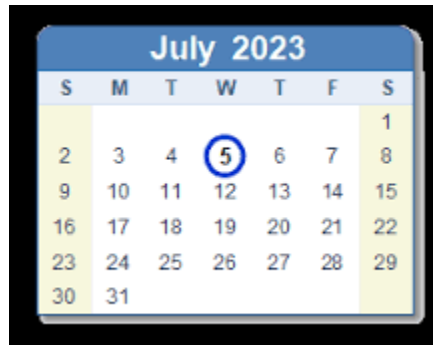


Tellico Village Birding Club Newsletter – June 2023

Next Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place at 6 PM *Wednesday* July 5th in Room D of the Chota Recreation Center. The guest speaker will be master bird bander Mark Armstrong.



The July meeting is on Wednesday because Tuesday is July 4th. Note that the November meeting has been moved to Wednesday November 8th because the first Tuesday of the month is election day and the Rec. Center will be closed.

Birds Of Tellico Village Episode 2

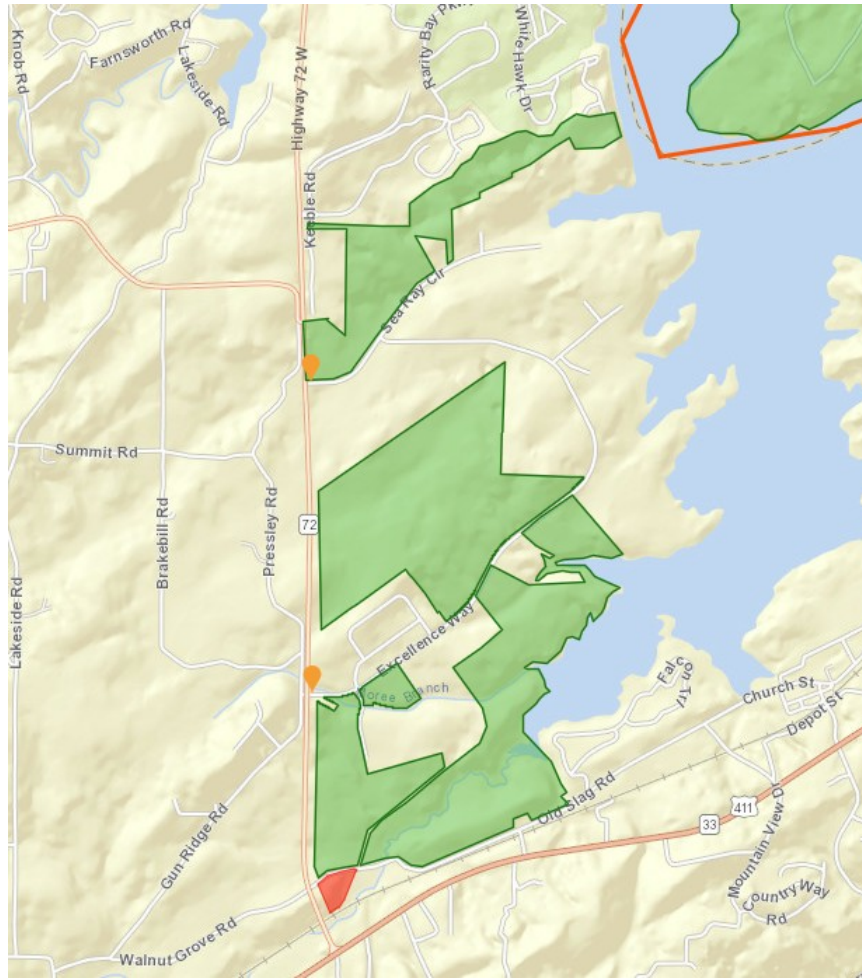
Episode 2 of the “Birds of Tellico Village” series is currently being edited by Bill Whitehouse of TVN (Tellico Village Network), SuZanne Axt and Rupert Cooke. Birds in this episode are American Robin, Eastern Towhee, American Goldfinch, House Finch, Tree Swallow and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Episode 1 is still available on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mckVH7dfLXY&t=66s>.

Tellico Lake West Wildlife Management Area

I recently did an exploratory trip followed by a bird walk to a wildlife management area in the nearby Tellico West industrial park. The three members who joined me on the bird walk all agreed that this is a hidden gem close to home. Below is a picture from an interactive map on the TWRA website. Note that the orange pins are the two traffic lights you encounter heading south on 72 to 411.

The bird walk was in the northern section, which has an entrance on the north side of Sea Ray Circle. Look for a gate and brown WMA sign. I did a solo trip to the area within the bounds of Excellence Way and it wasn't quite as birdy as the northern section. I have yet to explore the southern sections between Excellence Way and Old Slag Road.

On the bird walk we had some very nice species. The highlights were a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers (a Tennessee first for me) and a great look at a Blue Grosbeak.



Using The Merlin App To Identify Bird Songs

I came across an interesting article with the lengthy title of “Apps like Merlin can be helpful when identifying birds, but shouldn't become a crutch when birding”. Hopefully you can read it using the following link:

https://www.berkshireagle.com/arts_and_culture/home-garden/clellie-lynch-bird-watching-merlin-bird-app/article_9ae56074-09f2-11ee-8138-23b5d5d12d89.html

Club members who have been on my bird walks have heard me say a couple of things about the Merlin app. First of all it is amazing at what it does but is not one hundred percent accurate. Secondly, if you constantly are focused on the app while birding you will miss birds that are silently going about their business.

As far as accuracy goes, I had one of the scenarios in the article play out at UT Arboretum during my initial visits this spring, where the Merlin app stated that a Worm-eating Warbler was calling but after locating the bird and getting my camera on it the bird turned out to be a Chipping Sparrow. You may also have heard me tell the story of photographing a very noisy Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the McGhee-Carson Wildlife Management Area and then looking at Merlin which had only one species listed, a Red-headed Woodpecker (Wrong!).

Member Contributions - Binoculars

Richard Ganch contributed a link to an excellent REI article on choosing binoculars:

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/binoculars.html>

Ellen Pyles chipped in with a review of 8 x 42 binoculars from our friends at The Cornell Lab:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/the-cornell-lab-review-affordable-full-size-8x42-binoculars/#>

Member Contribution – What An Owl Knows

Beth Burke let us know about a new book titled “What an Owl Knows” by Jennifer Ackerman. I found the following from the author's own web site:

<https://www.jenniferackermanauthor.com/what-an-owl-knows>

Member Contribution – Baby White Storks

Member Cindy Weaver saw three baby White Storks on a church roof while traveling to the Black Forest in Germany. Stork nests can weigh over a ton. Locals place nest platforms on their house because it has long been believed that having storks on a house brings good luck.

I found the following nice article on White Storks:

<https://historybecauseitshere.weebly.com/storks-are-the-stuff-of-legend-and-every-day-life.html>