



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

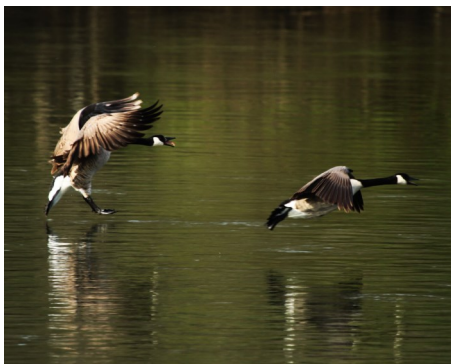
Knox County Spring Count

The Knox County Spring Count will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2013. Please contact the compiler [Dean Edwards, (865) 660-9701, kde@utk.edu] if you are interested in participating. If you normally participate but will not be able to do so this year, please let Dean know in advance so he can assign someone else to cover that territory.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate by either joining a field party or counting birds in your own neighborhood (assuming you live in Knox County) similar to Project Feederwatch and the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Submit your results to Dean as soon as possible after the count is completed. Results should include: (a) checklist with numbers of each species observed, (b) location covered, (c) time of day you started and stopped counting, (d) separate tallies of miles and hours travelled by foot, car, etc., (e) tally of miles and hours spent owling, (f) tally of hours spent feeder watching, and (g) 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 any further questions, please contact Dean.



Canada Geese.
Source: Karen Wilkinson

April Program: Birding along the French Broad and Tennessee Rivers

Join us on Wednesday, April 3, at 6:45 p.m. for a presentation by Michael Sledjeski and Leslie Gibbens about birding from the upper reaches and Rankin Bottoms area of Douglas Reservoir, down through the floodplains of Ten Islands, Dutch Bottoms, and Taylor Bend about 40 miles east of Knoxville. This area is best known for the outstanding numbers of migratory shorebirds and long-legged waders during the late summer and early fall. Michael and Leslie have been exploring this area for water birds since 2000, mostly by canoe. During their program, they will discuss birds and birding in this area, and show photographs of what they have seen there over the years.

This meeting will be held in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on KTOS' website at www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS Meetings.html.



Source: Rosemary Gilbert Bell

Newsletter Distributor Needed

Robin Barrow will retire as the distribution editor after the June issue and a replacement is needed. This position requires some free-time during the day midweek to pick up the printed newsletter and to take the materials to the Weisgarber Post Office. About two hours is needed between those points to prepare the newsletters and the paperwork.

If you think this is something you would be interested in, Robin Barrow will be very happy to tell you more about the position (braveladyrobin@gmail.com). Robin would like to have someone in place by mid-May so that we can prepare the June newsletter together.

Common Yellowthroat.
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Presidential Perch

It is that time of year we all have been waiting for, SPRING! Virginia Bluebells are blooming, Azaleas are beginning to bud and the birds are building nests! I bid a farewell to my winter friend, a Rufous Hummingbird, on March 13. I miss his visits but look forward to his return again this December. The Bluebirds have checked out every birdhouse in my yard but have settled on their usual box.

The birds are not the only busy bees around. KTOS will present the "Discover Birds" to the students of Sevierville Primary School on April 12. A big thanks to Patty Ford, Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers, Jean Alexander, and David Johnson for stepping up and sponsoring the last of the classes. Paula Schneeberger will present her treasure chest of bird goodies and I will narrate a slide show. Chris Welsh, Tony King, Kevin Burke, and Oliver Lang will lead the bird walks on the school grounds. We need a couple more volunteers to help with these walks due to the large number of classrooms. If you are interested, please let me know.

The TOS Spring Meeting is just around the corner! If you have not sent in your registration, please do so. Harold Howell has some great field trips lined up for the meeting. The Friday night social will have (a) a presentation by Ron Hoff (b) an art display/sale by Lyn Bales and Vickie Henderson. Come out and join us for snacks while seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

Remember when you are doing your spring cleaning that KTOS will have our Bird Bargain Barn again at the Hummingbird Festival on August 24. Your gently used books and nature related items are needed for this fund raiser for KTOS. We will need many volunteers. We are accepting sponsorships for the festival — if you have or know of a business that may donate funds or items to sell in exchange for recognition, please let me know.

I want to extend a big KTOS welcome to our new members Kenny Stinnet, Lisa Stinnett, and Steve Langley.



Great Blue Herons.
Source: Karen Wilkinson

J.B. Owen Memorial Award

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund is to honor his memory, longtime TOS member known to thousands in east Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. He was an active member of KTOS from 1947 until his death in 2001. He received the TOS Distinguished Service Award in 1990. An annual award is made by the Fund in the expected amount of \$250 to \$500 to promote the study of birds in Tennessee through research, conservation, and environmental education.

The J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. If interested, please contact Carole Gobert (cpgobert@hotmail.com) for additional information. The application deadline is May 1, 2013. The winner(s) will be announced the following September.

Get Out and Get Birding! April Fieldtrips

Sharp's Ridge Clean-up
Saturday, April 6, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.
(Rain date: Sunday, April 7, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.)
Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the J. B. Owen overlook. For site information and directions, visit www.cityofknoxville.org/parks/sharpsridge.asp. You are welcome to come early and get in some extra birding time before the clean-up begins!

Bring your gloves and come help clean-up and spruce up one of our favorite birding spots. Sharp's Ridge is one of the field trip destinations that Harold has planned for the Spring TOS meeting, so help us get it ready. If you want to remove some of the invasive exotic plants, bring appropriate tools.

Weekday Bird Walks along Sharp's Ridge
Thursdays: April 11, 18, 25, and May 2 @ 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tony Headrick, (865) 621-9836

Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 a.m. For site information and directions, visit www.cityofknoxville.org/parks/sharpsridge.asp.

These weekday bird walks will be held along the road in Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants will be the focus, with orioles, grosbeaks, warblers, and others expected. If you are new to birding or to KTOS field trips, this is a great way to get started. It is also a great way to brush up on your spring warbler songs if you are more experienced.

2013 TOS Spring State Meeting Knoxville, April 26 – 28, 2013

The Knoxville chapter has invited all state TOS members to the 2013 spring meeting, to be held April 26–28. Friday night registration will be held at the conference hotel from 6–9 p.m., while Saturday afternoon meetings and the Saturday banquet will be hosted at the Knoxville Zoo, located off I-40 at Exit 392. Half-price tickets to the zoo for Saturday afternoon are available by mail-in, advance purchase only.

The conference hotel is the Clarion Inn, 5634 Merchant Center Boulevard (I-75, exit 108). A block of rooms is reserved at a discounted rate of \$62.00 plus taxes per night for a choice of a room with either two double beds or one king size bed. A free continental breakfast is included. Make your reservations for the hotel by April 10 by calling (865) 687-8989 and mentioning “TOS” for the discounted rate. All field trips will leave from the Clarion Inn.

We are pleased to announce that the speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Dr. Jim Tucker. Currently Professor of Educational Psychology at UTC, Jim is the founder of the ABA, which he founded in 1968 to bridge the gap between recreational birders and scientists. He has a wealth of birding experience to share, including Big Days with Roger Tory Peterson. The menu for the banquet includes Caesar salad, spinach lasagna, chicken Alfredo, herb roasted potatoes, garlic bread, and dessert. Before the 6:00 p.m. banquet, everyone is invited to a bird encounter with some special zoo residents at 5:30 p.m.

Field trips include the Oak Ridge Reservation, Seven Islands, Sharp’s Ridge, Norris Dam, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Cove Lake, Cross Mountain and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park (e.g., Sugarlands, Alum Bluff Trail, Newfound Gap, Clingmans Dome).

Send your completed registration and payment by April 10, 2013 to:

Carole Gobert
1304 Barcelona Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37923

For additional information, contact Billie Cantwell, bfcantwell@gmail.com.

Name(s): _____

Address _____

TOS Chapter: _____

Are you an officer? _____

\$ _____	for _____	Registrations @ \$12 (each)
\$ _____	for _____	Dinner Reservations @ \$22 (each)
\$ _____	for _____	Child’s Dinner Reservations (age 12 & under) @ \$10 (each)
\$ _____	for _____	Saturday afternoon Zoo tickets, adult @ \$10 (each)
\$ _____	for _____	Saturday afternoon Zoo tickets, child @ \$10 (each)
\$ _____		Total

KTOS membership: Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student, or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2012 — 2013
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Birding Briefs

Tony King lead a group birding at The Cove of Concord Park on March 21, 2013. The following species were observed: Canada Goose; Mallard; Pied-billed Grebe; Horned Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Osprey; Killdeer; Bonaparte's Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Blue Jay; American Crow; Tree Swallow; Carolina Chickadee; Brown-headed Nuthatch; Carolina Wren; Eastern Bluebird; American Robin; Northern Mockingbird; European Starling; Palm Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Northern Cardinal; Common Grackle; and American Goldfinch.

Michael Plaster observed the following (incidentally) while in Russia: (a) Eurasian Magpie, Eurasian Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Common Raven; Great Tit, House Sparrow, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Moscow (1-2 March 2013); (b) Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Magpie, Hooded Crow, Coal Tit, Great Tit, House Sparrow, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Siberian Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, and Eurasian Bullfinch near Tomsk (4-7 March 2013); (c) Mallard, Hooded Crow, Great Tit, Bohemian Waxwing, Eurasian Bullfinch, House Sparrow, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Yekaterinburg (9-10 March 2013); and (d) Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Magpie, Hooded Crow, Great Tit, House Sparrow, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, and Eurasian Nuthatch near Kasli (10-14 March 2013).