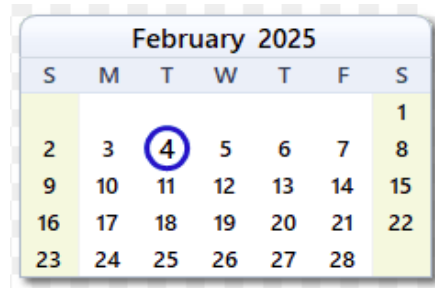


# Tellico Village Birding Club Newsletter – January 2025

## **Next Monthly Meeting**

The next monthly meeting will take place 6 PM Tuesday, February 4th in Room D of the Chota Recreation Center.



## **Birds Of Tellico Village Videos**

Episode 7 is being reviewed and should be released shortly. 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](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=PsIripyEveU&t=200s>

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

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

## **House Finch vs Purple Finch**

A frequently asked question on the ABA's "What Bird Is This?" Facebook page is whether a bird is a House Finch or a Purple Finch. If you have feeders up in the village you may have the same question, noting that Purple Finches are only around during the winter while House Finches are present year round. Here is a link to an Audubon article on differentiating between the two: <https://www.audubon.org/news/house-finch-or-purple-finch-heres-how-tell-them-apart>

### **Feeding Live Mealworms**

In his presentation during the January Meeting, Bill Hartman mentioned the importance of switching from dried mealworms to live mealworms during the bluebird breeding season because dried mealworms do not provided the moisture required by the chicks.

This is a topic of interest to me since I am feeding birds in Tennessee for the first time this winter and do currently have a feeder out with dried mealworms.

I asked Bill for some tips on buying live mealworms. He replied:

I order mealworms from Amazon, Bassett Farms, I believe. I usually get about 2000 and that lasts us for a month or so. If you Google mealworm care it will tell you to keep in fridge in a dormant state and once a week take them out and feed something like potato or apple slices for a day then back into the fridge.

There is a mealworm farm in West Tenn I used once. All the prices seem about the same, but the Tenn worms were much smaller. I don't know if that is important or not.

I usually put out about 20-30 in am and again late in the afternoon. Don't want babies to not learn how to forage in the yard.

I have been thinking about trying solder fly larvae as they have better calcium content than mealworms. You might Google that also to make a decision. I assume the care is similar to mealworms.

Bill also provided a PDF from the North American Bluebird Society:

<https://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/PDF/NABSFactsheetMealworms.pdf>

### **Member Contribution – Kristin Farrington**

Kristin provided an Audubon recipe for making your own suet ...

#### Materials:

1.5 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options I buy lard)

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup nut butter (any kind, again, palm oil free) I buy sugar/salt free also

3.5 cups wild bird seed 1 cup quick oats  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup corn meal

#### Steps:

Mix the dry ingredients together, set aside

Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt/soften. Stir until combined

Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined

Spoon mixture into ice cube trays. Freeze. I place no more than two cubes into a suet feeder at a time.

Not recommended for temperatures above 50 degrees. Gets messy.

**Member Contribution – Karen Gillum**

Karen says: “In our backyard by Poplar Springs boat ramp we had a bald eagle who was eating a fish. This was 2 weeks ago right before the snow.”



**Member Contribution – Allysa Langgood**

Allysa sent a couple of pictures of the juvenile Whooping Crane we saw at Hiwassee Refuge earlier this month ...





**Member Contribution – William Roy**

From a smart bird feeder he got for Christmas ...



**Non-Member Contribution – Dave Kaufman**

Dave says: “I shared this picture with Kristen Farrington and she suggested I share it with you.”



**Member Contribution – Pamela Holasek**

Pamela sent some backyard pictures ...





**Member Contribution – Ron & Donna Armbrust**

From the Armbrusts: “Both a male and a female graced us with their presence yesterday morning here on Yona Way! When we lived in the Seattle area Pileated woodpeckers were fairly common visitors.”





**Member Contribution – Joe Lewis**

Brrrrrr. You know it's cold outside when a Robin is on your feeder and not on the ground under the feeder. This was a first for me.



Based on the House Finch versus Purple Finch discussion above you should be able to identify this feeder visitor.

