

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Cerulean Warbler Research to be Program Topic at April Meeting

The speaker this month will be Than Boves, a second year PhD candidate at UT in Natural Resources. He will be speaking about his work studying the effects of forest management on Cerulean Warblers and other forest songbirds in the Appalachian Mountains. Than received a JB Owen award in 2008 from KTOS to assist in funding his work.

Than was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, IL (Downers Grove) and received a B.S. from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). He received a M.S. in raptor biology from Boise State University working with roadway mortality of Barn Owls and ornamentation in Barn Owls.

He has been a birder since 7th grade and has been involved in avian biology and conservation research since college including projects in Illinois, Belize, Idaho and Oregon. Than has also taught high school biology and has worked in environmental consulting.

This program will be presented on Wednesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR PARKING PASS!

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge *BioBlitz*

Celebrate Earth Day and join us for the inaugural "**Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge *BioBlitz***" to take place from 3 pm on Friday, April 17 to 3 pm on Saturday, April 18. During this 24-hour event, teams of taxonomists will target refuge flora and fauna to identify as many species as possible.

Members of KTOS are being asked to participate in the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge *BioBlitz*.

Please go to <http://avianpursuits.com/> and click on "**BioBlitz**" for more information about this event, including a schedule of field trips.



Photo of Cerulean Warbler taken by Mark Armstrong at a banding session in Ft. Morgan, AL.

KNOX COUNTY SPRING COUNT

The Knox County Spring Count will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009.

As usual, parties will be counting birds throughout Knox County on this day. All are welcome and encouraged to participate by either joining a field party or counting birds in your own neighborhood (if you live in Knox Co) similar to Project Feederwatch or the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Submit your results to the compiler (Dean Edwards, 1615 Meadow Chase Ln, Knoxville TN 37931; kde@utk.edu) as soon as possible after the count. Results should include: checklist with numbers of each species observed; location covered; time of day you started and stopped counting; separate tallies of miles and hours traveled by foot, car, boat, etc.; tally of miles and hours spent owling; and names of all participants with contact information for at least one person in the party. You may also be asked to provide documentation for any rare or unusual species.

If you plan to participate or have further questions, please contact the compiler, Dean Edwards, 865-660-9701.

SHADE GROWN COFFEE

Don't forget to order your shade grown coffee to be delivered in May. Remember every purchase you make helps preserve habitat for birds as well as being a *greener* way to enjoy your coffee. This is not just a money making project for the club, it is a way to put our beliefs in saving habitat into action.

See David Johnson to place your order.



Presidential Perch

By Mark Campen

Thanks to David Johnson, Tony King, Denise Nauman, Curt Thomas, Janet Lee, Emily Campen and David Trently for picking up litter, removing graffiti and removing some invasive plants from Sharps Ridge. Keeping the park clean makes for a more enjoyable, aesthetically pleasing walk while watching for birds all year long. Ten bags of trash and one tire were removed.

Join us at our next meeting, as we will be presenting a slate of nominees for 2009 officer positions. If you would like to nominate someone, now is your chance. Other club business will include a vote on shade-grown coffee sales.

The Bird Quiz:

Despite spending little time on the ground, the nest of this insect (and slugs!) eating bird lies on the ground, well hidden amongst the leaves and debris of a sloping, woodland hillside, usually near a small stream or moist ravine. If flushed from the nest during the later part of egg incubation, this bird hops away displaying false injury or distress to lure potential predators away from the nest. Nest material may include white-tailed deer hair and pine needles.

Last month's bird: Cape May Warbler



L to R Tony King, Janet Lee, Curt Thomas and Emily and Parson Campen on Sharp's Ridge for the Clean-Up

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2009

	March	February	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 424.00	\$ 560.00	\$1,389.00
Shade Grown Coffee	198.00	0.00	398.50
Interest	19.38	21.39	63.42
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Owen Memorial	20.00	0.00	20.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$ 661.38	\$ 581.39	\$1,870.92
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 73.20	\$ 74.70	\$ 147.90
Supplies	44.74	0.00	44.74
Shade Grown Coffee	142.46	0.00	231.44
Member Dues to TOS	793.00	0.00	2,194.00
Misc. (NSF Returned)	0.00	-10.00	-10.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,053.40	\$ 74.70	\$2,608.08
Other:			
J. B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Account Balances:			
KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 3,039.94	\$ 3,471.06	
J. B. Owen Memorial	\$ 7,313.34	\$ 7,274.24	
Memberships	113	132	
Paid 2009 Memberships	113	102	
New Members			
George Hinsley Family			
Rebecca & Zucker Houseman			

KTOS FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL 2009

Saturday, April 4, 8:30 A.M.

Lenoir City Eaglets

Leader: Tony King (865-988-6172)

For the fourth year in a row, the Bald Eagles at Lenoir City have a successful nest. Meet at the Tellico Canal Bathhouse/parking area to carpool to see the eagles and their eaglets. From U.S. 321, take the first exit after crossing the Ft Loudon Dam, which is marked Tellico Village/ Rte 444. Go straight across Tellico Parkway (Rte 444) to enter the bathhouse and parking area; it's the same road that goes to the Tellico Canal boat ramp. After viewing the Bald Eagles, birders may choose to continue birding at other locales with Tony. Trip will finish before noon.

Sunday, April 5, 2009, 8:00 A.M.

Norris Dam Songbird Trail and River Bluff Trail

Leader: Harold Howell

(865-828-6302, howellh2@frontiernet.net)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the restroom parking lot on US 441 immediately before crossing the dam. We will walk the Songbird trail below the dam along the river looking for early migrants and resident species. We will also be looking for waterfowl since there have been several unusual sightings near the weir dam. Later we will cross the dam and walk the River Bluff Trail, checking the spring wild flowers as well as the birds. This trail is famous for early spring wildflowers. The Songbird Trail will be easy walking, but the River Bluff Trail will be more strenuous. Good walking shoes and water are required. You may also wish to bring a picnic lunch. We should finish in the early afternoon.

Saturday, April 11, Evening

Saw-Whet Owls at Clingman's Dome

Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8528 or 8664,

NatureTours@avianpursuits.com)

A major target on most birder's lists is the Northern Saw-whet Owl, but it's not a very easy bird to see. In Tennessee, the best place to find one is in the eastern mountains. Since they don't usually call until after it's fully dark, trying for one is not a common event for most birders.

I've had some luck hearing them in April along the Clingmans Dome Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Plan:

4:30 p.m. Meet at the Stokely Building parking lot (320 N.Cedar Bluff Rd, Knoxville)

5:00 p.m. Meet at the Comcast parking lot off Asheville Highway (Exit 394 off I-40 onto US Route 11E, north of the interstate)

6:00 p.m. Meet at the Sugarlands Visitor Center in the Smokies

From Sugarlands, we'll drive up to Clingmans Dome and do some birding there while we wait for dark (sunset is around 8:00). We may see Ruffed Grouse on the roadsides at dusk. After dark, we'll stop at various pullouts along the road, listening for the calls of these little owls. If the weather is good (little or no wind, no rain...) we have a good chance of hearing some. Seeing them is more difficult - you may have to be content with just their voices.

We can use flashlights, though larger spotlights are not legal in the Park

Bring clothes for temperatures 20 degrees cooler than at the lower elevations and don't expect to be back in Knoxville before 11:00.

Thursdays, April 16, 23, and 30, and May 7, 8:00 a.m.

Sharp's Ridge, Knox County.

Leader: Tony Headrick (cell 865-621-9836)

Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the objects of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks warblers, and other spring migrants are expected. Call Tony if you have questions or need directions. If you're new to birding, please come join us! This is a great place to immerse yourself in birds.

Public Bird Walk on Sharps Ridge

Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m.

Every year, our club sponsors the annual bird walk on Sharps Ridge. Chapter members will serve as co-leaders as we bird our way along the road. All KTOS members are urged to attend. The more birders we have the more birds we will see and the more likely we will be to recruit new members. The general public is invited. Bring your friends and kids!

Meet at the J. B. Owen overlook at 8 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharps Ridge Memorial Park. We will be looking for spring migrants with orioles, grosbeaks, warblers and other migrants expected.

Contact Mark Campen (mark@tnike.com; 865-414-5593) or Ginger Goolsby (vtgoolsby@musfiber.com; 423-748-4632) for further information.

2009 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee of KTOS will nominate the following individuals for local and state officers for 2009. President: - Mark Armstrong; Vice President - Billie Cantwell; Secretary - Kathy Bivens; Treasurer - Marie Oakes; and State Directors - Jean Alexander and Chris Welsh.

The Nominating Committee recommends that you vote for these candidates in the May elections.

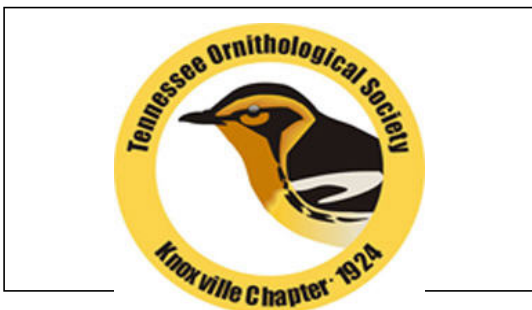
Respectfully, David Johnson, Chairman

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$13 for a student. Sustaining memberships are \$38 and Life membership with TOS is \$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local Chapter.

DEADLINE for May issue is Friday, April 24.

Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your article to 700 words. For a color version of this newsletter or for past issues, go to the TOS home page, <http://www.tnbirds.org> and click on "local chapters/Knoxville"



PRESIDENT Mark Campen
1309 Adair Drive
Knoxville, TN 37918
(865) 414-5593
mark@tnike.com

VICE PRESIDENT Mark Armstrong
1440 Fawn Road
Seymour, TN 37865
(865) 577-5398
woodthrush@bellsouth.net

TREASURER Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 483-9287
marieoakes@msn.com

SECRETARY Kathy Bivens
Post Office Box 8
Rockford, TN 37853
(865) 983-7349
Cell (865) 250-6410
volkathy@yahoo.com

EDITOR Ginger Goolsby
1126 Heykoop Drive
Morristown, TN 37814
(423) 581-9439
vtgoolsby@musfiber.com

EDITOR (Distribution) Patty Ford
5400 Crooked Pine Lane
Knoxville, TN 37921 (865) 719-8383
pattyford@pfordonline.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR- Robin Barrow
Cell (865) 297-2572
braveladyrobin@gmail.com

2009 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE AT NASHVILLE

May 1-3

The Nashville Chapter extends an invitation to all TOS members across the state to attend the 2009 TOS Annual Meeting, to be held May 1-3, 2009. The meeting will be headquartered at the Baymont Inn & Suites located at 111 Penn Warren Drive in Brentwood TN, off I-65 at Exit 74-B.

The Saturday afternoon TOS Board of Directors Meeting and the Saturday evening banquet and Annual Business Meeting will take place at [Crieveview United Methodist Church](#), 451 Hogan Rd, across from Ellington Agricultural Center. [Birding on the Ag Center grounds](#) is usually productive and it is worth a visit before dinner.

Field Trips

The field trip schedule and destinations are still being finalized, but will include several locales you have grown to know and love in the Nashville area. These include:

- [Radnor Lake State Natural Area](#)
- [Shelby Bottoms](#)
- [Beaman Park](#)
- [Bell's Bend Park](#)

Beaman and Bell's Bend Parks are two of the newest parks in the Nashville area. Both parks are located northwest of downtown Nashville.

Registration

Fees are \$10.00 for registration and \$20.00 for the Saturday evening banquet buffet.

The speaker for the Saturday night banquet will be Gary Myers, Executive Director of TWRA. Gary has served as Executive Director since 1978 and is scheduled to retire on March 1, 2009. During his long tenure, Gary has been a great friend to TOS.

It is not too early to be making plans to attend the Spring Meeting.

For more information on the meeting, go to the Tennessee Ornithological Society web site at tnbirds.org.

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