

January 2011



2011

Important Dates

- **Master Gardener Class** Jan 11—Apr 12 6-9:00 pm
- **Basic Gardening Classes** Jan 22—Feb 19 9am-12:00N
- **TMGAB Winter School** Feb 24, 25, 26
- **UT/TSU Brown Bag** 4th Thursday Monthly Feb-Oct 11:30am-12:30pm
- **Fall Extravaganza** Sept. 23 & 24

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THE SCOOP

Writing Articles for The Scoop

By: Katherine Smith, Editor, CTMG

As our new year begins, I look forward to receiving articles for our newsletter from each and every one of you. Do not let the emotion of fear discourage you, for an article is easy to prepare.

Think about what you like to do most in the garden and write it down in your own words. I know each of you has researched a “how to” on flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc. Summarize, on paper, what you have read.....there is your article. You will be surprised at how helpful your information is to your fellow Master Gardener.

The old quote “ a picture is worth a thousand words” remains true. An article is more interesting with an accompanying

picture or graphic. If you do not know how to copy, paste, or insert a graphic with your article, just tell me and I will do it for you. If you cannot type your article, write it and I will be glad to convert it to the proper text. What can be easier than that? Send your articles by e-mail or give me a written copy at the monthly meeting.

One usually asks “how long should I make my article?” You do not want your article to run on forever, so, as a rule, try to keep it between 250 and 260 words....more or less. I have the ability to adjust the newsletter’s content format; therefore if your article is longer, send it anyway.

Every month I try to include a

fellow Master Gardener’s recipe. Don’t forget to send me your special or favorite dish recipe.

Researching and writing an article count toward your volunteer hours. Remember, this is your newsletter, and I urge you to participate.

Please let me know if there is something you would like to see included or excluded. I encourage you to make suggestions.

As another thought, if there is a particular speaker or subject you would like presented at our monthly meeting, please contact our Vice President, Judy Cunningham. ◇

IDENTIFYING BIRDS

By: Linda Schien, CTMG



Well bird lovers, the 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for Feb. 18-21. After the question to me last year of whether or not I had really seen purple finches or mistaken them for house finches, it occurred to me to look up and see what details would help me be more sure of myself the next time.

Identifying birds includes looking and listening. Binoculars are a great help to pick out the small details that can differentiate one bird from another. The sizes 7 x 35 or 8 x 40 are recommended for a good view with little distortion and are fairly light in weight.

Binoculars have two sets of numbers usually near the eye pieces. A number like 7.5 x 35 represents the power of magnification and the diameter of the largest lens. The 35 indicates how much light is let in. The second set tells you how wide-angle the binoculars are. The numbers 430 ft/1,000 yards mean that at 1,000 yards you will have a field vision of 430 feet wide. Also make sure your binoculars have a central focusing knob. On some the eye pieces can be adjusted as well.

When looking at a bird there are several characteristics for look

for. First look at its body. Is it sparrow, robin or crow sized? Then look at its breast, wing and tail colors.

Is the bird all one color or does it have patches of color on the



Exakta 10x25 Deluxe Bird Observation Binocular

(Continued on page 2)



Source: Birding.com



Shore Birds:
American Avocets

Identifying Birds

(Continued from page 1)

wings or tail or perhaps the breast has streaks.

Next look at its head for its shape and color. Pay attention to the eye to see if a stripe runs through it. Sometimes the throat has a distinct color or the feathers are iridescent as seen on the common grackle. Does the bird have a crest like a cardinal or cedar waxwing?

The shape and color of the bill should also be noted. Is it conical or thin, long or short?

On large birds such as hawks watch them in flight as it gives you a good look at the under side of the wings and span of the tail.

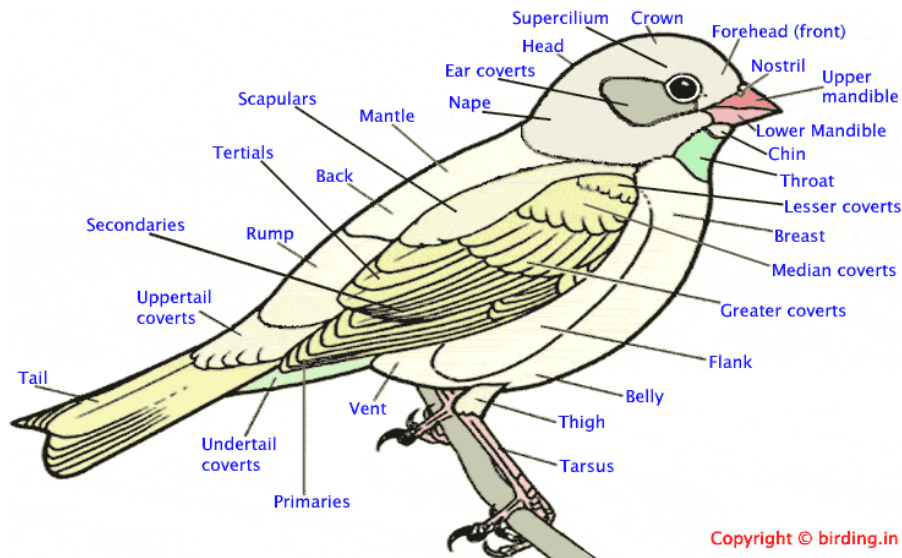
Study the bird closely and perhaps jot down immediately what you have seen. Once you look

in a bird book (An Audubon Handbook Eastern Birds being a good reference) you will see how many birds are similar to one another. Eliminate what they aren't and focus on the details.

Females and males are usually different in color, the male being the most colorful. Some birds as starlings also have different color variations depending on the season.

Also listen for the different bird calls. There are CD's available (Eastern/Central Bird Songs) that have the birds in classifications with their call and description following.

Once you have all the paraphernalia , it's something you can do from your kitchen window on a cold winter's day. Happy birding. ◇



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2011 MGRC OFFICERS

2010 MGRC OFFICERS

President	Linda Lindquist	Newsletter Editor	Katherine Smith
Vice President	Judy Cunningham	Website Coordinator	Bob Ellis
Secretary	Karla Hagan	Event Coordinator	Doretha Jackson
Co-Treasurers	Emily Arnold James Dickson	County Director & Master Gardener Coordinator	Anthony Tuggle



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

From: Joyce Styles, CTMG
(from the kitchen of Rosaline Knight)

4 lb. cooked chicken breast, chopped
4 cups chicken broth
1 cup butter
1 cup flour
Salt & pepper to taste
2 cups milk
4 cups cornbread (I make egg cornbread)

1 cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped onion
3/4 to 1 TBS sage
1/2 cup melted margarine
1 can cream celery soup
1 can cream chicken soup
Chopped pimento for color (optional)




Cook chicken & save cups broth. Melt butter & add flour, salt & pepper. Stir constantly. Add milk & broth; continue stirring until thick. Add celery soup & chicken soup; stir until smooth. Add chicken to sauce. Combine bread, celery, onions, sage & melted margarine & pimento. Place in large baking dish & pour chicken sauce over dressing. Cook 1 hour at 350 degrees.

UT AgResearch 2011 Field Days

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|---------------------------------|--|
| • Organic Field Tour | April 28, 7:30 a.m., East TN REC-Organic Unit, Knoxville |
| • Blooms Days | May 7 & 8 (9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., respectively) UT Gardens, Knoxville |
| • Beef & Forage Field Day | June 9, 7:00 a.m., East TN REC-Blount Unit, Knoxville |
| • Fruits of the Backyard | June 14, 7:30 a.m., Middle TN REC, Spring Hill |
| • Tobacco, Beef & More | June 23, 7:30 a.m., Highland Rim REC, Springfield |
| • Summer Celebration | July 14, 10:00 a.m., West TN REC, Jackson |
| • Steak & Potatoes | August 2, 8:00 a.m., Plateau REC, Crossville |
| • Fall Gardeners' Festival | August 30, 10:00 a.m., Plateau REC, Crossville |
| • Cotton Tour | Sept. 7, 8:00 a.m., West TN REC, Jackson |
| • Turfgrass | Sept. 15, 7:30 a.m., East TN REC-Plant Science Unit, Knoxville |
| • Forest Resources | Sept. 27, 8:00 a.m., FRREC, Oak Ridge |
| • Pumpkin Field Day | Sept. 29, 1:00 p.m., West TN REC, Jackson |
| • Heritage Festival | October 8, 9:00 a.m., REC at Ames Plantation, Grand Junction |
| • Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo | October 13, 7:30 a.m., REC at Greenville |
| • Fall Folklore Jamboree | October 15, 9:00 a.m. REC at Milan |

January 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 MG Class 6-9pm	12	13	14	15 Garden Basics Class 9am-12N
16	17 MG Meeting 6:30 	18 MG Class 6-9pm	19	20	21	22 Garden Basics Class 9am-12N
23	24	25 MG Class 6-9pm	26	27	28	29 Garden Basics Class 9am-12
30	31	A current Master Gardener can attend any Master Gardener or Garden Basics Class (an <u>entire</u> class period) and the class will count toward CEU hours.				

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jan 11—April 18 Tuesdays 6:00—9:00 PM	Master Gardener Class	Lane Agri-Center-Murfreesboro	615-898-7710
Jan 22—Feb 19 Saturdays 9:00 — 12:00 N	Basic Gardening Class	Lane-Agri-Center-Murfreesboro	615-898-7710
Jan 24 2:30-3:30 EST (possibility of webinar) —check http://organics.utk.edu/ jan24_seminar.html	Organic Crop Production and SproUTing Growers Workshop Seminar: Certified Organic Farming in Tuscany by Lorenzo Caponetti certified since 1998, producing such products as extra virgin olive oil, vegetables, cows, honey, and other goods.	UT Knoxville Agriculture Campus — Plant Biotech 156/157 Must have \$5 parking pass or face possibility of \$30 fine, address and campus map for Parking Services can be found at http://web.utk.edu/~ps0/index.php - Grid #10 on the Map).	http://organics.utk.edu/ workshops/ oct11_directions.html
Jan 28 8:00—5:00 Jan 29 8:00—12:00 Noon	TN Flower Growers Association Meeting (3rd Annual)	Nashville Airport Marriott	
Feb 24, 25, 26	TMG Winter School	Lane Agri-Center-Murfreesboro	
Feb 11-12-13	Antiques & Garden Show	Convention Center—Nashville	
March 4	Proven Winners Outdoor Living Extravaganza —\$80.00 (lunch,snacks,beverages,prizes,goodie bags)	Atlanta, GA	www.provenwinners.com



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County

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"The Scoop" is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, events, etc. to be included in the newsletter is due the last Friday of the month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is \$25 for a single or \$35 for a couple at the same address. All memberships are valid January through December and are pro-rated for new members only.

Please note: Master Gardener Certification requires 40 hours of training plus 40 hours of volunteer service. Recertification requirements are 25 volunteer hour, plus 8 hours of continuing education per year. Attendance at meetings counts as 1.5 hour of continuing education and 1.5 hours of administration.

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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4—H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension, and Tennessee State University.