

John W Sellars Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Lebanon, Tennessee

lebanonbirding.org



@ Joshua Stevenson

Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2017

The John W Sellars - Lebanon Chapter of TOS has been busy since the last issue of the Lark News. Read about some of the places we have visited and some of the birds we have seen over the last eight weeks. Also, you will find among these pages some of what we have in store for the coming months.

In March, your birding club welcomed author, photographer, and birder extraordinaire Chris Sloan to brunch where he gave an excellent presentation on shorebird identification. In April, Stephen Zipperer led two successful Zip Trip birding forays around the county ending in multiple enviable checklists. Note, Zip Trip #3 is Monday. Also in April, the Lebanon Birding Club was joined by the Nashville TOS Chapter for a magnificent field trip to Edgar Evins State Park in DeKalb County. Thank you to all who participated and made March and April so much fun.

Please join us at the May picnic when we plan our summer field trips, and make additional plans for the second half of 2017. As always, we hope you will join us for some exciting birding fun whether you join our club or not. Friends and guests are always welcome to attend the Lebanon Birding Club meetings & programs, and participate in our field trips.

John W. Sellars Chapter

Tennessee Ornithological Society

Lebanon Birding Club

Website: lebanonbirding.org

Email: lebanonbirging@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/lebanonbirding

Next Meeting

Saturday, 20 May 2017

7:30 AM - Birding Expedition

11:30 AM - Cookout / Picnic

Shelter #4 - Cedars of Lebanon State Park



Mark your calendars for Saturday, 20 May 2017. The Lebanon Birding Club will gather for a picnic in the park at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

We will spend the morning birding several hotspots here in Wilson County, then gather back at the park at shelter #4 for some good food and games.

Let's
go BIRDING



Spring Zip Trip #3 - Monday, 8 May 2017

Stephen Zipperer will lead the third Spring Zip Trip of the season on Monday, May 8. To participate be at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park Nature Center by 7:30 AM that morning. Bring binoculars, something to drink and a snack. These forays usually last until noon or a little after, but you are free to join in for just an hour or two if you like.

Many of the birds listed in the **Seen and Heard** column on page 5 of this newsletter were either found or re-found during one or both of the earlier Zip Trips. These trips are a good opportunity to learn some of the back road hotspots around the county and see or hear some interesting birds. But we are quickly approaching the end of the spring migration, so if you are available on Monday, this could be your best and last chance this season.

Zip Trip 2017 Checklists:

- ⇒ 10 April 2017 - <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S35852136>
- ⇒ 24 April 2017 - <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36565446>
- ⇒ 24 April 2017 - <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36565447>
- ⇒ 24 April 2017 - <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36564693>



BIGDAY2017

Every bird counts.
Your support helps create a better future for birds.

PLEDGE TODAY!



Yucatan Jay by Luka Seltz

On May 13, 2017, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's birding Dream Team, the Sapsuckers, will reach for an audacious goal: finding 300 bird species in just 24 hours - and raising \$475,000. Can they do it?!

This year, for Big Day, they will be heading to the Yucatán Peninsula, one of the world's most stunning and important areas for birds.

In order to cover the phenomenal bird diversity there, they will be dividing into three teams for the first time ever: Team Belize, Team Guatemala, and Team Mexico. All three teams will be joining forces in a quest to find the most bird species and raise \$475,000 for conservation.

If you would like to support Team Sapsucker with a pledge, click the image above or the link below:

<http://dl.allaboutbirds.org/2017-big-day-pledge-1>

Mark Your Calendar:

- 17 June - Nightjar & Owl Hunt w/ NTOS
- 22 July - Duck River Unit Field Trip
- 19 August - Richard Connors on Fall Warblers

**Birding is something that
we do for enjoyment...**



**...so if you enjoy it,
you're a good birder.
If you enjoy it a lot,
you're a great birder.**

- Kenn Kaufman

Field Trip to Edgar Evins State Park

22 April 2017

On Saturday, 22 April 2017, nine members from John W Sellars – Lebanon TOS Chapter and one member from Nashville TOS Chapter struck out in torrential rain, thunder and lightning heading east on I-40 for Edgar Evins State Park. Our objective: spot the beautiful blue Cerulean Warbler and other spring migrants.

About half the crew drove up before daylight, but spent two hours seated in their automobiles with the windows rolled up listening to the pounding rain and thunder—which is really not that bad, but it's not birding! Those with more sense and better timing arrived around 8:00 with exactly the same number of species ticked on their checklists. Zero. But about 8:30, a Red-eyed Vireo greeted them from the treetops as they gathered at the park office. Park Ranger Mark Taylor also greeted them, on his day off no less, and things got exciting.

Ranger Taylor led the soggy-bottom bunch down the road a short distance where he quickly put them on their target bird. There they were joined by Mark's wife Holly, and the two of them led the eager crew along the road where they were treated to the musical stylings of 11 species of warbler: Cerulean, Worm-eating, Tennessee, Hooded, Yellow-throated, American Redstart, Yellow, Kentucky, Blue-winged, Northern Parula, and Blackpoll. They heard Wood Thrush, and either heard or saw Summer & Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-throated & Red-eyed Vireos, and Orchard Orioles. A single Broad-winged Hawk and 22 Common Loons were also seen. For the complete checklist, see: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36188053>

For the day to have started off as dark and dreadful as that one did, it sure turned out to be a fun, productive trip for all those brave enough (brave?) to make it. And all 10 birders wholeheartedly thank Mark and Holly Taylor for being such generous hosts, for putting the group on all those birds, and for showing them the beautiful state park.

The photo below appears courtesy of Glenn Robb. Thanks Glenn.

In attendance but not pictured below: Glenn Robb.



What's Going On

6 May 2017 - Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade 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. Of particular interest to birders will be:

- 1) Guided Bird Walk with Ray Pope, Melissa & Roy Turrentine at 7:00 AM Saturday morning. Meet at the Cedar Forest Lodge.
- 2) Owl Prowl with Ray Pope from 7:00 to 9:00 PM Saturday evening. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.

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. Members are asked to bring whatever meat they wish to grill and a side dish. The grills will be fired up at 11:00 AM and we will begin eating about 11:30. However, the birding fun begins earlier that morning. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at 7:30 AM. Stephen will once again lead us to some of Wilson County's recent hotspots.

As always, we need to know who is coming. Please visit our website and complete the online form if you plan to join us for the early morning birding and/or our picnic. And feel free to bring a guest. The online form is found here: [Spring Picnic & Hotspot Tour Sign-Up Form](#)

For more information on the spring picnic, visit our website: lebanonbirding.org

17 June 2017 - Joint Nightjar & Owl Hunt with NTOS

in and around Cedars of Lebanon State Forest. The Nashville Chapter of TOS has graciously invited us to join them on a rare evening field trip in our own backyard. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot no later than 8:00 PM. We will be carpooling as necessary. Bring bottled water and a snack if you like.

22 July 2017 - Field Trip to the Duck River Unit, Humphreys County

Details to follow but go ahead and mark it on your calendar



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.

eBirder of the Month Challenge

May 2017

This month's [eBirder of the Month Challenge](#), sponsored by Carl Zeiss Sports Optics, is all about birding on [Global Big Day](#)! 13 May is the third Global Big Day, bringing together birders around the world for birding's biggest day. In last year's Global Big Day we noted 6,332 species together as a global birding community—can we top that this year?! The eBirder of the month will be drawn from eBirders who submit 3 or more eligible checklists on 13 May. Winners will be notified by the 10th of the following month.



Seen and Heard



by Greg Tomerlin

Birds seen in Wilson County during March and April 2017 include a few surprises, several early birds, and some old favorites. On March 30 Chris Agee located a Ross's Goose on a small roadside pond on the old Johnson dairy farm on Trousdale Ferry Pike. The bird stuck around for almost three weeks giving quite a few birders the chance to log a new species for Wilson County. Eleven days later, Justin Nation found another new bird for Wilson County when he discovered a Stilt Sandpiper milling about with a Greater Yellowlegs and several other shorebirds on a heavily excavated piece of property five miles out Simmons Bluff Road. Then on April 23, Chris Agee found yet another new first for the county when he discovered a pair of Long-billed Dowitchers on the pond on Trousdale Ferry Pike. The next morning, Stephen Zipperer visited the same pond on the first stop of his second Zip Trip of the season, and identified still another new bird for the county, a Dunlin. He and Greg got good looks at the bird as it fed among the Dowitchers, Blue-winged Teal, a Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, a Solitary Sandpiper, and a lone Wood Duck. That's 4 new species for Wilson County in just 25 days, along with numerous uncommonly seen shorebirds.

Other notable birds encountered this spring include the Grasshopper Sparrows and Lark Sparrows near the Superspeedway, along with Loggerhead Shrikes and the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at their usual locations out Trousdale Ferry Pike. Chris Agee also found Dickcissel and Grasshopper Sparrows along Bluebird Road just south of the interstate and west of the overpass at Linwood. Of course numerous warblers have been spotted all over the county, as have many of our breeding migrants and summer resident birds. American Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, N. Parula, Prairie, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Black-and-white, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Blue-winged, Hooded, Prothonotary, Palm, Pine, Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Ovenbird have all been seen or heard, and so have the various vireos; Red-eyed, White-eyed, Warbling, Yellow-throated, Philadelphia and Blue-headed. Both of our common orioles, Baltimore and Orchard, are on their nests, as are our two species of tanager, Scarlet and Summer. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Blue Grosbeaks are back, and so are Indigo Buntings.

Although a number of Ruby-throated hummingbirds appeared a week or two earlier than usual this spring, some feeders are still waiting on their first arrival. But the flocks of Purple Martins finally caught up with their late winter scouts and are nesting in their gourds and hotels. All of the common swallows have also been seen, Barn, Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Cliff and even Bank. You might see all five at Davis Corner boat ramp near Laguardo. While there, look for Great Egrets, Green Herons, and Black-crowned Night-Herons that have joined their Great Blue cousins.



And finally, the nightjars have returned. Eastern Whippoorwills were heard on March 28, and both Chuck-will's-widow and Common Nighthawks were heard April 27. A good place to hear all three is in or near any wooded area around Cedars of Lebanon State Park, and while you're there listen for the owls. This has been a busy, birdy spring so far and it's not yet over. I hope you can get out there and see some of these beautiful spring migrants and breeding birds.

We need someone to do the grilling at the spring picnic on May 20. This will involve starting the grill no later than 11:00 AM, and grilling the meat for every one who brings something. If you're handy with a basting brush and comfortable around smoldering hot charcoal, we want to hear from you. Email us at lebanonbirding@gmail.com

Thanks, Lebanon Bird Club

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 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
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Murfreesboro, TN 37129