



# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## April 6th Program - Show & Tell

*Now is the time to start preparing those special photos!*

Before our April 6 meeting date, all member photographers (and wannabe photographers) will need to organize those "best shots" from this past year to share with the club. Pictures of local birds; your favorite birds; photos from interesting trips where you found more "exotic" birds. We want to see them all!

Please contact Billie Cantwell by April 4th if you plan to bring photos to share. We would like as many members as possible to participate. Plan on 10 – 15 minutes, of course this will depend on how many presenters we have.

Equipment will be available for digital presentations using a CD or memory stick. Contact Billie early to make arrangements @865-212-9797 or [BFcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:BFcantwell@gmail.com)

The meeting will be Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> 6:45 PM in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

Bring your pictures, spouse, a friend and a snack for a great get together!

### What is KnoxvilleTOS?

- **Have you ever wanted to go on a field trip but couldn't find your newsletter to get the details?**
- **Ever wonder what is going on at KTOS?**
- **Would you like to post photos of that extra special bird you spotted so other club members could see it?**

You can find all this and more at **KnoxvilleTOS**. This is a Yahoo list serve where you can find links to the history of the club, birding areas and photos of past events. You can voice your opinion, ask a questions, or post a great birding trip!

We now have 42 members on **KnoxvilleTOS**. [\(A big thanks to all that have joined!\)](#) This is where all the club information will be available and members have the ability to communicate with each other. We want to encourage all members to join so that we are all connected with all the news, events and decisions that affect our club.

It is easy to join. Members will receive an email saying [bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com) has sent you an invitation to join the **KnoxvilleTOS** group. All you have to do is click on "**Join this group**". Another page will come up with a summary of the group and again asking you to click on "**Join this group**". If you are not a Yahoo member you will need to answer a few questions i.e. gender and birthday. This info will **not** be shared on the site. You will need to select a Yahoo ID and password. **PLEASE make your ID your name.** *You are almost done.*

The next thing you will be asked is to select the email address that you want to use and choose your message delivery - individual emails, a daily digest or **NO emails!** That's it! Now you can be part of the new and up to date **KnoxvilleTOS**. Thanks for joining.

Should you have questions, problems or concerns, please contact Billie Cantwell. [BFcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:BFcantwell@gmail.com)

*"Hope is the thing with feathers" as Emily Dickinson set down the metaphor. And what could be more hopelike than a soaring, singing bird?"*

Margaret Roach, author of *And I shall have Some Peace There*.

## KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2011

	Feb-March	January	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
. Dues	\$ 828.00	\$ 194.00	\$ 1,022.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	244.00	43.75	287.75
. Interest	24.39	13.08	37.47
. Owen Memorial	<u>14.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,110.39</b>	<b>\$ 250.83</b>	<b>\$ 1,361.22</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
. Newsletter	\$ 211.05	\$ 0.00	\$ 211.05
. Supplies	71.79	0.00	71.79
. Shade Grown Coffee	129.09	176.83	305.92
. Member Dues to TOS	<u>620.00</u>	<u>1,274.00</u>	<u>1,894.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,031.93</b>	<b>\$ 1,450.83</b>	<b>\$ 2,482.76</b>
<b>Account Balances</b>			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 2,802.12	\$ 2,761.54	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$ 8,611.85	\$ 8,573.97	
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>122</b>	
<b>Paid 2011 Memberships</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>62</b>	
<b>New Members:</b>			
Diane Bunch			
Ken Cox and Nancy Page			
Lynne and Bob Davis			
Mildred Dixon			
Julie Glibbery			
Karen McConkey			
Wild Birds Unlimited			

### IT'S SHARP'S RIDGE CLEAN-UP TIME

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
 Leaders: Tony King (865-988-6172) and Mark Campen  
 (865-414-5593 (w); 865-406-6377(h); [campen@tnike.com](mailto:campen@tnike.com))

Let's get the Ridge cleaned up for our Thursday morning walks and the Public Walk to be held later in April. Our past efforts have made a big difference in the appearance of one of our most accessible birding sites.

Come early and get some extra birding time in this spring.

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

#### IJAMS NATURE CENTER

The Ijams 22nd Annual River Rescue will be Saturday, April 2, 2011, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteer by calling 865-577-4717, ext 24 or email [sbrobst@ijams.org](mailto:sbrobst@ijams.org). T

This is not a KTOS birding trip but a chance to help clean up some of our favorite birding spots.

## Field Trips for April



**Saturday, April 2, Evening**  
**Saw-Whet Owls-Clingman's Dome**  
**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**  
**Leader: David Trently**  
**Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8528 or 8664**  
[NatureTours@avianpursuits.com](mailto:NatureTours@avianpursuits.com);

cell phone (day of trip only) 865-771-8288  
 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.

**Please contact me in advance to let me know you plan to go.** I will need your contact info in case the trip needs to be canceled (high wind, rain). If you fail to let me know you will be going, you are still very welcome to join us, but we may change meeting places and times based on who is going. **(Continued on Pg 4)**

**Sunday, April 10th, 8:00 AM until we drop.**

**Farewell 5B's Gathering for David Trently**  
**at Wood Thrush Ridge**  
**Leader: Janet Lee McKnight**

We are losing one of our keystone members to relocation. David Trently has done so much for KTOS, his departure will leave a void that will be felt for many many moons. Let's send David off with a day of Birding, Botanizing, Bugs, a Buffet, and BS'ing (the 5 B's) at Wood Thrush Ridge.

With spring migration and spring wildflowers happening, there's no telling what we will see! Bring a chair and a dish to share, and let's go birding with David until we drop. Dogs may greet you when you arrive, but all are friendly.

163 Hammontree Lane, Greenback, TN 37742  
 Call Janet at 865-271-8337 if you need directions.

**Thursdays, April 14, 21, and 28 8:00 am.**

**Sharp's Ridge**  
**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 are new to birding, or to KTOS field trips, please join us. This is a great place to immerse yourself in birds.

**Sunday, April 17, 8:00 a.m.**

**Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge**  
**Leader: Mark Armstrong**  
 (865-577-5398; [woodthrush@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodthrush@bellsouth.net))

We will meet in the parking lot and head out through the fields and forests to see migrants and returning summer residents.

**Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m.**

**Public Field Trip**  
**Leader: Dean Edwards (865-560-9701) and others**

Meet at the J.B. Owen overlook for a walk along the road. This is a great opportunity to encourage new birders and would-be birders to enjoy our fine feathered friends. We are hoping for lots of spring migrants.



# Presidential Perch

Hi Folks,

KTOS is a great organization and this is the time of year we need help from our members to fill our officer positions. None of the positions are difficult and the best part is we are serving folks just like us that have an interest in and love for the birds around us. Like me, you may even find yourself doing something that you never thought you could do. Something like, standing in front of a group of people and talking and forming words. So in addition to serving your fellow club members you may actually find yourself growing and doing unexpected things.

As I am writing this, we really are in need of a candidate for vice president. The primary responsibility of the VP is to get speakers for the monthly meetings. I did it and it is not a hard job. There are many resources to draw on like the active researchers at the University, club members, TWRA and State Parks. Plus, there are former VP's around with lists of programs that they weren't able to book so you aren't alone and will have some help with ideas for programs. Something that few people know is that you get a 20% discount on optics at local merchants!! That's a big LIE of course just some crazy story I heard. Anyway I've have enjoyed serving the club over the past few years and hope to continue in some capacity. If you are interested in helping the club out please contact one of the current club officers.

In my own birdy news I really enjoy watching Tn-bird and all the new spring arrivals. I always manage to be second or third to see something but I enjoy it all the same. I have put my hummingbird feeder back out, and I put red surveyors tape in the tree near it hoping to attract a hungry ruby-throat. If you Google "hummingbird migration map" you can find a web site that shows them pushing north. It actually shows them north of Tennessee now.

I also watch chimney swift migration at [chimneyswifts.org](http://chimneyswifts.org). Right now they have been seen in central Alabama. Last weekend I uncapped my swift tower, painted and sealed the top to help it last longer and put out the welcome sign. I'm ready for spring and I'm sure the birds are.

~Mark~

## LUM PETITION FOR THE CUMBERLANDS

Over the past three and a half years, I have had the great fortune to conduct research on Cerulean Warblers in the Cumberland Mountains of east Tennessee. Day after day during the spring and summer, I climbed up (and tumbled down) these rugged slopes in search of the birds and their nests. Every day I was amazed and inspired by the antics of these sky-blue denizens of the forest canopy (as well as the more subtle, but just as beautiful, greenish-yellow females). From this research, my colleagues (from four universities) and I have collected data which indicates that this unique mountain range, an off-shoot of the main Appalachian chain, is the most important breeding habitat for Cerulean Warblers on Earth. Up to 25% of the current global Cerulean Warbler population breeds in the Cumberlands and, more importantly, these heavily forested mountains function as the only known source region in the eastern US. In other words, Cerulean Warblers hatched in the Cumberlands are likely dispersing to other locations in the eastern US and may be responsible for colonizing or maintaining populations throughout their range.

Ceruleans need as much source habitat as they can get; their global population has declined by more than 80% over the past 40 years, faster than almost any other avian species in the United States. Interestingly, Ceruleans are not distributed evenly throughout the Cumberlands, rather they are highly concentrated on the steep upper slopes and ridgetops (where forest structure is most appropriate for their unique nesting and foraging strategies). This preference for ridge lines has been unfortunate in some parts of their range as large tracts of prime habitat have been devastated by surface mining operations (especially in West Virginia and Kentucky). However, in the Cumberlands, much of the ridgetop habitat has been left relatively undisturbed over the past 60-80 years, allowing near old-growth forests to regenerate after mining and logging ravaged most of the Appalachians during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Late last year, the state of Tennessee officially recognized the importance of the ridgetop habitat in the Cumberland Mountains for Cerulean Warblers (and many other plant and animal species) by filing a lands-unsuitable-for-mining petition (LUM) for all areas within 600 feet of ridge lines in the publicly-owned North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, which encompasses 67,326 acres. This petition, if accepted by the federal Office of Surface Mining, would be a boon to Cerulean Warblers and would be among the greatest moments in avian conservation in the history of the state of Tennessee.

Like all of you, I use electricity and understand that coal is presently an important energy source for us. But, for the sake of the birds that we all love and the mountains that provide us with priceless ecological services (including drinking water), I think it is time that our society moves away from fossil fuels that can only be obtained through degradation of the environment and instead moves swiftly towards alternative energy sources. This LUM petition represents a small yet significant step in that direction. The entire petition is available for viewing at:

[http://tn.gov/environment/northcumb/pdf/lum\\_petition.pdf](http://tn.gov/environment/northcumb/pdf/lum_petition.pdf)

To help this petition become law, you may contact the Office of Surface Mining via email at: [TNLUM@osm.gov](mailto:TNLUM@osm.gov) or you can send an old-fashioned letter to: Earl Bandy, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 710 Locust Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Knoxville, TN 37902

Please let OSM know that you believe that protection of the ridgetops in the Cumberland Mountain is important to both long-term human well-being and the diverse group of organisms that call these mountains home, especially the elusive, charismatic, and fragile Cerulean Warbler.

Sincerely,

Than Boves



## KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Carole Gobert  
1304 Barcelona Drive  
Knoxville TN 37923

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 Fri April 22

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"



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### **\*\*Additional Information for the Saw-Whet Owl Field Trip\*\***

**Saturday evening, April 2**  
**The Plan:**

You have three options for joining the group:

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 pull-outs 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 15-20 degrees cooler than at the lower elevations and don't expect to be back in Knoxville before 11:00.

David Trently  
Avian Pursuits Nature Tours  
...come see the real world!  
Knoxville, TN  
<http://avianpursuits.com/>