



through the biKNOXulars

Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

“Western Wildlife Odyssey” Harold Howell shares his ultimate summer

On December 3, our very own KTOS field trip organizer will tell us about his ultimate field trip this summer. Harold Howell’s “Western Wildlife Odyssey,” which lasted a few months, took him out west. He visited numerous National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), which Harold describes “as a set of crown jewels that remain relatively unknown to the population at large.” Throughout much of his road trip, Harold traveled alone, camping out in his Suburban.

On Harold’s rambles out west he traveled a southern route, birding in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah. Some of the sites he visited include Sequoyah NWR (OK), Las Vegas NWR, Valley of Fire State Park (NV) and Zion National Park (UT). During his northern return route, Harold birded

through Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Stops along that portion of the trip included Red Rock Lakes NWR (MT), Little Missouri National Grasslands (ND), Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (KS) and Crescent Lake NWR (NE).

“The birds and other wildlife in all these places were spectacular, and the scenery right out of National Geographic,” said Harold. In fact, he had great difficulty paring down all of his slides for his presentation. So we are sure to see some spectacular shots.

January meeting: Bring Your Own Slides!

This January we will continue the KTOS tradition of slide/picture sharing. So that means YOU are the

(Continued on page 2)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December/January field trips and Bird Counts

Saturday, December 6, 8:30 AM

Hall Bend/Tellico Dam. See page 1.

January 16-19, 2004

South Carolina and Georgia. See page 3.

Christmas Bird Counts

- Norris • Saturday, December 20
- Great Smokies • Sunday, December 21
- Cades Cove • Sunday, December 28
- Hiwassee • Thursday, January 1
- Knoxville • Saturday, January 3

For details and contact info see page 2.

Saturday, December 6, 8:30 AM

Hall Bend Trail and Tellico Dam Area

Leader: Wes James (wkjames@tva.gov; 483-5213 h)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area for the new trail 1.3 miles beyond Tellico Dam on State Route 444. There is a blue sign for the trail. We will hike approximately the first mile of this new trail, and will tour other sites in the area looking for waterfowl, sparrows, and other winter resident birds. We may also see Bald Eagles perched around the area. This new trail is a loop of 5 miles, and was cleared by Boy Scout Troop 354 of Lenoir City in cooperation with TVA. Please join us in exploring this new trail. In addition to the wildlife, many prairie-like

(Continued on page 2)

“into Autumn dusk, cranes, carry my passion”

Hakyo (1913-1969)

Field Trips *(Continued from page 1)*

plants have been identified, including a wide variety of prairie grasses that, while not rare, are not commonly seen in East Tennessee. The walking along the reservoir shoreline will not be difficult, however the hike to the bluff top is moderately steep. Bring something to drink and a snack for the trail.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Norris - Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003

Chuck Nicholson, compiler - Phone 865-494-8688 h;
865-632-3582 w; cpnichol@bellsouth.net

GSMNP (Gatlinburg) - Sunday, Dec. 21, 2003

David Trently, compiler - Phone 865-531-1473 h;
856-974-8664 w; dtrently@utk.edu

Cades Cove - Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003

Susan Hoyle, compiler, Phone 865-909-0792 h;
hoyle@cs.utk.edu

Hiwassee - Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004

Kevin Calhoun, compiler - Phone 423-821-6802 h;
kac@tennis.org

Knoxville - Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004

K. Dean Edwards, compiler - Phone 865-560-9701 h;
kde@angst.engr.utk.edu

ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIPS

Due to the busy Christmas Bird Count season, other field trips have not been finalized. We expect to have some other field trips in January.

Detailed information for other field trips will be discussed at the December and January meetings, posted on tn-bird list serve, sent to the KTOS e-mail list and posted on the Knoxville TOS Bird Hotline, 865-577-4717, ext. 80.

If you have questions or wish to volunteer to lead a field trip, please call me at 865-828-6302.

Good birding to all,

- Harold Howell, Field Trip Coordinator

Smokies' counters to meet afterwards

All participants in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Christmas Bird Count (Dec. 21) are invited to get together at 5:00 p.m. at the Cracker Barrel at 3960 Parkway in Pigeon Forge (the restaurant closer to the Smokies). This is a good opportunity to warm up and share your birding stories from the day's adventure. If there is interest, and we're not too tired!, we may try some owling afterwards.

January Program *(Continued from page 1)*

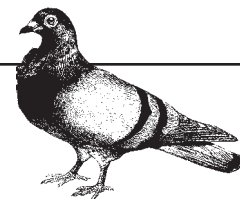
presenter. Everyone has a role—presenter, bird identifier or just plain appreciator. January's slide sharing gives everyone the opportunity to show off their favorite few pictures from the year. Maybe you have life birds, or a few shots from your travels or an exciting sighting in your backyard to share. You can also bring slides of unidentified birds, which you would like help in identifying.

If you wish to bring some pictures to share, please note the following. Anyone who plans on sharing, please let me, Tracey Muise, know (977 8429, or better yet, muise@esknoxville.org). There is a slide projector available, but no slide carousel. Please bring a carousel, or let me know of your need for one. In addition to the slide projector, Charlie Muise has offered to bring a projector and laptop for digital photographs. If you would like to take advantage of this, you need to give Charlie the pictures on CD PRIOR to the meeting so that he can have them loaded on the computer.

The December meeting will be Wednesday, December 3; the January meeting is Wednesday, January 7. Both start at 7 p.m. in Room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library), UT Vet School on Center Drive off Neyland Drive. See you there! If you need directions call an officer listed on the back of this newsletter.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator

Dove becomes pigeon Dean Edwards reminds us that the AOU put out their latest revisions to the official checklist this summer. They changed Rock Dove to Rock Pigeon to conform with the rest of the world (i.e., England).



KTOS Winter Birding Weekend

January 16-19, 2004 • Central South Carolina and coastal Georgia

Join us for some birding as we pass through South Carolina on our way to Georgia's ocean beaches. Up to seven species of warblers should make us think of spring...temperatures should be a bit warmer once we reach the Georgia coast. How about gannets, Anhinga, lots of ducks, Purple Sandpiper, Seaside Sparrow?!?!?

A group will depart Friday morning, Jan. 16, by 7:00 a.m., heading for Santee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in SC. Others may leave later and meet us on Saturday morning. At Santee we will look for Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Bald Eagle, waterfowl, sparrows and much more. Overnight lodging suggestions (rooms not reserved – make your own reservations, recommend www.orbitz.com):

- **Knights Inn** in Summerton (about 8 miles north of the refuge).....\$31.23!
- **Howard Johnson Express** in Santee (not far south of the refuge).....\$52.39

On Saturday, we may have a chance to look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. If not, we'll spend up to an hour and a half birding at Santee, then head for Savannah NWR where we may be joined by some more birders. We'll bird the four-mile Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive before heading into Georgia and Tybee Island where we'll look for Red-throated Loon, N. Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, Seaside and both Sharp-tailed Sparrows and maybe Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Lodging for Sat and Sun nights (not reserved, call soon!):

- **Days Inn**, Richmond Hill at around \$50/night. Call 888-254-0637 and give Promo code 3430.

Early Sunday morning we'll head out for Harris Neck NWR. The 4.2 mile loop road should offer more opportunities for wintering waterfowl, sparrows and armadillo. Next destination is Altamaha WMA, a good place for American Bittern, Mottled Duck, Sedge Wren, and maybe some Tree Swallows teasing us with thoughts of spring.

Next, back to the coast at St. Simons Island. We may have a chance to see Clapper Rail, Piping Plover, diving ducks and mink. Andrews Island will be a quick stop to look for American Avocet, Marsh Wren, shrike, salt marsh sparrows. If we still have plenty of

daylight, a visit to Jekyll Island will be required. More waterfowls, seabirds, shorebirds, waders and maybe a Whip-poor-will are possible here.

On Monday, we'll bird a bit in the morning, with a stop or two on the drive home (Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds maybe?), via Atlanta (~7 hr with no stops). Expect to return to Knoxville by mid-evening.

Contact David Trently for more details, and to let me know you want to go! 531-1473 h; 974-8664 w; dtrently@utk.edu.

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Carolina Meeting

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting at Beaufort, SC
January, 30 through February 1, 2004.

Look for details at:

<http://www.midnet.sc.edu/audubon/>

KTOS Financial Report • December 2003

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Financial Committee

	November	October	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$416.00	\$168.00	\$2,216.00
. Mugs	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$173.50
. Interest	\$0.00	\$41.21	\$125.06
. Misc Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.50
. Spring Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,909.00
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,209.70
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$420.00</u>
Total Income	\$426.00	\$209.21	\$7,060.76
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$185.89	\$72.50	\$1,145.49
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$87.31
. Member Dues to TOS	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$1,366.00
. Spring Meeting Expense	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,313.46</u>
Total Expenses	\$195.89	\$84.50	\$4,912.26
Other:			
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
. Girl Scouts of Tanasi Council	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
. Memorial Books	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$90.00</u>
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,020.00

Fascinating hummingbird website

Follow the progress of a hummingbird nest, eggs and babies...

<http://community-2.webtv.net/hotmail.com/verle33/HummingBirdNest/>

'Tis the season for good cheer and bird counts.

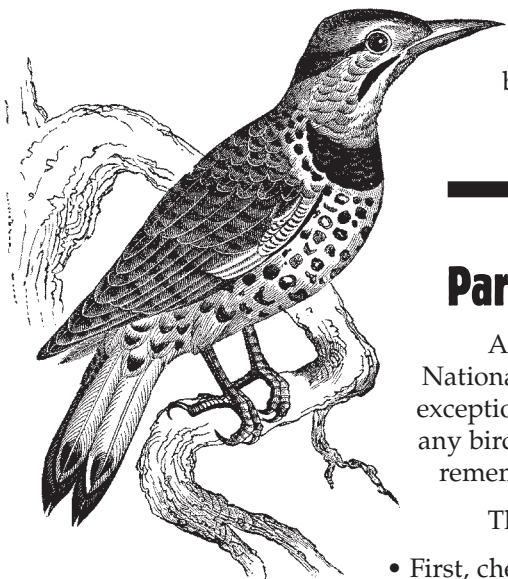
It's Christmas Bird Count time! Over one hundred years ago, some people decided to do something to protest the tradition of shooting birds on Christmas Day. These people were not necessarily opposed to hunting, but they were against the sport of seeing who could shoot the most birds. These people decided to focus that competitive spirit in a more productive way. Who could count the most birds?

In the 103 years since the first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) many thousands of people have counted many millions of birds. Along the way we've learned a lot and we've added to science. We have demonstrated increasing, as well as decreasing populations of birds. We have documented the northward expansion of some southern birds. We have documented the spread of non-native species. We have found rare birds. And we've had a heck of a good time doing it!

Because there are so many places hosting counts, the CBC season is spread over 3 weeks, allowing folks the ability to participate in more than one. Some of us diehards help out with three-four counts every year. If you've never participated before, don't be intimidated. Novices are welcome and valuable! You can get paired up with an expert, who can teach you while you help him or her. Please consider calling one of the compilers and offering an hour, a morning or a whole day. Depending on where you live, you may be able to help simply by staying at home and watching your own birdfeeders! Wouldn't you like "your" birds to be part of the fun? Also check out the CBC home page at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>

And if you're traveling through the CBC period (as I am) don't worry, you can help a CBC wherever you go! I plan to help with three CBCs in New England. In addition to the regular benefits of helping out, when you travel you get to learn new birding locales and maybe increase the likelihood of a life bird or two.

- Charlie Muise



Park curator looking to expand bird collection

Adrian Mayor, the new curator for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, would like to add to the collection of park birds. With the exception of Juncos (of which they have a plethora) he would like to obtain any birds that are found dead and are not badly decayed or dismantled. And remember—these are only things you FIND dead.

The proper method is as follows:

- First, check it over for lice, mites, ticks, etc as those are needed for the ATBI
- Then wrap the bird in newspaper (keeps the feathers from getting ruined)
- Then put it in a sealed plastic bag.
- Then work on getting it to park headquarters. See me for help. Remember that some of our directors go there pretty regularly for meetings and can be begged to deliver. There is also a pickup every Thursday. Please ask Linda for details.

At some point Adrian will send out a list of what he most wants. I will have a copy and will be happy to share it with whomever is interested. - *Thanks! Charlie*

Know your Toms! In tom turkeys, the snood is the flap that dangles down over the beak. A snood may be up to five inches long. Together with the wattle, caruncles and bristly "beard" on the chest, the snood helps toms attract mates. Scientists report hens prefer long-snooded toms. - *Source: The Ohio State University Website.*

Sprucing up a whooping crane's muddy bedroom - by Lyn Bales

Most of you are aware of the effort to reestablish an eastern migratory flock of whooping cranes. Historically, it is believed that these tall marsh-loving birds once migrated from the Midwest to the Atlantic Coast, wintering from the Carolinas down to Florida. But the whooping crane population had dropped so low, no living crane knew how to find the the Sunshine State. The instinct may be there but the mental road map is long gone.

This fall, for the third year in a row, a small band of juvenile cranes have been trained to follow an ultralight airplane. We are lucky in East Tennessee because one of the safe havens the young leggy birds are being taught is in our valley at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County. Hiwassee is roughly the halfway point of the 1,100-plus mile journey.

So far, the challenging project has been a success. Once the first two groups, in 2001 and 2002, arrived at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge on Florida's Gulf Coast they were on their own; and each group has migrated naturally back and forth since.

The effort has not been without incident. A few birds have been killed along the way. The first year, 2001, one crane died after flying into a powerline and two were killed by bobcats on the ground at Chassahowitzka.

Last year, a problem arose at Hiwassee that could have been fatal to another. While probing the mud looking for food inside its nighttime pen, one of the endangered birds got its beak stuck in a spent shotgun shell. The piece of "Tennessee Trash" perfectly muzzled the crane and it couldn't open its mouth. The handlers didn't notice the problem until they were in flight, on their way to the next stopover in north Georgia. Luckily, on the ground there, someone wearing a white-crane suit was able to walk over and remove the offending plastic item. Animals die all the time because of encounters with our society's throw-aways. (Sea turtles often die after swallowing floating plastic grocery bags.) Needless to say, the death of one of these rare "whoopers" because of trash would have been heartbreaking.

Operation Migration knew they had a problem.

Hiwassee is a dual use area. Hunters and fishermen also use the refuge and sometimes leave litter. Last summer the project co-founder, Canadian Joe Duff, arranged with Knoxville resident Vickie Taylor to clean up the pen once it had been erected this fall.

Vickie earns her living as a clinical social worker but she's also an artist and animal enthusiast.

Vickie called me. She knew

I was a naturalist and had experience with shoreline cleanups because of my work at Ijams. (Growing up in Gatlinburg, I also know the importance of being a tidy innkeeper.)

Pens are set up at the crane sites along the migration route several days in advance of their arrival. On Friday, November 7, we found ourselves at the enclosure that had been assembled a few days earlier in a protective cove in the refuge.

The temporary structure is round, about 30-feet in diameter. It's positioned on the shore, partially in the water so that the valuable birds get used to roosting in and near the safety of water.

The day was gray, clearing but growing nippy due to a passing cold front. It had rained the two days before and inside the six-foot tall enclosure we found wet mud, wetter mud and mud under several inches of water, which for the sake of this narrative, we'll call the wettest mud.

Often we found ourselves mired in gooey real estate so deep, we could hardly move. All we could do was look at each other and laugh. Work was slow and tedious. Over the course of the next three sloppy hours, we went over every square foot of the muck, Vickie with a rake and me with a metal detector. By the end of the afternoon we had accumulated a small pile of 15 potentially hazardous items including large shards of broken glass (several pieces of brown beer bottles). Directly outside the pen we found three spent plastic shotgun shells like the one that had caused the problem in 2002.

With each newfound item, our embarrassment grew. How could our lovely green state, even a location far from an urban area, be so trashed? And in the end, we could only hope that we had found it all. Let us hope.



2003 Knox County Fall Bird Count

Sunday, 28 September 2003 • Dean Edwards, compiler

The annual Knox County Fall Count was held on Sunday, 28 September 2003. Thanks in part to the passage of a cold front on the previous day and a larger than normal number of participants (31 in 16-17 parties) we managed to find 113 species on count day, by far the most in the last six years.

A number of good birds were found. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed by four counters on Sharp's Ridge with good details submitted. Two Brown-headed Nuthatches were found at a new location, the UT Plant Sciences Farm, and three more in Farragut at the first known location for this species in Knox County. Also seen at the UT Plant Sciences Farm were three Marsh Wrens, three Bobolink, a Peregrine Falcon and one of two Bald Eagles reported.

Wilson's Warbler was reported for the first time on a Knox County spring or fall count in at least 6 years – one on Sharp's Ridge and another visiting the water feature in the Mooney's yard on the Holston River. The Mooney's also added Veery, Cerulean Warbler and three Red-headed Woodpeckers. Two fairly late Yellow Warblers were found on the Third Creek Greenway. A Lincoln's Sparrow, Canada Warbler and three Philadelphia Vireos were found at the Forks of the River WMA. Wild Turkey continue to increase in numbers with 40 reported throughout the county.

Full details follow:

Weather: Partly Cloudy, AM fog, no precipitation.

Cold front passage the previous day.

Temperature: Low: 53F, High: 67F

Wind: 10-15 NW

Observers: 31 in 16-17 parties (see below for list)

Party hours: 51.25 hours by foot, 11.00 hours by car, 1.50 hours by boat (non-motorized), 0.75 hours owling, 18.25 hours feeder/backyard watching, TOTAL: 82.75 hours

Party miles: 33.25 miles by foot, 217.75 miles by car, 1.50 miles by boat (non-motorized) TOTAL: 252.50 miles

Start-end times: 07:30 - 20:45, 22:15 - 22:30

Species: Double-crested Cormorant 17, Great Blue Heron 31, Great Egret 3, Green Heron 7, Black-crowned Night-Heron 1, Black Vulture 11, Turkey Vulture 27, Canada Goose 361, Wood Duck 36, Mallard 155, Osprey 4, Bald Eagle 2 (1 immature, 1 adult), Northern Harrier 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 4, Cooper's Hawk 10, Accipiter sp. 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 5, Broad-winged Hawk 33, Red-tailed Hawk 15, American Kestrel 3, Peregrine Falcon 1, Wild Turkey 40, Northern Bobwhite 10, Killdeer 30, Wilson's

Snipe 2, Rock Pigeon 725, Mourning Dove 374, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 3, Eastern Screech-Owl 3, Great Horned Owl 3, Barred Owl 1, Common Nighthawk 27, Chimney Swift 242, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 34, Belted Kingfisher 12, Red-headed Woodpecker 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 76, Downy Woodpecker 51, Hairy Woodpecker 8, Northern Flicker 25, Pileated Woodpecker 8, Eastern Wood-Pewee 25, Empidonax sp. 7, Eastern Phoebe 30, White-eyed Vireo 32, Yellow-throated Vireo 1, Blue-headed Vireo 3, Philadelphia Vireo 3, Red-eyed Vireo 12, Blue Jay 382, American Crow 287, Tree Swallow 5, Carolina Chickadee 127, Tufted Titmouse 87, White-breasted Nuthatch 23, Brown-headed Nuthatch 5, Carolina Wren 184, House Wren 5, Marsh Wren 3, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6, Eastern Bluebird 99, Veery 1, Swainson's Thrush 10, Wood Thrush 5, American Robin 51, Gray Catbird 53, Northern Mockingbird 92, Brown Thrasher 45, European Starling 3284, Cedar Waxwing 46, Blue-winged Warbler 2, Tennessee Warbler 50, Nashville Warbler 4, Northern Parula 1, Yellow Warbler 2, Chestnut-sided Warbler 14, Magnolia Warbler 91, Black-throated Green Warbler 4, Blackburnian Warbler 7, Yellow-throated Warbler 1, Pine Warbler 13, Prairie Warbler 2, Palm Warbler 79, Bay-breasted Warbler 21, Cerulean Warbler 1, Black-and-white Warbler 14, American Redstart 57, Ovenbird 2, Common Yellowthroat 24, Hooded Warbler 7, Wilson's Warbler 2, Canada Warbler 1, Summer Tanager 5, Scarlet Tanager 7, Eastern Towhee 39, Chipping Sparrow 1, Field Sparrow 20, Savannah Sparrow 1, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 102, Lincoln's Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 207, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 8, Blue Grosbeak 6, Indigo Bunting 205, Bobolink 3, Red-winged Blackbird 53, Eastern Meadowlark 37, Common Grackle 238, Brown-headed Cowbird 3, House Finch 49, American Goldfinch 101, House Sparrow 44

Total individuals: 8850

Birds per party hour: 106.82

Observers:

Jean Alexander, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Howard Chitwood, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Marcia Davis, Meghan DeFord, Dean Edwards, Belinda Esham, Carole Gobert, Madeleine Hassil, Tony Headrick, Kim Henry, Susan Hoyle, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Nathan Klaus, Janet McKnight, Ed Manous, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Chuck Nicholson, Truett Patterson, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Boyd Sharp, David Trently, Craig Walker, Chris Welsh



Presidential Perch - *By Charlie Muise*

Hello birders! As this year winds down, I hope I don't seem too long-winded this month. Since we don't have a January newsletter, there are a lot of things to let all of you know. Speaking of year winding down, our club dues are on a calendar year basis. This means your dues are due! If you have not already done so, please send your money and current address, phone number and e-mail to our treasurer, Jerry Hadder. His contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

We'll start with the fun stuff. In lieu of the traditional snacks, our December meeting will feature a cookie exchange. We are asking folks to bring in a dozen or so cookies (or other holiday yummys) to trade. The goal is that we all go home with a dozen or so cookies—but they will be like a sampler. To my knowledge this hasn't been done before, so we'll all be guinea pigs. But it sounds like a fun idea. So get those ovens going!

Speaking of refreshments, we still need one person to sign up to help with the March 3 meeting (Harold Cox was nice enough to be one of the two people helping that month), and two people to sign up for the May 5 meeting.

Our last meeting was great for a lot of reasons. But I'd like to point out one special person who helped make it so successful. Meredith Clebsch (with Ed's help) donated a lot of native grasses for anyone who wanted to take a few plugs home. She also brought some great bushes and perennial flowers for us to use as door prizes. A lot of people's yards will be just a little nicer now, thanks to you. THANK YOU Meredith!!

Though we will not publish a newsletter for January, there is still plenty going on. We will have a meeting on the 7th (see Tracey's article beginning on page 1) and I'm sure our fearless field trip coordinator Harold Howell has something up his sleeve for some good birding. And if you're one of the more adventuresome folks, you'll be interested in David Trently's article (see page 3) about a trip to the coast.

It's count time again! Please participate in a local Christmas Bird Count, where you can help us learn while having fun (see page 4).

Now for the business stuff. I propose that KTOS

institute an Executive Committee. Powers of this committee would include: deciding on minor expenses, nominating a nominating committee, planning events and other business. Meetings would be open to all membership. We have been working with a de facto committee for at least three years and I want to make it official. Members would be nominated for two-year terms by the president. At this point the composition may consist of the five officers, the immediate past president and the five state directors for a total of eleven people. These are people that our membership has already showed faith in by electing them. Most of those people are also the ones who currently attend the club planning meetings.

Members of the committee would have the power to send a delegate in their place to meetings. In cases where a state director is unwilling or unable to perform the duties on this committee the president would nominate someone else.

One of the first tasks of this committee is to complete a set of Chapter bylaws. Several of us have been going over the State Constitution (with which our bylaws may not conflict) as well as a draft chapter constitution and the Chattanooga Chapter's constitution. We would welcome input from all club members. Once these are done, we will present them in a newsletter and vote on them at the following club meeting. A simple majority will decide whether they are adopted. Now is your chance to help shape your club.

I don't know how many shopping days are left until Christmas, but I do know that KTOS mugs fit well in stockings. We've been selling KTOS mugs for a while now, and Jerry tells me that we are within a dozen sales of covering the cost. Once that is done, the rest of the money we earn by selling them goes into the J. B. Owen fund. So by buying one you are advertising your club and donating to a great cause, in addition to being more environmentally responsible when you say "no to disposables." If you'd like a mug (they cost \$6.50) please see me.

We will be publishing member contact information in the February newsletter. Please contact me by January 1 if you wish to change your information, or if there is anything you wish not published.

Get your newsletter online!

Would you rather get your newsletter online as a pdf file? And save KTOS money? Let Charlie know and we'll drop your name from the postal mailing list. You then can go to the state website each month to read or download your newsletter. Thanks.

Holly Overton, beloved KTOS member, passes away - By Barbara Finney

Harriet (Holly) Brown Overton, 96, died October 29, 2003, after being an active member of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS for over 55 years. Holly joined after she and her husband, E. E. Overton, moved to Knoxville about 1947.

J. B. Owen's chapter history *Our First 70 Years* records Holly as serving as secretary/treasurer in 1949 and later as vice president, president and had served as refreshment chairman since 1990. She always said she didn't want to be a director and have to attend business meetings at state gatherings because she wanted to go on the afternoon field trips.

Holly loved to travel to new birding spots and with tour groups visited over 50 countries and amassed a list of over 5,000 species worldwide. KTOS was the beneficiary of some of those trips when she used the slides made on these trips for programs. Once I was at the airport to meet my husband's flight when Holly arrived with a couple of other TOSers from South America. She was hurrying to get home to repack for a trip to Outer Mongolia.



Owen's book relates Holly's adventures on a Hiwassee trip, "The exact year is not remembered, but on one early trip to Hiwassee Island the barge was halfway back to the parked cars when the passengers discover that Holly Overton was not on board. The barge turned around, and in due time Holly was found, happily looking for birds and in no way showing the alarm that the other members felt."

She was a graduate of Beloit College, active in the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, UT Faculty Women's Club, Martha Washington Garden Club, Knoxville Symphony Merit Board, Second Presbyterian Church and volunteered at UT Hospital.

Surviving are her daughter Nancy Overton Weigel and son Roger Brown Overton and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We shall all miss her determination and spirit. Holly was a worker and an asset to all the activities she entered.



KTOS Membership Renew your membership with KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Jerry Hadder, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. 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 an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

PRESIDENT.....Charlie Muise
2632 Montvale Rd.,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
cmmbirds@yahoo.com

VICE-PRESIDENT.....Tracey Muise
2632 Montvale Rd.,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
muise@esknoxville.org

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

SECRETARY.....Don Vowell
6909 Quail Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919
don@vowell-law.com

EDITOR.....Stephen Lyn Bales
1801 Kemper Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37920 (865) 577-6978
lynbales@comcast.net

EDITOR (Distribution)...Cindy Day
11417 N. Couch Mill Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37931-2908 (865) 927-1417
n.c.day@worldnet.att.net

DEADLINE for the February issue is January 24

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" at the TOS Home Page: [HTTP://WWW.TNBIRDS.ORG](http://www.tnbirds.org)

through the biKNOXulars

(USPS 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July and August by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908. Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: through the biKNOXulars, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908.