



Bee Hummingbird, a Cuban endemic species. Source: By Charlesjsharp (Own work, from Sharp Photography, sharp-photography) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Congratulations to Ron and Dollyann

Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers were recognized in the latest edition of Birding magazine that stated “Ron Hoff of Clinton, Tennessee, saw a dazzling pair of Fiery Topazes hawking insects over a small creek at dawn near Mitu, Colombia, on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 for his 8,000th Clements-compliant species.” Another milestone was reached on Saturday, November 14, 2015 when Ron, along with his wife Dollyann Myers, saw a Cedar Waxwing in Rhea County for his 10,000th Tennessee total tick. As Ron enthused, “What a fabulous journey birding continues to be!” Birding, Vol. 48, No.1, February 2016.

Ron and Dollyann, we are so privileged to have you as our dear friends. Your contribution to TOS and KTOS over the years combined with your humility and cheerful attitude towards life has served as a model for us all. We hear you have a trip planned to Cuba in the upcoming year. Pictured bellow is a magnificent bird I hope you get to see, the Cuban trogon. May you be unhindered as you bird on!

April Meeting: “The Michigan Osprey Reintroduction and Tracking Program”

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 6, 2016** for a presentation by Anna Walker of the Michigan Osprey Watch Program. Volunteers for the program identify and monitor active osprey nests in Southeast Michigan. In recent years, fifteen GPS transmitters have been placed on birds to track their migration paths to Latin America. To see their paths over East Tennessee, go to: www.michiganosprey.org.

Anna Walker, a long-time volunteer, will discuss the history of the Southeastern Michigan Osprey Reintroduction Program. Started in 1998 to reintroduce osprey to areas where populations were lost due to the use of DDT and habitat destruction, the program successfully raised and released 67 birds from 1998-2007. In 2002, one bird who was hatched in 1999, returned, found a mate and successfully nested. In 2015 there were more than 30 active osprey nests in Southeast Michigan.

Anna Walker has a BS and an MS in Education with emphasis in Ecology, from University of Tennessee. While living on Cherokee Lake in the late 1980s and early 1990s, she gathered data on bird use of mudflat habit for Dr. Cliff Amundsen’s mudflat studies. She has worked in environmental education at nature centers and with conservation groups in Tennessee (Ijams Nature Center), California and Michigan.

The KTOS meeting begins at **6:45 pm** in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, visit the KTOS webpage at www.knoxvillebirding.org.



Osprey named Independence flying with GPS transmitter attached. Credit: Michigan Osprey Watch Program. MJR Photography.



Loggerhead Shrike. © Steve Hurrell. All rights reserved. www.stevehurrell.com

Presidential Perch

Spring is here—and early! I heard my first Louisiana Waterthrush in the Smokies on March 17, 2016. I've had four swallows so far, waiting on Cliff Swallows. Bank Swallow is the toughest one to see in migration, but some days you can see quite a few migrating up the Tenn. River. They also nest in the sand pits near Eastbridge Industrial Park around 2165 Mine Rd. in Mascot, Tenn. There is a lot of birding to do this month. Our annual Thursday morning walks at Sharps Ridge begin on April 14. See details and other announcements below. Seven Islands State Birding Park is sponsoring its first TSP 2016 Spring Birding Tour with trips at Seven Islands and Cove Lake State Park. It is from Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, 2016. They have packages for evening stays at Norris and/or meals that are reasonably priced. To learn details and sign up please visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/884928251604574/.

I would like to acknowledge the help KTOS provided UT Gardens for their bird-themed Eggstravaganza event for children on March 19: Jimmy Tucker, Amy Arwood, Tony King, Kathy McGinnis-Craft, and Chris Welsh joined me in encouraging many children to love birds. Amy alone built 100 of the 235 wren boxes! Looking through binoculars and scopes was an exciting first for many and an elderly couple was very pleased to see a bald eagle overhead through binoculars. I recommend you read a nice ABA blog post about how to awaken this love of nature in children: blog.aba.org/2016/03/open-mic-awaken-the-dream.html. We are in desperate need of an army of young and old to tackle the preservation of our currently fragile ecosystem.

Did you know that in the U.S. an estimated 365 million to 1 billion birds are killed annually by colliding with windows? And the culprit is not just high-rise buildings as one might think, but also residential and low-rise buildings. Dr. Daniel Klem of Muhlenberg College has studied this problem for 40 years. He invented the collision-avoidance test-tunnel method for testing what works best to deter these collisions. Solutions include glass with random UV light absorption patterns, embedded filaments in plexiglass and tape or painted patterns on the outside of windows. Read all about it in an article at www.allaboutbirds.org/glass-action-advances-in-the-science-of-making-windows-safer-for-birds/. There are also links provided to sites discussing many ways we can help these birds. Translucent bird tape strips applied vertically 4 inches apart will greatly diminish bird deaths. See www.abcbirdtape.org/. Every little bit we can do will help save some birds.

Presidential Perch (cont.)

Next time you get out birding bring someone new along and spread the joy. I recall the anecdote that Jeff Wilson, perhaps Tennessee's top birder, told about his entry into excitement about birds. While fishing one day, a tired male Blackburnian Warbler landed to rest on his boat. He was so enthralled by its flaming beauty, he was converted on the spot and devoted his time to learning everything he could about what he'd been missing all those years. You never know.

Happy Birding,

Tom Howe



Bald Eagle, submitted by Tom Howe.

U.S., Cuba, and Birds

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has posed an interesting article ten facts about the U.S., Cuba, and Birds. Please see www.allaboutbirds.org/10-things-you-might-not-know-about-the-u-s-cuba-and-birds/.



Cuban trogon, the national bird of Cuba. Source: By Laura Gooch [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons

Get Out and Get Birding!

April Field Trips

Sharp's Ridge Clean-Up
Saturday April 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Tony King (865) 988-6172

Meet 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 one of our favorite birding spots. If you want to remove some of the invasive exotic plants, bring appropriate tools.

Sharp's Ridge Thursday Morning Walks
Thursday April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 2016
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.

Maryville College Woods
Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Tom Howe: (865) 407-9620

Meet at soccer field parking lot behind gym.

Frozen Head State Park
Sunday, April 21, 2016, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Leader: Chuck Estes: (865) 207-0143

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area at the amphitheater past the visitor center, one-way bridge to the left. See www.outdoorknoxville.com/places/trails/regional/frozen-head-state-park-trails for additional information. We will hike Lookout Tower Trail looking for Cerulean, Black-throated green, Hooded, Worm-eating, and Black-and-white warblers as well as Ovenbirds, American redstarts, Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos, and Scarlet tanagers.

April Field Trips (cont.)

Seven Islands State Birding Park
Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Leaders: Morton Massey (865) 806-9967 and Jay Sturner (865) 244-7819 (call/text)

Meet in the main parking lot at the entrance to the park. Many species from a variety of habitats will be seen. This event is part of a monthly birding series held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. For additional information and directions to the park, please see: www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/SevenIslands.htm.

J.B. Owen Memorial Award

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund is to honor the memory of J.B. Owen, longtime TOS member known to thousands in east Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. J.B. Owen was an active member of the Knoxville Chapter from 1947 until his death in 2001. An annual award is made by the Fund in the expected amount of \$350 to \$750 to promote the study of birds in Tennessee through research, conservation, and environmental education.

The Fund was established in 2002 and to date has given out over \$7,000 in awards to support such diverse projects as research into the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels; the study of the relationships between Cerulean Warblers and timber harvest; investigation of the potential impacts of hemlock decline on nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes in the Walker Valley; construction of an observation platform at Kyker Bottoms and TWRA's Golden Eagle tracking project. Awards have gone to the Foothills Land Conservancy to acquire wetlands and establish conservation easements and to Ijams Nature Center and the Clinch River Raptor Center for their educational and rehabilitative work with injured raptors. No matter how small or how extensive the project the J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Applicants are encouraged to submit: (1) cover letter with short project description and applicant contact information; (2) resume; and (3) brief project proposal (1 to 3 pages) showing project topic, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, deliverables (for example, written report, journal article, presentation), project location and project schedule.

Applications are due by June 1, 2016 and should be sent, to cpgobert@hotmail.com or mailed to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Dr., Knoxville, TN 37923. The committee will evaluate applications and should announce the Award winner(s) in September.

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 (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2015 — 2016
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Knox County Spring Count

The Knox County Spring Count will be held this year on **Sunday, April 24, 2015**. Please contact the compiler (kde@utk.edu) if you are interested in participating this year. If you normally participate but will not be able to do so this year, please let the compiler know in advance so he can try to assign someone else to cover your territory. If you have any questions, please contact the compiler.

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

Submit your results to the compiler as soon as possible after the count. Results should include:

- checklist with number of individuals for each species observed,
- location covered,
- time of day you started and stopped counting,
- separate tallies of miles and hours travelled by foot, car, etc.,
- tally of miles and hours spent owling,
- tally of hours spent feederwatching, 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.