

Tellico Village Birding Club Newsletter – September 2024

Next Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place 6 PM Tuesday, December 3rd in Room D of the Chota Recreation Center. Jon North, head golf superintendent, will discuss the Audubon certification process.



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Note that there will not be a meeting in October due to the Rec. Center closure and in November due to the first Tuesday being Election Day.

Birds Of Tellico Village Videos

The script for episode 7 has been written. This episode will cover Northern Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Episode 6: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cX_HFWi094

Episode 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvqudrqFJpc>

Episode 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8nV2ooMldQ&t=40s>

Episode 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PslripyEveU&t=200s>

Episode 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYRmThHKpMI&t=244s>

Episode 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mckVH7dfLXY>

Greenspace Bird Walk

The recreation department is in the process of putting together a series of greens space programs for October. I have volunteered to lead an “Introduction To Birding” walk on Tuesday October 22nd at 10 AM. Look for upcoming details which I assume will be announced in the Tell-E-Gram.

Gaggle E-Mail List

A while ago I set up a Gaggle email list so that birding club members could send emails with sightings and questions to other members. Only a third of the members signed up for the list and it has not been had any posts for months. I am therefore going to delete the list. If at any point in the future you have something you’d like to share with the club simply email me and I will either include it in the newsletter or relay it to all members using the full membership email list.

Crows versus Ravens

I attended a KTOS hawk watch on Foothills Parkway last week and aside from seeing a fair number of migrating Broad-winged Hawks one of the nice sightings was a pair of Common Ravens. Here’s a link to an article describing the differences between Ravens and Crows:

<https://urbannature.blog/2023/10/28/telling-crows-and-ravens-apart/>

Member Contribution – Pat Ball

Pat sent me a link to an interesting article from The Guardian. Hopefully you can read it (sometimes The Guardian requires a sign-up to see their articles):

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/aug/28/northern-bald-ibis-bird-back-from-extinction-now-scientists-in-a-glider-are-teaching-it-to-migrate-aoe>

Member Contribution – Pat Ball

Pat says: Two years ago I noticed the yellow finches weren’t right. They’d sit lifeless on a feeder. I got close and saw they were blind. It looked like they were wearing a Lone Ranger mask over their little finch eyes. That summer I couldn’t watch any more suffering and took the feeders down. Last next summer I put out the feeders and all my birds came back, except the yellow finch. This year, again, lots of bird activity, but only a few yellow finches.

Joe says: By “yellow finch” I assume you mean American Goldfinch, our year round species with males that turn bright yellow during breeding season.

From the web: The disease is called house finch eye disease, Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis or Mycoplasmosis. This disease is most common in House Finches but

has also been reported in Purple Finches, American Goldfinches and Evening Grosbeaks. It has been found in House Finches in nearly all states east of the Rocky Mountains.

Joe adds: Bird feeders should be cleaned frequently to prevent the spread of disease. Taking down the feeders is the thing to do when you see that the disease is present.

Member Contribution – Sue Hume

Sue and Doug Hume took a trip out to Colorado and saw some nice birds that we don't have in Tennessee: Stellar Jay, Scrub Jay, Northern Goshawk, White-tailed Kite (below is a random picture from the web), Magpie and Mountain Bluebird.



Member Contribution – Beth Burke

Beth asked: I have a couple of questions that I think you can answer: I *think* we are supposed to increase the sugar-to-water ratio at some point for the migrating hummers. If that is correct, WHEN do we do that and HOW MUCH do we increase? We have just a couple of regulars (and one bully!), but want to give them what they need to make their trip.

Joe says: Looking around the web, you can change the water to sugar ratio from four-to-one down to three-to-one when it is rainy and cold and during migration season. Up north, I used to drop down to three-to-one after my local hummingbirds departed at which point I would leave a feeder up through early winter trying to get a rare migrant such as a Rufous Hummingbird (I never got so lucky).

Member Contribution – Robbyn Stone

From Robbyn on her trip to Newfoundland with Gary Zika: We spent 8 days visiting the breeding colony in Elliston, Newfoundland this July. The puffins typically arrive in Elliston sometime in May, they leave later in August for winter at sea and return to the same spot in the spring. They typically have one chick and protect them from the gulls. The colony is on a rock separated by water but if you're lucky they fly over and good pics can be had with just a cell phone.

