

*John W Sellars Chapter*  
*Tennessee Ornithological Society*  
*Lebanon, Tennessee*

lebanonbirding.org



@ Joshua Stevenson

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2017

Birders,

Welcome to the second issue of the Lark News, the newsletter for the John W. Sellars Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Lebanon Birding Club.

Join us on Saturday, 18 March 2017 in Cabin 13 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park for our March meeting.

So we are off to a good start in 2017. In January we conducted the Christmas Bird Count, then ventured to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge for a day of birding among the cranes, geese, ducks and more. Then in February we traveled through Sumner County for some birding a little closer to home, and followed that with a trip to Paris Landing and Kentucky Lake in Henry County for the TOS Winter meeting and field trip.

Thank you to all who participated and made the first two months of 2017 such a fun and fruitful success.

Now we look forward to the coming months and to all the opportunities and birds the new year brings. 2017 will be an exciting time for the Lebanon Birding Club. We hope you will be a part of it.

**John W Sellars Chapter**  
**Tennessee Ornithological Society**  
**Lebanon Birding Club**

Website: [lebanonbirding.org](http://lebanonbirding.org)

Email: [lebanonbirging@gmail.com](mailto:lebanonbirging@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/lebanonbirding](https://facebook.com/lebanonbirding)

**Next Meeting**

Saturday, 18 March 2017 @ 9:45 AM

Cabin 13 - Cedars of Lebanon State Park

**Brunch & Shorebird Identification**  
**with Chris Sloan**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 18 March 2017. The Lebanon Birding Club will meet for brunch at 9:45 AM in Cabin 13 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.



After brunch we will be treated to a program on shorebird identification just in time for the spring migration. Our guest speaker is Chris Sloan. Chris is an experienced birder, nature photographer, pelagic trip leader, world traveler, and author of Birds of Tennessee: A New Annotated Checklist. The program will begin at 10:30 AM.

View some of Mr. Sloan's work with a camera online at [www.chrissloanphotography.com](http://www.chrissloanphotography.com)



## TOS Winter Meeting Attendees at the TN National Wildlife Refuge



How many from the Lebanon Chapter can you spot? Nine of our members birded Kentucky Lake and Henry County on Saturday and/or Sunday, 18-19 February 2017, but just eight appear in the photo above.

The day started off wet and cold with temps in the low 40s and a slow steady rain, but the birds didn't seem to mind and neither did we. Stephen Zipperer organized our bunch and led the way to several hotspots in the area. First stop was lakeside at Paris Landing State Park. American Pelicans, Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Goldeneyes, Greater and Lesser Scaups, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Bonaparte's, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, and Common Loons were seen there. Next we traveled to Eagle Creek Embayment where we were treated to Bald Eagles, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Northern Shovelers, more gulls and a very cooperative Forster's Tern.

Our next stop was Swamp Road near Britton's Ford. There we spotted more Gadwalls, Mallards, Canada Geese, several dozen Killdeer, a lonely Barred Owl, hundreds more RB gulls, and a single Lesser Black-backed Gull which was also very cooperative. Greg spotted Cackling Geese from the back of the procession but was unable to share the find with others until the next stop. Some of our bunch went back to look again but failed to relocate them. They did however add Greater White-fronted Geese and Sandhill Cranes to their checklists while searching.

Our last stop before lunch was the V.L. Childs Observation Deck where American Coots and Red-breasted Mergansers, along with several species of songbirds were added to our checklists.

The entire TOS crowd was treated to lunch at the gorgeous Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters located at Britton Ford. What a facility. If you get a chance to visit, do. It is an incredible facility with an amazing view of the lake, a gift shop, meeting rooms, educational displays, and a friendly, enthusiastic staff. It is well worth the drive and time it takes to get there.

Our last productive stop for the day was Bennett's Creek Overlook at Big Sandy Unit. This stop provided distant looks at hundreds and hundreds of ducks. Buffleheads, American Widgeon, Black ducks, Gadwalls, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Redheads and Ring-necked ducks were all seen. We also watched a Bald Eagle harass huge flocks of ducks from the overlook.

Of course Great Blue Herons were seen at every stop, as were American Crows, Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, and many other species.

Thank you Stephen Zipperer for organizing the trip and leading the way, and many thanks to Cindy and Steve Routledge, along with all the other TOS members who made this trip happen and so enjoyable at every turn. THANK YOU! We can't wait for the 2018 gathering next winter.



## What's Going On

### 18 March 2017 - Lebanon Birding Club Meeting

in Cabin 13 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Brunch is at 9:45 AM and the program, Shorebird Identification with Chris Sloan, is at 10:30 AM. Please let us know you are coming by signing up here: [LBC Brunch and Shorebirds ID Presentation – Saturday, 18 March 2017](#)

### 22 April 2017 - Field Trip to Edgar Evins State Park

We will meet at 7:30 AM and carpool or convoy to Edgar Evins SP. Again, please let us know you plan to attend by completing the form here: [Edgar Evins State Park Warbler Field Trip - 22 April 2017](#)

### 6 May 2017 - Elsie Quarterman Wildflower Festival

at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. The fun begins at 7:00 PM on Friday evening, then resumes Saturday morning at 7:00 AM.

### 20 May 2017 - Lebanon Birding Club Meeting & Picnic

at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. If the weather cooperates, we will again picnic at one of the shelters in the park. Otherwise, we will gather in Cabin 13 for some good food and birding fun. Look for additional details in the next newsletter.

## The Red-throats are coming! The Red-throats are coming!

Well, technically it's the ruby throats that are coming. Ruby-throated hummingbirds that is. And you can track their progress as they migrate north. In fact, you can be part of the longest-running migration tracking effort by reporting the arrival of hummers at your feeders. Early arrivals have already been reported in Florida, Louisiana and Central Texas.

Visit the website and watch as they approach middle Tennessee.

[hummingbirds.net/map.html](http://hummingbirds.net/map.html)



**Directions to Cabin 13:** Once you enter Cedars of Lebanon State Park through the main entrance, continue on past the park office on your right. When you come to the split in the road, bear to the right on W.P.A. Road. You will cross three speed bumps then come to a gravel drive on your left (at the playground across from the Assembly Hall). If you cross the bridge you have gone too far. Turn left on to the gravel drive and #13 will be the first cabin on the right.

## March eBirder of the Month Challenge

March 2017

This month's [eBirder of the Month Challenge](#), sponsored by Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, focuses on getting photos and audio recordings of birds. Don't worry, you don't need to have an expensive camera setup to take part—even a quick snap or recording from your smartphone can make a difference! The eBirder of the Month will be chosen from all eligible checklists submitted during March with 1+ photo or audio recording. Each eligible checklist that you've added media to gives you one chance to win. Winners will be notified by the 10th of the following month.



## Seen and Heard

Stephen Zipperer

Birds seen in Wilson County during February include all the normal year round and winter species along with Sandhill Cranes, and Common Loons. Greg Tomerlin heard then spotted Snow Geese flying over his house. Wilson Snipe were seen by Chris Agee at a pond on Trousdale Ferry Pike. Stephen Zipperer found American Woodcocks on Hurricane Creek Road. Northern Harriers were seen in several places. A couple of Red-breasted Mergansers have been hanging out at Cedar Creek Access Area and Campground. The Eagles are back on their nest at Cedar Creek as well as DC Cormorants and Great Blue Herons on the little island. All three species of common wintering gulls were present at Cedar Creek on the 26th of February (Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and Herring). Also on the 26th of February American White Pelicans were seen and a Pine Warbler heard singing at the Braid Road Boat Ramp near the end of Benders Ferry Road. This will probably be a reliable spot for Pine Warbler if you need one. Red-breasted Nuthatches have been reported from several feeders in the area. This is an invasion year for them, and If they hold true to form, we may not see them for another four years. They are always present in the Smokey Mountains of East Tennessee if you are that way. As we head into March be on the lookout for Tree Swallows and Purple Martins along with other swallows. Tree Swallows have already been reported in the state along with some other swallows. Ducks should be coming up from south of us and shorebirds are on the move. Check muddy pond banks, shallow creeks and other wet areas, especially after storms. In the middle of March Louisiana Waterthrush start showing up. Check creeks for them. They like to sit in trees above the water and sing. Osprey are starting to show up also. Who will be the first to notice one at the nesting pole at Cedar Creek? Although spring and fall are the seasons of the largest numbers of migratory species, there are always birds on the move. Get out there and find something. Good birding.

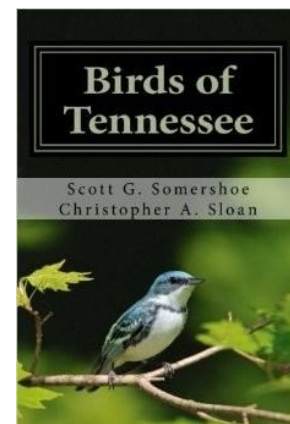


### Birds of Tennessee: A New Annotated Checklist

provides comprehensive information on the status, distribution, and abundance of all 415 species of birds that have been reported in the state of Tennessee.

This book is available at most major bookstores and also online at Amazon.com here:

[Birds of Tennessee: A New Annotated Checklist](#)



We still need someone to bring a fruit salad to the March 18 brunch. If you plan to attend and wouldn't mind putting together a fresh fruit salad, please do so and let us know via email (so we don't end up with 5-gallons of fruit salad). Brunch begins at 9:45 AM in Cabin 13. Email us at [lebanonbirding@gmail.com](mailto:lebanonbirding@gmail.com)

*Thanks, Lebanon Bird Club*

## Lebanon Birding Club — How We Began

The following notice appeared in The Migrant, December 1950, announcing the formation of the Lebanon Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society.

### **THE MIGRANT**

A Quarterly Journal Devoted to the Study of Tennessee Birds

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Free to Members. To Subscribers, \$1 per Year; Single Copies 30c

Please Notify the Treasurer or Secretary of a Change in Address

Edwin D. Schreiber, Secretary, 2316 Dixie Place, Nashville 12, Tenn.

Lawrence C. Kent, Treasurer, 1896 Cowden Ave., Memphis, Tenn.

All Items for Publication should be sent to

James T. Tanner, Editor, Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Tennessee Ornithological Society was Founded, October, 1915

Publication of THE MIGRANT was begun, March, 1930

**The simple truth about birds is interesting enough;**

**it is not necessary to go beyond it.**

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### **NEW T. O. S. CHAPTER AT LEBANON**

A new chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society has recently been organized at Lebanon. Its mentor and first President is Dixon Merritt, one of the founders of the T. O. S. and an Honorary Life Member. Its starting membership numbered about ten, and one of its first activities was this year's Christmas Bird Count, which is reported in other pages of this issue.

One of the Chapter's first activities was participation in the 1950 Christmas Bird Count, which was also documented in the December 1950 issue of The Migrant.

LEBANON, Tenn. (Vicinity of Lebanon and southward 9 miles to include Merritt farm and parts of Cedars of Lebanon State Park; open fields 15%, wooded pastures and park lands 25%, cedar thickets 45%, and brushy land, fence rows, ditch banks, and roadsides 45%).—Dec. 30, 1950; 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and at 8:00 p.m.; overcast all day and foggy until 10:00 a.m.; temp. 40-50; no wind; ground bare and not wet. 15 observers in 4 parties. Total party hours, 27 (20 on foot, 7 in car); total party miles, 48 (8 on foot, 40 by car). 42 species, about 968 individuals. Robert C. Bone, Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Loyd Hester, Mary Frances Holloway, Graham Kash, G. R. Mayfield, Dixon Merritt, Harvey Scurlock, Mrs. J. C. Sellars, James Shaw, Jimmy Shaw, Dan Schreiber, Norman and Donald Thomas, Mrs. Henry Waters. (Members of Lebanon Chapter T. O. S.).



## Lebanon Birding Club Member Application

Membership dues include local and state dues and entitle one to all state and chapter publications. Bring this form, with your check payable to: John W. Sellars Chapter TOS, to our next meeting or event. Please visit our website at [lebanonbirding.org](http://lebanonbirding.org) for our meeting and event schedule.

Membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. However, to ensure uninterrupted receipt of The Migrant, the TOS quarterly journal and The Tennessee Warbler, the TOS newsletter, please renew your membership with our membership coordinator by the end of November.

Name:

Date:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code

Email address:

Phone:

Cell:

Additional Names (Family Memberships):

Membership Level:

_____ Individual	\$ 22
_____ Family	\$ 28
_____ Sustaining	\$ 30
_____ Life (Lifetime TOS membership)	\$450 (+ \$4 annually for LBC)

Members of other TOS Chapters who wish to be members of the Lebanon Birding Club pay annual dues of \$4 for an individual, or \$6 for a family.

Make checks payable to: *John W. Sellars Chapter TOS* and mail to:

Lebanon Birding Club  
c/o Stephen Zipperer  
3105 Chapel Hills Drive  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129