



Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## December Meeting: Wednesday Dec 5th 7:30pm

### Room 117 UT Vet School

The December meeting of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS will feature one of Tennessee's treasures. Mack Prichard has been a naturalist for the state of Tennessee for over 30 years. He has also traveled throughout the United States. On Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 pm Mack will share with us his experiences, knowledge and philosophy on state and national parks.

## January Meeting: Wednesday, January 2nd 7:30 pm

### Room 117 UT Vet School

As has become custom, we will not have a formal presentation for the January meeting. Instead, everyone is encouraged to bring slides to share with us. While we do like to stay focused on birds, we will not limit folks to just birds. Most of us love to see pictures of other animals, of plants and of other natural features. We have some well-travelled members, so we look forward to hearing about folks' trips. The January meeting will be Wednesday, January 2 at 7:30 pm.

## The 102nd Audubon Christmas

### Bird Counts:

- **Norris: Saturday, Dec. 15**  
Compiler: Chuck Nicholson 494-8688;  
cpnichol@bellsouth.net
- **Great Smoky Mountains: Sat, Dec. 29**  
Compiler: David Trently 531-1473;  
dtrently@utk.edu
- **Cades Cove: Sunday, Dec. 30**  
Compiler: Susan Hoyle 909-0792;  
hoyle@cs.utk.edu
- **Knoxville: Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Compiler: Dean Edwards 560-9701;  
kde@angst.engr.utk.edu

The big news this year is that ALL observers who pay the \$5.00 participant fee will receive the CBC issue of American Birds. This will probably not be like the current CBC issues, but will be more of a summary. The complete results of all Counts for this season will be available at <http://www.audubon.org>.

Please come to the December KTOS meeting for additional information about each of these counts, or contact the compilers directly.

## TOS Winter Meeting

There will be a TOS State Winter Meeting on Feb 8-10, 2002, at Pickwick Landing State Park in the southwestern portion of the state. See the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* for details.

## Field Trips

### Saturday Dec 2, 7:30am

#### TVA property on Melton Hill Lake.

Leader: Wes James of TVA. Meet at the overlook parking area in front of TVA Bull Run Steamplant on Edgemore Road. We will visit the "Butcher Bottoms" area, which contains hayfields, wetland sloughs and shrub edge habitats. Last year this field trip yielded orange-crowned warblers, and 11 species of sparrow.

### Saturday Jan 26, 8:00 a. m.

#### Field trip to Smith Bend.

Leader TBD. Meet at the west overlook parking area of Watts Bar Dam. We will visit a variety of habitats ranging from upland woods to wetland fields and river edges. We expect to find a variety of winter residents including sandhill cranes. We expect a good turn out for this trip. Last year it was a great outing.

## Mid-Winter Eagle Count

January 2-16 2002

Because of Bob Hatcher's retirement, Troy Ettl will be coordinating this year's Mid-winter Eagle Count. The 2002 Count will be held from 2-16 January with preferred dates of January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Please respond to Troy's secretary Melissa Cunningham at [mcunningham@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:mcunningham@mail.state.tn.us) (615) 781-6670 by Dec. 1, 2001 if you would like to participate.

## 2001 Knox County Fall Count Results

On 30 September 2001; 13 observers in 8 parties participated in the Knox County Fall Count. Only 89 species (plus 3 others during count week) were identified; far below the recent average. Highlights included American Golden-Plover; Northern Harriers; and Red-headed Woodpeckers at the UT Plant Science Farm and a Snow Goose at Sequoyah Hills Park. Full details follow.

2001 Knox County Fall Count  
30 September 2001

Weather: 46-70 F; clear and sunny; winds 0-7mph N-NE

Observers: 13 in 8 parties (see below for list)

Species: 89 + 3 CW

Individuals: 4614 (148.8 birds per party hour)

Party hours: 31.0 total hours; 21.25 hr by foot; 6.25 hr by car;  
2 hr feeder watching; 0.5 hr owling

Party miles: 155.75 total miles; 19.5 mi by foot; 136.25 mi by car

Coverage: 07:00 - 19:30

3 Double-crested Cormorant; 16 Great Blue Heron; 1 Green Heron; 1 Black-crowned Night-Heron; 10 Black Vulture; 29 Turkey Vulture; 1 Snow Goose; 380 Canada Goose; 10 Wood Duck; 17 Mallard; 2 Northern Harrier; CW Sharp-shinned Hawk; 1 Cooper's Hawk; CW Red-shouldered Hawk; 11 Red-tailed Hawk; CW American Kestrel; 10 Wild Turkey; 1 American Golden-Plover; 29 Killdeer; 1 Pectoral Sandpiper; 856 Rock Dove; 124 Mourning Dove; 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo; 3 Eastern Screech-Owl; 1 Common Nighthawk; 267 Chimney Swift; 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird; 4 Belted Kingfisher; 2 Red-headed Woodpecker; 35 Red-bellied Woodpecker; 9 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 43 Downy Woodpecker; 10 Hairy Woodpecker; 41 Northern Flicker; 10 Pileated Woodpecker; 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee; 1 Empidonax sp.; 19 Eastern Phoebe; 4 White-eyed Vireo; 2 Yellow-throated Vireo; 1 Blue-headed Vireo; 245 Blue Jay; 287 American Crow; 106 Carolina Chickadee; 46 Tufted Titmouse; 7 Red-breasted Nuthatch; 7 White-breasted Nuthatch; 90 Carolina Wren; 1 House Wren; 11 Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 65 Eastern Bluebird; 6 Swainson's Thrush; 3 Wood Thrush; 55 American Robin; 21 Gray Catbird; 71 Northern Mockingbird; 36 Brown Thrasher; 790 European Starling; 2 American Pipit; 1 Cedar Waxwing; 8 Tennessee Warbler; 3 Chestnut-sided Warbler; 22 Magnolia Warbler; 1 Cape May Warbler; 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler; 2 Yellow-rumped Warbler 11 Black-throated Green Warbler; 1 Blackburnian Warbler; 6 Pine Warbler; 3 Prairie Warbler; 44 Palm Warbler; 4 Bay-breasted Warbler; 2 Black-and-white Warbler; 3 American Redstart; 3 Common Yellowthroat; 2 Summer Tanager; 11 Scarlet Tanager; 19 Eastern Towhee; 4 Field Sparrow; 11 Savannah Sparrow; 66 Song Sparrow; 3 Swamp Sparrow; 89 Northern Cardinal; 26 Rose-breasted Grosbeak; 80 Indigo Bunting; 90 Red-winged Blackbird; 24 Eastern Meadowlark; 196 Common Grackle; 1 Brown-headed Cowbird; 15 House Finch; 50 American Goldfinch; 5 House Sparrow.

Observers:

Jean Alexander; Frank Bills; Howard Chitwood; Dean Edwards (compiler); Amber Hensley; Susan Hoyle; David Johnson; Kristine Johnson; Janet McKnight; Chuck Nicholson; Truett Patterson; Martha Rudolph; David Trently.

### **THIRD INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN FLIGHT CONFERENCE:**

#### **A WORKSHOP ON BIRD CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION**

March 20-24 2002 Asilomar State Park Conference Grounds near Monterey, California.

The deadline for early registration is December 1, 2001. The focus will be on implementing all-bird conservation actions identified by Partners In Flight, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the U. S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. The conference will have a strong international component with session chairs and presenters from the U. S., Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Conference sessions will include Large-scale and Multi-species Strategies, Setting Biological Objectives, Marketing and Birding Economics, Measuring Project Success, Private Lands Programs and Opportunities, Advances in Species and Habitat Monitoring, International Cooperative Projects, Research Progress and Applications, and Conservation Biology and Policy. A poster session, vendor display, field trips and social events will be offered. There will be opportunities for adjunct meetings of committees, working groups and other entities. A proceedings also will be published. For information and updates, including further program information and on-line registration, see <http://www.prbo.org/PIF/NPIF2002.htm> or contact TERRY RICH (terry\_rich@fws.gov) or SANDY SCOGGIN (sscoggin@prbo.org).

### **BIRDERS JOIN WILDLIFE-WATCHERS, HUNTERS, ANGLERS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, AND OTHERS TO SAY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHORTCHANGES REFUGES, “ONE OF OUR MOST VITAL NATIONAL RESOURCES”**

A coalition of conservationists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts released “Shortchanging America’s Wildlife,” a report that details the funding crisis threatening America’s National Wildlife Refuge System. The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), including twenty conservation and recreation organizations—such as the American Birding Association, Defenders of Wildlife, the Wildlife Management Institute, Ducks Unlimited, The Wildlife Society, and the National Rifle Association—warned that the Refuge System faces a nearly \$2 billion funding deficit, endangering wildlife and denying Americans use of these natural places. The report calls on the Bush administration and Congress to more than double the budget of the National Wildlife Refuge System to \$700 million annually, beginning in the Refuge System Centennial (2003).

As ABA President, Richard H. Payne stated, “With birding growing as fast as it is, it becomes imperative that one of our great resources be protected and enhanced. Our National Wildlife Refuge system, unique in the world, is facing significantly increased visitation from birders and others. This obviously means increasing pressures on a system that has been under-supported for years. The National Wildlife Refuges cannot provide for wildlife and increasing numbers of visitors without investing more in both maintenance and operation.” The National Wildlife Refuge System has played a central role in bringing endangered species back from the brink—including the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Aleutian Canada Goose. The system also protects open space and provides more than 36 million Americans a year an opportunity to experience our country’s natural wonders. Unless the system gets the funding it needs, future generations of birders, hikers, hunters, anglers, wildlife-watchers, environmentalists, families, and school children will miss out on a vital part of the nation’s heritage.

The National Wildlife Refuge System includes 538 refuges and 94 million acres of land and water in all states and U.S. territories. Though larger than the National Park System, the Refuge System receives just 20% of the funding per acre of the National Park Service.

For more information:

- A. Contact CARE, c/o Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 371-1808
- B. Visit the National Wildlife Refuge Association web site (<http://www.refugenet.org/>) where “Shortchanging America’s Wildlife” is downloadable.
- C. Contacts for ABA: Paul J. Baicich (Maryland) 301/839-9736 and Paul Green (Colorado) 719/578-9703 (ext 226)

## Welcome your new Co-Editors!

As of the next issue of through the biKNOXulars, I will be turning over the reins to two capable club members, **Lyn Bales** and **Cindy Day**. Lyn will be handling all of the content, layout and graphics and Cindy will handle the reproduction and distribution. In other words, if you want to contribute something to be put in the newsletter, send it to Lyn. If you need to change your address, send it to Bob Steffy, who will send it to Cindy. Please be even more wonderful to them than you've been to me :) Thanks for making this a fun and rewarding endeavor. And now....

**Lyn Bales**, a member of KTOS, grew up in Gatlinburg, and is a naturalist and educator at Ijams Nature Center. He helps care for and does programs with the five birds of prey that Ijams has adopted. He conducts Owl Prowls and other bird related nature walks and he writes a weekly nature column for the Farragut Press-Enterprise called the "Neighborhood Naturalist."

**lbales@ijams.org**

**Cindy Day** is newly retired from nursing. She and her husband are both committed to the outdoors as avid campers and sometimes canoeists. Cindy has a life long interest in birds as her parents were bird watchers. She now has the time to devote to more active study of birds and other bird related activities. This past summer the Days did their bird watching on a 7 day canoe trip of the headwaters of the Columbia River in British Colombia.

**daynwcj@esper.com**

## A Thoughtful Gift

In the next few days you will be receiving a letter asking you to consider giving a gift membership to KTOS to a friend or family member as a Christmas gift. This would be a gift that would bring a year of enjoyment to someone and perhaps start them on the path to a lifetime of birding pleasure. It would also benefit TOS and KTOS by providing funds for to support our projects. Please be thinking about to whom and to how many you want to give this unusual gift.

## Dues Are DUE

If an "01" follows your name on your mailing lable, its time to renew your membership with KTOS. Please send your annual fees to Bob Steffy, 7619 Charlton Road, Knoxville, TN 37920. 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 annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

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

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