

# through the biKNOXulars

Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## Ivory-billed Woodpecker searcher Rick Knight speaks on recent hunt's results

**T**he April meeting of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS will feature Rick Knight as guest presenter.

As most of you know, Rick was one of six world-class birders who recently spent a month in the swamps of the Pearl River Basin, Louisiana.

They were there looking for signs of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (IBWO), the largest woodpecker to live in the US, and widely believed extinct. Two years ago a graduate student hunting in the area saw two birds that fit the description of IBWOs. He reported



his discovery and immediately came under intense scrutiny.

Some experts believe his report, so a large grant was given by an optics company to fund these six experts, who spent 30 days canoeing, hiking and driving ATVs through the swamp, documenting what they found along the way.

So what DID they find? Come to our April meeting and ask one of them!

*- Charlie Muise,  
program coordinator*

The April Meeting is Wednesday, April 3 Room 117, UT Vet School.  
Folks gather around 7 PM to socialize and  
the meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Come and bring a friend.

### April Field Trips - Details Inside on Page 3

◆ **Saturday, April 13, 7:30 AM**

Ijams Nature Center • Spring Bird Walk

◆ **Sunday, April 14, 8:00 AM**

Porter Creek Trail • Great Smoky Mountains

◆ **Thursdays, April 18 and 25, 8:00 AM**

Sharps Ridge • North Knoxville

◆ **Sunday, April 21, 7:00 AM**

Cove Lake State Park • Cross Mountain

◆ **Saturday, April 27, 8:00 AM**

Public Field Trip to Sharps Ridge

◆ **Sunday, April 28**

Knox County Spring Bird Count

Any updated information will be posted on the KTOS hot line, 577-4717, ext. 80  
and on tn-bird list server.

## YARD TIPS

## Berries. Berries. Berries. Many birds love 'em.

There's nothing like sitting in the shade eating fresh-picked blackberries on a hot July afternoon. Well, many birds like berries too. The following is a list of native trees, shrubs and other woody plants that produce small berries or berrylike fruits. The more you can plant or encourage to grow around your home, the more birds you're likely to see. So if you're thinking of planting one of those Bradford Pears; how about a nice Red Mulberry instead? The mockingbirds will thank you.

- Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*
- Alternate-leaved Dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*
- Red-osier Dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera*
- Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*
- Winged Sumac, *Rhus copallina*
- Smooth Sumac, *Rhus glabra*
- Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*
- American Holly, *Ilex opaca*
- Allegheny Serviceberry, *Amelanchier laevis*
- Fringetree, *Chionanthus virginicus*
- American Elder, *Sambucus canadensis*
- Arrowwood Viburnum, *Viburnum dentatum*
- Maple-leaved Viburnum, *Viburnum acerifolium*
- Carolina Buckthorn, *Rhamnus caroliniana*
- Hawthorn, *Crataegus* spps.
- Red Mulberry, *Morus rubra*
- Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*
- Sugarberry, *Celtis laevigata*
- Eastern Redcedar, *Juniperus virginiana*
- Blueberry, *Vaccinium* spps.
- Blackberry, raspberry, dewberry; *Rubus* spps.

**Warning:** Common Privet, *Ligustrum vulgare*, and Chinese Bush Honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*, both produce small fruits birds eat but these two shrubs are non-native and highly invasive. They both should be avoided! - Lyn

## UPDATES

### • Great Backyard Bird Count 2002

The Fifth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count coordinated by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology was held February 15 through 18. The results for Tennessee are as follows:

**Total number of species observed:** 110

**Top ten species to appear on number of reports submitted:** 1. Northern Cardinal-464; 2. Carolina Chickadee-423; 3. Mourning Dove-419; 4. Tufted Titmouse-391; 5. American Goldfinch-362; 6. Blue Jay-351; 7. American Robin-327; 8. American Crow-316; 9. Downy Woodpecker-302; 10. House Finch-299

**Top ten species by total number of birds:**

1. American Goldfinch-5708, 2. European Starling-4326, 3. Common Grackle-3593, 4. American Robin-3515, 5. Mourning Dove-2729; 6. American Crow-2712; 7. Northern Cardinal-2294; 8. House Finch-2290; 9. Mallard-1525; 10. Dark-eyed Junco-1435

**Top ten Tennessee cities by number of species seen:**

1. Cookeville-73; 2. Nashville-58; 3. Maryville-54; 4. Cleveland-50; 5. Memphis-50; 6. Jackson-48; 7. Johnson City-48; 8. Dandridge-46; 9. Ashland City-44; 10. Ripley-44

For more information go on-line to:  
[www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org)

### • Reintroduction of an Eastern Migratory Flock of Whooping Cranes

Last fall, many of us followed the progress of the small flock of Whooping Cranes as they followed ultralight planes to Florida. The incredible birds were being taught how to migrate to the warmer climes of the Sunshine State and passed through East Tennessee in mid-November. The most recent update posted on their web-site is dated March 9. It states that the flock is still on the ground at their winter home: the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Citrus County in West-Central Florida.

For more information go on-line to:  
[www.bringbackthecranes.org](http://www.bringbackthecranes.org)

## HOT CUP!

What better way to prepare for an early morning of bird watching than with a steaming hot cup of your favorite beverage? And what better container to hold that beverage than the new KTOS Thermos Cup. The lidded vessels can be purchased at the next KTOS meeting. Profits from the sale of these attractive white cups emblazoned with the KTOS logo will go to the J. B. Owen Memorial Fund.

And here's a helpful hint: They make great gifts!



## Upcoming Field Trips - Let's go birding!

### Saturday, April 13, 7:30 AM

#### Ijams Nature Center • Spring Bird Walk

What better way to look for spring birds than to walk through the woods and meadows at Ijams? The nature center's 155 acres have a variety of habitats to explore. Leaders: Christine and Roger Tankersley. Phone 577-4717, ext. 11 to register. Free to Ijams and KTOS members (non-members \$2 per person). Ijams is located in South Knoxville on Island Home Avenue.

### Sunday, April 14, 8:00 AM

#### Porter Creek • Great Smoky Mountains

Field hike on the Porter Creek Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Leader: Harold Howell (690-6183). Meet at the trailhead at the end of Greenbrier Road at 8:00 AM. There is little elevation gain on this wide, well graded trail that parallels Porter Creek.

The target birds will be Louisiana Waterthrush and other spring migrants. Many wild flowers should be blooming along the trail. Bring lunch and water.

We will be hiking 3.7 miles to the Porters Flat back country campsite. Those not wishing to hike the entire trail may turn back at Fern Branch Falls, 1.9 miles from the trailhead.

### Thursdays, April 18 and 25, 8:00 AM

#### Sharps Ridge • North Knoxville

Field trip to Sharps Ridge. Leader: Tony Headrick (687-9956). Meet at the wooden overlook near the tall towers. The walk will be along the road in Sharps Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the object of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks warblers and other spring migrants are expected.

### Sunday, April 21, 7:00 AM

#### Cove Lake State Park • Cross Mountain

Field Trip to Cove Lake State Park and Cross Mountain. Leader: Tony Headrick (687-9956). Meet at Ingles Supermarket parking lot on Emory Road just east of I-75 promptly at 7:00 AM, or at the Cove Lake State Park restaurant parking lot at 7:30 AM. We will explore around Cove Lake first, then head for Cross Mountain. Target birds are Swainson's Warblers, and other early migrants. Bring lunch and a drink, and be prepared for muddy conditions.

### Saturday, April 27, 8:00 AM

#### Public Field Trip to Sharps Ridge

Leader David Trently (531-1473). Meet at the wooden overlook near the tall towers. The walk will be along the road in Sharps Ridge Memorial Park.

Spring migrants are the object of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks, warblers, and other spring migrants are expected.

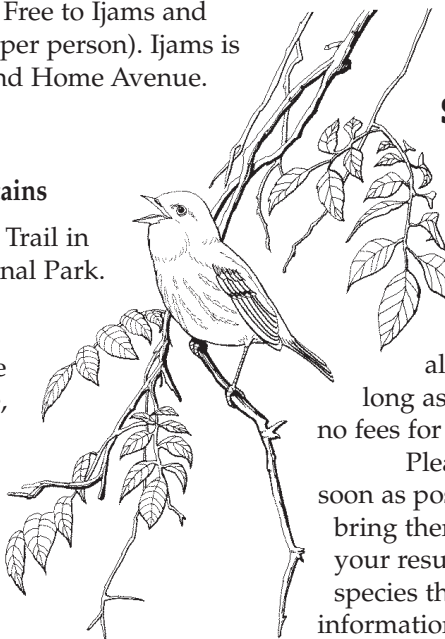
### Sunday, April 28

#### Knox County Spring Bird Count

Our annual Knox County Spring Bird Count will be Sunday, 28 April. You are invited to join with us in counting birds that you see that day (midnight to midnight) in Knox County. As always, feeder counts are welcome (as long as you live in Knox County). There are no fees for participating in this count.

Please send your results to the compiler as soon as possible via one of the addresses below or bring them to the May KTOS meeting. Include in your results the number of individuals of each species that you see as well as important count information such as the names of all observers in your party (and contact info for at least one person in the party), the location(s) you covered (be specific), the time and total number of hours and miles covered by foot and car and spent owling and feeder watching. All of this information is needed.

If you have any questions, contact the compiler Dean Edwards at 570-9701. If you traditionally work this count but will not be able to cover your usual territory, please let Dean know so that he can get someone to cover that area. Send your count results and info to Dean (kde@utk.edu or 1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville TN 37931).



## NOTICES

**Planning Meeting** There will be a KTOS Planning Meeting on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Ellington Plant Sciences Building, room 128, on the UT Agriculture Campus. All members are invited to attend and help us discuss plans for upcoming months.

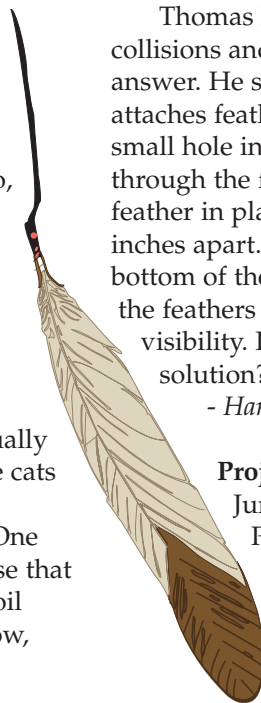
Special Thanks goes to **Susie Stout** for having the wherewithal of turning these newsletter pages into web-friendly pdf files. The technology to do such eludes this editor.

## Window glass single largest killer of birds

In an article by Stiles Thomas in the Sept/Oct 2001 *Bird Watchers Digest*, we were surprised to read that collisions with window glass kills more birds than any other unnatural cause. Not intending to be funny in anyway, we felt that cats probably had this distinction. About four years ago, we quoted a study that estimated that several million birds died every day in the US because of uncontrolled cats. We didn't get involved in that issue then and we won't now.

The original source of the window class information comes from Daniel Klem, a biologist at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. Klem estimates that up to one billion birds may die annually in this manner. If he is anywhere near accurate, the cats do not come close.

Many birds survive collisions with windows. One way Thomas has been able to identify some of those that collided and then flew away is by the identifiable oil and dust contours of their bodies left on the window, "much like the chalk outline of a murder victim."



Thomas has tried many methods to prevent these collisions and is convinced that a "feather guard" is the answer. He simply buys some visible fishing line and attaches feathers that he buys at a craft store. He drills a small hole in the feather's shaft and threads the line through the feathers and creates a knot to hold the feather in place. He spaces the feathers about seven inches apart. He then attaches the line to the top and bottom of the window. He allows enough slack so that the feathers will sway in the wind, increasing the visibility. If you have this problem, why not try this solution?

- Harold and June Cox, Project Bluebird

**Project Bluebird** founders Harold and June Cox are available to do Bluebird Presentations. For more information contact the Cox's at (865) 681-8176 or by e-mail at [projectbluebird@msn.com](mailto:projectbluebird@msn.com)

### Are your dues due?

If a "01" follows your name on the mailing label for this newsletter it's time to renew your membership with KTOS. Please send your annual dues to Jerry Hadder, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Membership fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

**PRESIDENT.....David Trently**  
1029 Morrow Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37923 (865) 531-1473  
[dtrently@utk.edu](mailto:dtrently@utk.edu)

**VICE-PRESIDENT.....Charlie Muise**  
9068 Tremont Rd.  
Townsend, TN 37882 (865) 448-1736  
[cmmbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:cmmbirds@yahoo.com)

**TREASURER (Acting)....Jerry Hadder**  
18 Rockingham Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 483-9287  
[marieoakes@msn.com](mailto:marieoakes@msn.com)

**SECRETARY.....Don Vowell**  
6909 Quail Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
[don@vowell-law.com](mailto:don@vowell-law.com)

**EDITOR (Text/Design).....Lyn Bales**  
1801 Kemper Ln.  
Knoxville, TN 37920 (865) 577-6978  
[lbales@ijams.org](mailto:lbales@ijams.org)

**EDITOR (Distribution)...Cindy Day**  
11417 N. Couch Mill Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37931-2908 (865)927-1417  
[n.c.day@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n.c.day@worldnet.att.net)

**TOS HOME PAGE: [HTTP://WWW.TNBIRDS.ORG](http://www.tnbirds.org)**

*through the biKNOXulars*

(USPS 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July and August by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908. Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908.