
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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MIGRATION MOVING IN AND MOVING OUT

It's that time of the year. Our summer bird visitors are heading south for the winter while others will join us to spend the next few months in our more hospitable climate.

What is Migration?

When birds migrate, they are moving between their breeding and wintering grounds. Migration is predictable, occurring at roughly the same time every year and appears tied to seasonal changes in food availability. For instance, insectivores like swifts and swallows head south for the winter where they will find all the bugs they need and head back north for the spring and summer months when their food sources are more abundant during nesting season.



Northern Rough-winged Swallows

Did you know...

- That of the approximately 650 species found in North America, roughly 75% of them migrate to some extent?
- Some species that are here all year may be visiting us from farther north while our spring and summer residents head a little farther south?

Some birds may stay in the area if they can adapt their diet to other locally abundant food sources. For instance, you'll see woodpeckers in our area all year. While insects are part of their diet during the warmer months, they can adapt to just eating seeds and berries during the colder months.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Long Distance Migration

Some species will leave their breeding grounds in North America to head to Central and South America for the fall and winter months. Chimney Swifts are commonly found in our area from late March to mid-October before they begin their long journey south in search of flying insects. They may fly across the Gulf of Mexico or along the east coast of Texas on their way to the western side of South America.



Chimney Swifts

Short Distance Migration

Some species migrate within North America. In some parts of the United States, American Robins are seen as a harbinger of spring. But here in Tennessee, we'll see them all year. Some of our local robins may stay with us all winter, while others may head a little farther south. We'll also see robins that arrive to escape the frigid weather farther north.



American Robin

One of our more unusual intakes a couple of years ago was a Bonaparte's Gull. We only see them here in the winter months on our local lakes. Their breeding territory extends up through Canada and into Alaska! While they do eat some insects during their breeding season, they arrive in our area to forage on small fish. We always enjoy seeing these small gulls when we are out birding at Woods Reservoir.



Bonaparte's Gull

Diurnal Migration

Birds migrate at different times of the day. Species that migrate diurnally (during the day) may depend on the thermals or updrafts to make their trip a little easier. Broad-winged Hawks would be an example of this and can be seen during migration time in large groups called "kettles" as they head to Central and South America. They head out from our area in mid-September and can be seen along the ridges in East Tennessee or along the Mississippi Flyway in West Tennessee. Other birds migrate during the day depend on the food sources available. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrate at a low altitude during the day so they can frequently refuel on the way. They need to bulk up before they hit the Gulf of Mexico since they can't stop once they are out over the water. They are amazing little birds!



Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Nocturnal Migrants

Other birds will migrate at night when the air is less turbulent and they can maintain a steadier course. These nocturnal migrants are the reason you'll see many organizations urging you to turn off unnecessary outside lights during migration season as this can interfere with their flight and in the case of large buildings in the cities, can lead to traumatic injuries and death.



Indigo Bunting

Irruption

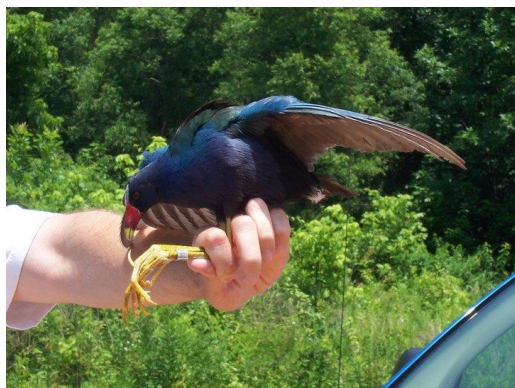
Occasionally we get some very unusual species in Tennessee. This is typically the result of irruptive migration which occurs when food sources become low in very harsh winters in their normal non-breeding territory. These movements are unpredictable and do not occur annually. But when they do, the bird watchers will travel to see the species. We've had a few instances in the state where Snowy Owls have made the journey south. These owls breed up around the North Pole and typically winter in Alaska and Canada.



Snowy Owl

And then there are some that didn't mean to be here at all....

We also occasionally get birds that arrive after being blown off course during a hurricane. You may have heard about Flamingos being spotted as far north as Ohio this year. We're glad we didn't get calls on those birds! A few years back, we had the honor of providing care for a Purple Gallinule that was blown in Katrina. These birds are typically found along the coastal regions of the Southeast. We released this one after it was banded by Dr. David Aborn of UT Chattanooga.



Purple Gallinule

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Our baby bird season is winding down as we have now released nearly all the youngsters we admitted during the spring and summer. Our intake numbers are down slightly as we have continued to focus on keeping healthy babies with their feathered parents – always the best outcome. We are now taking more calls on injured adult birds as we are in the middle of migration season.



This Double-Crested Cormorant was one of our more unusual intakes this year. Although they are common on the lakes in our area, we don't usually see them in rehabilitation. This bird was found in Fayetteville nowhere near water. Unfortunately, he was severely emaciated on intake and likely already in organ failure and passed the morning after he was admitted. We did not find any obvious injuries that would have caused him to be down and suspect he either hit a car or a power line while flying from one water source to another.

We're in the middle of the second round of baby squirrels and hopeful that this year most of them will be ready for release before the weather turns cold. With some additional permitted rehabilitators in the area over the last couple of years, we've been able to concentrate our efforts on our local counties and have seen reduced mammal intake numbers as a result of that as well as educating our callers on reuniting the babies with the mamas.

We'll be concentrating our efforts over the (hopefully) slow months coming up in getting our facilities cleaned, repaired and ready for the next baby season.

SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE

- Become a member – just complete the application on the back of this newsletter, or visit our website to download and print an application.
- Give a gift membership to a friend!
- Purchase items from our wish list.
- Donate newspapers (we use those to line cages and cover the tables under the cages)
- Contact us about volunteer opportunities, such as transport, animal releases, administrative/office work, fundraising, board membership or contributing to our newsletter
- Like us on Facebook or Instagram and stay updated on releases, admissions, and other news.
- Invite us to speak to your church or civic group – we love to tell people about the work we do!

Check our website at www.ziggystree.org for other ways you can support us!

WISH LIST

- Gift cards (grocery store, Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply)
- Dried Bloodworms
- High quality dry cat food
- Baby Food (fruit – apples, bananas, blueberries)
- Canned or frozen mixed vegetables
- LCD Projector
- Heating Pads (without automatic shut-off)
- Nuts (pecans, walnuts, acorns)
- Fresh Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini, apples)
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Unscented laundry detergent
- 24, 36 or 48 inch Bungee cords

Contact us at 615-631-2205 or 931-841-9781 to arrange to drop off any of the above items.

For assistance with orphaned or injured mammals or general questions about mammals, text Angela at 615-631-2205.

For assistance with orphaned or injured birds or general questions about birds, text LouAnn at 931-841-9781.

Looking for a project for your scout troop, church, school, or civic group? We'd love to have more squirrel nest boxes, and could also use small bluebird or woodpecker boxes to use with our young cavity nesting birds. Contact us for more information.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to our 99 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we have received our third quarter check for \$367.67. The funds we receive annually through this program are covering approximately one month of our operating costs. We're thrilled that this program continues to provide a great source of support for us and that it continues to grow.

If you shop at Kroger and would like to support us through this program, just go on-line to www.kroger.com/community_rewards, and enroll your rewards card, selecting Ziggy's Tree as your charity. You still get gas points and discounts – and Kroger donates money to us!

Don't have an e-mail address or computer access? You can still sign up. Just call 1(800) KROGERS, OPTION 3 or 1(800)576-4377, OPTION 3.

For privacy reasons, Kroger does not provide names of those who have signed up to support us. So even though we can't thank you personally, please know that we are extremely grateful for your support.

And please ask your friends and family to enroll and support us!



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

(May 2023 through August 2023)

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Deborah Trimble

ADVOCATE

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund & Cheryl Schur

SUSTAINING

Sharon Butcher * Karen Dean

Julie Wotruba * Jackie Marushka

Lorena Romero Alberto * Charles Woodall

Robin Mitchell * The Bucket Foundation

SUPPORTING

Amy York * Larry Partington * Debbie Bomar

Annie Flanigan Clements * Zoe Gurda

Allison Tupper * Timothy Holton

Shelly Thorburn * Lacey Garrett * Keri Adams

Lisa Webb * Trisha Cornett * Leeann Barron

Sue Torre * Jennifer Lawrence

FAMILY

Gina Griffiths * Vance Keller * Melissa James

Sue Greenhoe * Mindy Threet * Christen Harper

Carolyn Solomon * Karina McDaniel * Donna Jennings

Melinda Hart * Marty Murphy * Michelle Villa

Leah Lilly * Jennifer Buckmaster * Ralph Pollio

INDIVIDUAL

Beth Conley * Kay Ford * Meghan Von Collin

Vera Micklash * Carla Connally * Jonna Bianco

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

Haley Veterinary Clinic

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Jennifer Harrison * Isabella Vandeberg * Maura Mangino

Warren Quandt * Kelsi Laws * Shirley McLenahan

Nicole Powis * Carmen Hernandez * Belinda Taylor

Julie Sikora * Michael Hughes * Lisa Buri

Jeffrey Kotzen * Galen Longo * Angela Short

Clarice Britton * Jennifer Broach * Laurie Wunderlin

Al & Janet Butler

MATCHING DONATIONS

Verizon

2023 RELEASES

MAY

1 Barn Swallow

1 Tufted Titmouse

4 Carolina Wrens

2 Fox Squirrels

37 Eastern Gray Squirrels

JUNE

1 Carolina Chickadee

1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow

2 Carolina Wrens

1 Mourning Dove

4 American Robins

1 Song Sparrow

1 Downy Woodpecker

6 Eastern Bluebirds

4 Common Grackles

1 Brown Thrasher

4 Groundhogs

12 Eastern Gray Squirrels

JULY

7 American Robins

1 Northern Mockingbird

9 Eastern Bluebirds

6 House Wrens

1 Tufted Titmouse

4 House Finches

5 Blue Jays

1 Mourning Dove

4 Chimney Swifts

2 Barn Swallows

1 Chipping Sparrow

1 Purple Martin

AUGUST

1 Common Grackle

1 Tufted Titmouse

16 Chimney Swifts

1 Northern Flicker

1 Gray Catbird

1 Scarlet Tanager

2 Barn Swallows

1 Chipping Sparrow

5 American Robins

1 House Finch

1 Song Sparrow

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
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Tullahoma, TN 37388



NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.

PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE, I AM ...

- A N E W M E M B E R**
 R E N E W I N G M Y M E M B E R S H I P

Memberships are for one year
Gift Memberships are also available.

Please Mail This Form To:

**Ziggy's Tree WRC
PO Box 713
Tullahoma, TN 37388**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

___ Individual	\$25.00
___ Family	\$40.00
___ Supporting	\$100.00
___ Sustaining	\$250.00
___ Advocate	\$500.00
___ Wildlife Champion	\$1000.00

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
Work Phone (____) _____
e-mail _____

- I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- ___ Environmental Education
___ Wildlife Rehabilitation
___ Fundraising/Administration

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. You can also renew/donate by credit card at [Paypal.me/ziggystree](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=ziggystree) or Venmo at [@ziggystree](https://www.venmo.com/ziggystree).

Not sure what to get that special someone for birthdays, anniversaries or just because? Consider giving them a one year membership to Ziggy's Tree!

Members receive our newsletter.

Ziggy's Tree strives to be environmentally conscious. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, please check the box above or e-mail ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com to be placed on our mailing list.