

2020 WINGS OF WINTER BIRDING FESTIVAL DETAILS

Registration opens September 3, 2019 – January 1, 2020

Registration Fee: \$30

Friday, January 24 – Afternoon, Pre-festival Trips

Pre-festival Boat Tour - Afternoon

Priority species: Waterfowl, eagles, loons, grebes, gulls

Meet at KenLake State Park Marina

Meet at 10:45; Return by 3:00

Come aboard the CQ Princess as part of our pre-festival boat tour. Guest speakers, Scott Weidensaul and Brian “Fox” Ellis portraying a Riverboat Captain, along with other birding guides will cruise with us for four hours on Kentucky Lake looking for eagles, waterfowl, gulls, and other water-loving birds. Outdoor decks are available for gull chumming and unobstructed views of the birds. Enjoy a climate-controlled cabin with large windows for comfortable viewing regardless of outdoor weather conditions. There will be free coffee, hot chocolate, soft drinks and light snacks and also a cash bar available.

Cost: \$50 (NOTE: \$60 for non-festival participants) Snacks on board, cash bar available

Maximum Participants: 80

Transportation: Self Drive to Kenlake State Resort Park Marina

Pre-festival Cross Creeks NWR Tour

Priority species: Waterfowl, eagles

Meet at Cross Creeks NWR Visitor Center

Meet at 12:30; Return by 4:30

For a select few, this pre-festival tour on Friday January 24th, 2019 will take you on a bus ride through 9,000 acre Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge along the Cumberland River. This tour specially guided by the refuge manager through areas seasonally closed provides you with an exclusive look behind those closed gates. You will get to observe waterfowl, odd Grebes, Bald eagles, and occasionally Golden eagles, Swans, and Sandhill cranes as well as possible rusty black birds, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Pileated Woodpeckers. Warm up with a cozy stop mid-way at Elk Creek Campground offering free coffee, hot chocolate and light snacks.

Cost: \$35, Snacks at Elk Creek

Maximum Participants: 21

Transportation: Self Drive to Cross Creeks – Bus for the tour

Saturday, January 25 – Full-day Trips

Birding with Scott Weidensaul

Priority species: Waterfowl, eagles; open field birds

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

Take a look behind closed gates with your personal guided and keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul. The Birding with Scott Weidensaul field trip will take you on a ride through the heart of the Refuge known as the Duck River Bottoms. This area is seasonally closed and therefore attracts huge numbers of waterfowl, including all five regularly occurring species of geese, and numerous Bald eagles and some Golden eagles. Enjoy a visit to the Johnsonville State Historic Park Visitor Center and spend the afternoon birding the Historic Park as well as TVA's Trace Creek Bottoms.

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 24

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (2)

Big Sandy/Britton Ford, Tennessee NWR

Priority species: Waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, woodland species

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

Check out two sections of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (Tennessee NWR) while on the Big Sandy/Britton Ford field trip. This is one of the most bird rich areas on Kentucky Lake and the first stop will be at the Tennessee NWR Visitor Center located at the Britton Ford area of the refuge. Enjoy scanning the bay for waterfowl, loons, Sandhill cranes, and other water birds, and the skies for Eagles and other raptors. Then ride over to the Big Sandy Peninsula located on Tennessee NWR which attracts large numbers of waterfowl. A look down at Pace Point (one of the top ten birding locations of the state) might find unusual waterfowl such as Greater Scaup, Common Merganser and scoters as well as 3 species of loons, and rare gulls, terns, and grebes. Warm up and eat lunch at historic Christopher Manor, a unique restaurant located in an authentic double dogtrot style log cabin still owned and operated by a member of the Christopher family!

Cost: \$35, Lunch included at Christopher Manor restaurant

Maximum Participants: 24

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (2)

Saturday, January 25 – Full-day Trips

Kentucky Gulls and More

Priority species: Gulls, waterfowl, Brown-headed Nuthatch, woodland species

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

Looking to see hundreds to thousands of gulls with possible rarities thrown into the mix? Last winter we saw rare gull species that included Glaucous, Iceland, Lesser, and Great Black-backed Gulls! Or maybe you're interested in Kentucky's only population of Brown-headed Nuthatch. The Kentucky Gulls and More field trip will take you to several amazing places like Kentucky Dam, WastePath landfill, Kentucky Dam Village State Park, several TVA reservoir access sites, and Airport Road. Along the way you might get to see rafts of diving ducks, loons, grebes, and other woodland birds, such as the brown-headed nuthatch. This trip usually ends with a diverse list of birds seen and will definitely be a fulfilling day for any birder!

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 24

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (2)

Land Between The Lakes

Priority species: Eagles, woodland species

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

Explore the birding hotspots and tucked-away corners of the 170,000 acre Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Forest. This unique place is pinned between the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and gives a diverse opportunity for birding. You will get to walk through the forests, fields, and shorelines located within LBL looking for eagles, pelicans, raptors and woodland songbirds, and take a glimpse into LBL's role in restoring the bald eagles to our region. Eat lunch as a special guest at The Nature Station, which is normally closed this time of year, but will open just for this group. See an exciting array of local wildlife that call this place home!

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 24

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (2)

Saturday, January 25 – Full-day Trips

Birds and Brews

Priority species: waterfowl, grebes, herons, egrets, woodland birds, woodpeckers

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

This field trip name says it all but let us fill you in on a few more details. The morning will be spent birding on a privately owned nature preserve of a local wine maker that borders Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. This land is managed for all sorts of wildlife and waterfowl so get your binoculars ready! Take a break and eat a wonderful lunch accompanied with the delicious wine from this wine makers home. Then take a ride birding along several birding hotspots back to Paris before touring the local microbrewery to taste some of the local flavors. Oh and don't worry, transportation is provided for this egg-sighting trip.

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 12

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (1)

Sparrow Stomp

Priority Species: Sparrows, field birds

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

The Sparrow Stomp field trip will have you trekking through fields and thickets checking out the local hotspots for sparrows. During the winter months, the Kentucky Dam/Lake Barkley area can have about 14 different species of sparrows with the possibility of seeing the rarer species such as the American Tree, LeConte's, and Lincoln's sparrows. We will check out sites such as the bottomland and upland fields managed by prescribed fire at TVA's Harmon Creek Management Unit. This fun trip will have you on your feet all day so don't forget your water-proof footwear.

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 12

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (1)

Saturday, January 25 – Full-day Trips

Civil War Forts (Donelson and Heimen)

Priority species: Woodland birds, woodpeckers, eagles

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 4:30

Tour the historic National Battlefields' of Fort Donelson and Fort Heiman with National Park Service staff, where you will slip back in time to learn about the history and roles these forts played during the American Civil War. The Civil War Forts field trip will have you strolling along park trails offering the opportunity to see all local woodpeckers, three or four species of warblers, many sparrows, and finches. Oh and you'll get to check out the active Bald Eagle nest at Fort Donelson National Battlefield.

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 11

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (1)

Winter Big Day

Priority species: All Species!

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 5:15; Leave PROMPTLY at 5:30

Let the race begin! Join the Winter Big Day field trip led by local specialists and try to surpass last year's efforts where they located 99 species of birds, despite scattered rain showers. Rarities last year included five species of geese, Common Merganser, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and LeConte's Sparrow. Be prepared for 12 hours of stop and go birding, field stomping, lake scoping, and more as you hunt down as many species as you can. Snacks, drinks, and lunch are provided, and you will return to Quality Inn by 5:30 pm to allow for freshening up before the banquet. Note: this trip will follow ABA listing rules for birding ethics and Big Day participation.

Cost: \$35, Box Lunch included

Maximum Participants: 10

Transportation: Shuttle Van (1)

Saturday, January 25 - Morning Trips

Beginning Birding

Priority species: Common southeastern birds

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 7:15; Leave at 7:30; Return by 12:00

This fun half day Beginning Birding field trip will take you to local birder enthusiast and photographer Jean Owens home. Learn the basics of bird watching, bird identification, and birding ethics. Then use what you learn and try to identify the birds in the yard. Enjoy a close look at approximately 30 species of common yard and garden birds, including possible winter feeder visitors like Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. All this is done while sitting in a warm cozy room with perfect photo op conditions of the birds, or you can also step out onto a large deck with your binoculars to view the birds that don't come to the feeders. A delicious home cooked meal with a yummy dessert will be provided by the landowner. So don't miss out on this awesome experience!

Cost: \$25 Home cooked meal included

Maximum Participants: 10

Transportation: Self Drive

Audubon Bird Walk at Paris Landing State Park

Priority species: Woodland birds, waterfowl

Meet at Paris Landing State Park, swim beach parking lot

Meet at 7:15; Leave at 7:30; Return by 11:30

Go for a Bird Walk with one of America's greatest artists and naturalists John James Audubon at Paris Landing State Park. Audubon will bring history, ecology, art and literature to life on a unique bird watching adventure while regaling listeners with his in-depth observations of the species you observe as you walk through the park. The open reservoir surrounding the park attracts large numbers of ducks, loons, grebes, and gulls and you can often see the American Great White Pelicans feeding or loafing on Gull Island. Then stop by the live Birds of Prey exhibit for a close look at some of these remarkable birds.

Cost: FREE, No lunch provided

Maximum Participants: Unlimited

Transportation: Self Driving

Saturday, January 25 - Afternoon Activities

Bird Is The Word with Brian Ellis: Journaling, Poetry, Non-Fiction Writing, and Ornithology

Meet at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge headquarters

Meet at 12:30; Return by 4:30

Bird, Bird, Bird is the Word with Brian “Fox” Ellis! This field trip will discuss journaling, poetry, non-fiction writing and ornithology all in one exciting session. You will learn tips for effective journaling, how to use haiku to focus your eye and ear, turn your field notes into publishable articles, and use poetry to help write clearer more exciting essays. This will be a fun and entertaining field trip for there is never a dull moment with Brian “Fox” Ellis!

Cost: FREE, No lunch provided

Maximum Participants: Unlimited

Transportation: Self Driving

Birding on Canvas

Meet at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge headquarters

Meet at 12:30; Return by 4:30

Take a relaxing afternoon and get your creative hand flowing for this fun new field trip Birding on Canvas. A local artist will select a painting and guide you in a show as you go method as you paint that same image. You will be provided all the materials you need to paint with acrylic on canvas. Don't know the first thing about painting? That's completely ok! Your instructor will teach you everything you need to know, from how to mix paint colors to what sort of brush strokes to use. So come enjoy this fun activity, I mean everyone is Raven about these parties!

Cost: \$25, No lunch provided

Maximum Participants: 30

Transportation: Self Driving

Sunday, January 26 – Morning Trips

TVA Harmon Creek Management Unit with Scott Weidensaul

Priority species: Woodland and field species, some waterfowl

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 12:00

Check out the TVA Harmon Creek Management Unit! Guest speaker Scott Weidensaul will guide you throughout lands managed by TVA. You'll get to see the open waters of the Kentucky Reservoir where it attracts Common Loons, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes as well as many species of waterfowl. There are also mature pine and hardwood forests that provide great winter cover and food for many woodpeckers, kinglets, nuthatches, warblers, and finches. Then check out the open fields that are managed by prescribed burns which attract many sparrows such as Savannah, Song, and Swamp. Rarities such as Lincoln's, American Tree and LeConte's Sparrows are always possible.

Cost: \$25

Maximum Participants: 36

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (3)

Big Sandy Unit/Old 23rd

Priority species: Waterfowl, woodland birds

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 12:00

Grab your binoculars and take a trip through the Old 23rd area of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. This area attracts large numbers of waterfowl, including large rafts of diving ducks that often include Greater Scaup, Common Merganser and scoters. You'll see some woodland birds along the way as well such as nuthatches, warblers, and finches. Then take a stop at Christopher Manor for a delicious Dutch Treat bite, but keep those binoculars with you as you bird while you eat.

Cost: \$25 - Stopping at Christopher Manor for snacks

Maximum Participants: 24

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (2)

Sunday, January 26 – Morning Trips

Birding with Audubon at Paris Landing State Park

Priority species: Woodland birds, waterfowl

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 12:00

Take a journey with Audubon as your guide through Paris Landing State Park. The park's forests and open areas provide habitat for a nice diversity of birds, and the open reservoir surrounding the park attracts large numbers of ducks, pelicans, loons, grebes and gulls. Visit the live Birds of Prey exhibit for close looks at these remarkable birds. Walk out on the marina docks to attract gulls with food offerings.

Cost: \$25

Maximum Participants: 24

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (2)

What's On The Lake

Priority species: Water birds

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 12:00

What's on the Lake! This exciting trip will have you exploring several different areas such as Britton Ford Unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Eagle Creek, and Paris Landing State Park. Watch for gulls, loons, grebes, and pelicans as well as many species of waterfowl, including large flocks of Common Goldeneye and possible rarities such as Greater Scaup and Common Merganser.

Cost: \$25

Maximum Participants: 36

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (3)

Sunday, January 26 – Morning Trips

Bird Banding with Cyndi

Priority species: Woodland birds

Meet at the parking lot at Quality Inn, Paris

Meet at 6:45; Leave at 7:00; Return by 12:00

Bird Banding with Cyndi Routledge will be one hawk of an exciting field trip! Cyndi is with Southeast Avian Research (SEAR) and will give you a hands on experience with several local species. Birds are captured, measured, weighed, banded, and then released. These routine banding operations help provide researchers with information about a bird's life such as life span, health, migration patterns, and site fidelity.

Cost: \$25

Maximum Participants: 12

Transportation: Shuttle Bus (1)

Cancellation/Refund Policy for Festival

Refund Policy: Reservations must be cancelled 45 days prior to the event date to receive 100% refund of deposit. If cancelled 44 to 30 days prior to event date, a 50% refund will be given. If cancelled 29 days or less - NO REFUND.

If Wings of Winter cancels a trip/event due to unforeseen circumstances that cause safety concerns, usually weather, a full refund for the trip fee will be available upon written request, received on or before Feb 1, 2020. Refunds not requested in writing will be considered a donation to the Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge.

Requests for refunds should be emailed to spyle@friendstnwr.org with the subject line WOW Refund. Your request should include your name, contact phone and mailing address.

Accommodation Details

Birds of a feather flock together, that's why for the 2020 Wings of Winter Birding Festival, we have combined our lodging and gathering spot all into one central location. Lodging will be at the Quality Inn and our dinners will be at the Paris Convention Center, that's just a couple flaps right next door!

The Quality Inn
1510 East Wood Street
Paris, TN 38242
(731) 642-2838

Cost: \$85/night, plus tax

Group rate code: 3804923

All shuttled field trips will begin and end at the Quality Inn.

Registration Check-in, Friday night dinner and Saturday night banquet will be held at the Paris Convention Center, across the back parking lot from the hotel.

Festival Shirt Sales

We will be taking pre-orders for t-shirts at the time of the registration. All t-shirts will be \$25. Sizes are XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4 XL. There is a shirt with a hoodie and an option without. There will be a limited supply at the festival for sale.



Friday Night “Dinner with Darwin”

Friday night at 6:00 pm at the Paris Convention Center will feature a dinner and entertainment. A full service super large potato bar with all the fixings will be the fare with Brian “Fox” Ellis taking on the persona of Charles Darwin. This program will be equal parts dramatic storytelling, stand-up comedy and show and tell where the audience is immersed in the intellectual world of one of history’s greatest scientific minds!

Cost: \$20

Saturday Night Banquet – Keynote Speaker: Scott Weidensaul

Our Keynote speaker will be Scott Weidensaul, author and ornithologist who has lectured widely on wildlife and environmental topics. He is an active field researcher, who has specialized in the study of migration in owls, hummingbirds and passerines. His book *The Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean* will be available for your personal signed copy!

The banquet will be a full buffet with scrumptious offerings including Apple Cranberry Pork Loin, Oven Fried Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Quinoa Salad, Garden Salad, Fresh Green Beans, Smoked Mac-n-cheese, Dinner Rolls, Dark Chocolate Raspberry Cake and Key Lime Pie...yum, yum!

Cost: \$25

Box Lunch with Field Trips

For specified field trips that offer a box lunch included in the price of the trip, you will need to make a choice at the time of registration, your menu choices include:

Roast beef and smoked cheddar

Rotisserie chicken and provolone

Pimento Cheese

All box lunches include chips, chocolate chip cookie, water