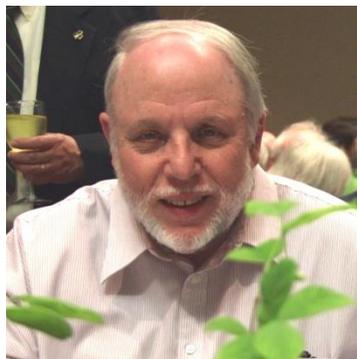


We're Celebrating a New Chapter at the Bristol Bird Club!

The Bristol Bird Club is renaming its chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in honor of native Bristolian and birding legend, J. Wallace Coffey. Wallace's influence and his enthusiasm knew no bounds. He mentored aspiring naturalists and birdwatchers in the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia area for many years.



Wallace Coffey's spirit of adventure and scientific curiosity will be remembered at the Bristol Bird Club's Annual Banquet and by guest speaker Dr. Andy Jones on Friday, October 12, 2018, at Steele Creek Park. This celebration is in partnership with the City of Bristol and Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park's Annual Wildlife Weekend. The BBC banquet will be held at the Lodge at Steele Creek Park. Following the banquet, Dr. Andy Jones, Director of Science and Curator of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will speak in the multipurpose classroom at the newly expanded Nature Center.

Wallace Coffey's interest in the natural world and birds in particular began when he was a teenager in the 1950s. As a young man, he joined the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the Bristol Bird Club. His early interest in Steele Creek Park led him to be involved in the planning and construction of the original Steele Creek Nature Center. He was a member of the Elizabethton Bird Club as well as the Virginia Society of Ornithology. In 1978, Wallace co-founded the Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally. For thirty years he was a licensed bird bander for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In one of his conservation efforts he worked with a local farmer to protect a pond and surrounding wetlands. To promote birding in the area, Wallace started the first listserv in the area, co-edited *The Birds of Shady Valley*, with John Shumate, and was a driving force behind Rick Knight's *The Birds of Northeast Tennessee*.

Dr. Andy Jones, the evening's Guest Speaker, graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, at the University of Minnesota. Andy Jones is an expert on birds, their physiology, evolution, migration, and songs. In 2006 he was named the William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. His research has focused on the evolutionary history of bird species in Southern Appalachia and the Philippines.



In 2009, he was selected to become an Elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union. In his late teens, Andy met Wallace Coffey. He recalls spending many hours in the field, looking for birds and other wildlife, and carrying on wide-ranging conversations.

Andy Jones: *I owe a tremendous debt to Wallace for where I am today; he was a constant source of encouragement when it came to my interest in making a career out of natural history, and he provided a great deal of sage advice.*

Chris O'Bryan, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia: *My best friend and mentor, Wallace Coffey, was an inspiration, and taught me a great deal about people, nature, and responsibility.*