meadowlark and the Savannah Sparrow pictured below.



Outside the village I have seen/heard some very nice birds, some of which are here to stay in Tennessee and some of which are passing through on their way north. The following were seen or heard at Hiwassee Refuge, Norris Dam, and Cove Lake State Park in the past week; Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Kingbird, Great Egret, Green Heron, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown-headed Cowbird, Palm Warbler and Prairie Warbler.

### **Birds Of Tellico Village Episode 1**

I am happy to report that production of the first episode of “Birds Of Tellico Village” is going very well. Video Editing is about eighty percent done and hopefully it will be finished by the time the next newsletter rolls around. Work on a script for episode two will begin soon.

## **Titmice In The USA**

A post about titmice on the Eastern Tennessee Birding Facebook page led me to the following fun facts ...

First, The Tufted Titmouse's name derives from the Old English words "tit" and "mase," basically meaning "small bird." The word "mase" eventually became obsolete and this part of the name morphed into the familiar word "mouse," a convenient switch because the quick-moving little gray bird probably reminded people of the small rodent.

Second, There are four species of titmice found in North America in addition to the Tufted Titmouse. Black-crested Titmouse, is common over much of Texas and northeastern Mexico, extending into southwestern Oklahoma. Oak Titmouse and Juniper Titmouse are found in the West. Bridled Titmouse, mainly a bird of Mexico, is locally common in Arizona and New Mexico.

Third, There are a number of odd European birds found on the western shores of Lake Michigan including the Great Tit which is one of the most common birds seen throughout most of Eurasia. It belongs to the same family as the chickadees that are seen in North America. This tit has been seen in some local areas near Lake Michigan in Wisconsin. Just south along the lake in Illinois there are a fair number of European Goldfinches. Here is a picture I snapped in 2020 at Illinois Beach State Park. Some locals have them as cool feeder birds.



How did birds from Europe get to the shores of Lake Michigan? There is a rumor that a number of non-native species were released by an importer a couple of decades ago and some have been able to adapt and survive.

### **Member Contributions**

Member contributions to the newsletter are always appreciated ...

Beth Burke provided a link to the “Biggest Week In American Birding” event in Ohio:  
<https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/>

Diane Black pointed out that Fort Loudoun State Park was having a short, easy bird walk which would be good for members with limited mobility:  
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=FLSHP-spring-bird-hike-23April2023>

I stumbled upon an interesting event at the Ijams nature center. It is a hummingbird festival featuring hummingbird banding sessions and four presentations by Stephen Lyn Bales: <https://www.ijams.org/ijams-hummingbird-festival>