



through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

‘Black bears in the Smokies’ is topic of December 7 program

On Wednesday, December 7, Katie Settlage will present "Black Bears of the Smokies." Settlage, who recently received her M.S. in Wildlife Science from UT, will talk about how her black bear research has added to the years of data collected in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). I have seen her give this program numerous times to both adults and middle schoolers, it is a great program.

UT has been studying the black bear population in GSMNP since 1969. This field work has primarily involved live trapping female bears in the summer and using radio telemetry to monitor them in the winter dens. Settlage conducted her thesis research using non-invasive DNA sampling from bear hair.

Come learn about this 36-year-old scientific study that has been going on in "our backyard." Settlage's program will interest all ages so feel free to bring your young friends and family members. See you at 7 p.m. in room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library) of the UT Veterinary building just off Neyland Drive.

Kid Rating: ★★★ (Out of four)

January 4 program: Picture Share

Calling all photographers and bird enthusiasts, January 4 is our annual club member picture sharing meeting. We love to see pictures of local birds, rarities, birds from travel and unidentified birds. All

(Continued on page 2)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Field trips and outings for December

Saturday, December 3, 8 AM

Fort Loudon Dam. See page 1.

Christmas Bird Counts

- Norris • Saturday, December 17
- Great Smokies • Sunday, December 18
- Cades Cove • Wednesday, December 28
- Knoxville • Saturday, December 31
- Hiwassee • Saturday, January 1

For details and contact info see page 2.

Saturday, December 3, 8 AM

Fort Loudon Dam area plus beaver ponds, open water and tail waters.

Leader: **Wes James** (988-2433 w; wkjames@tva.gov)

Meet at 8:00 am in the Tellico Canal Bathhouse/parking area adjacent to the canal that connects Tellico and Fort Loudon Reservoirs. This area is reached by taking the first exit after crossing the Fort Loudon Dam Bridge. The exit says Tellico Village, Route 444. After taking this exit you go straight across Tellico Parkway (Route 444) to the bathhouse and parking area. It is the same road that goes to the Tellico Canal boat ramp. We will check below the dam for gulls and terns. There are major beaver pond areas to visit as well as the open water areas of the reservoirs and tail waters. There is also a lot of early succes-

(Continued on page 2)

"There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight."

A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens, British novelist, (1812-1870)

December outings *(Continued from page 1)*

sion "sparrow" habitat. Expect to see several waterfowl and wading bird species, sparrows, raptors, (possibly bald eagle) and possibly other late migrants. We could finish up before lunch time. Walking should be fairly moderate.

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.

Do not forget the TOS Winter Meeting. For detailed information see page 6.

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 Harold Howell at 865-828-6302.

- Best regards, Harold Howell
KTOS Field Trip Coordinator



OF NOTE!

Welcome New KTOS Members

William and Mary Kay Sullivan, Frances Oates, Andy Caylor, Jennifer Kasten

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

- **Norris** - Saturday, Dec. 17, 2005
Chuck Nicholson, compiler -
Phone 865-405-7948 c; 865-632-3582 w;
cpnichol@bellsouth.net
- **Great Smokies (Gatlinburg)** - Sunday, Dec. 18, 2005
David Trently, compiler - Phone 865-531-1473 h;
856-974-8664 w; dtrently@utk.edu
- **Cades Cove** - Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2005
Susan Hoyle, compiler -
Phone 865-909-0792 h; hoyle@cs.utk.edu
- **Knoxville** - Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005
K. Dean Edwards, compiler -
Phone 865-560-9701 h; 865-660-9701 (C)
kde@utk.edu
- **Hiwassee** - Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006
Kevin Calhoon, compiler -
Phone 423-821-6802 h; kac@tennis.org

January meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

are welcome. Please contact Tracey Muise by December 29, if you plan on bringing pictures either by e-mail: traceson@yahoo.com or phone: 977-8429. I need to plan timing and make sure we have all of the appropriate equipment. There is a slide projector available in the room (but no carousel). For digital presentations, if I know in advance, I can have the equipment available if you have your pictures on a CD or memory stick.

Kid Rating: ★★★ (Out of four)

- Tracey Muise, VP and program coordinator

Congratulations to the Trentlys

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Mia and David Trently. Their daughter, Shaylee Oksanna, was born Saturday, November 19 at 6:35 a.m. The new Miss Trently weighed in at 5 pounds 6 ounces and is a whopping 17 and 3/4 inches long (roughly the wingspan of a saw-whet owl).

David is a member of the Executive Committee, past president of KTOS, Director of TOS, and past treasurer of TOS.

KTOS Financial Report • December 2005

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	November	October	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$1,208.00	\$116.00	\$2,558.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$111.00	\$189.00	\$1,229.95
. Interest	\$0.00	\$61.68	\$180.83
. Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$613.40
. Owen Memorial	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$87.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$37.40</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$37.40</u>
Total Income	\$1,372.40	\$366.68	\$4,706.58
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$93.15	\$40.30	\$576.45
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51.96
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$0.00	\$363.18	\$874.91
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,346.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$13.52</u>	<u>\$56.60</u>
Total Expenses	\$93.15	\$417.00	\$2,905.92
Other:			
J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$4,501.56	\$3,275.71	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,749.49	\$6,696.09	
Memberships	152	148	

2005 Knox County Fall Bird Count

Sunday, 25 September 2005 • Dean Edwards, compiler

The Knoxville Chapter of TOS held their annual Fall Count on Sunday, 25 Sept 2005. Twenty-three observers in 13 field parties and 1 feeder-watching party counted 7308 birds of 105 species plus two additional species during count week. The number of species is slightly above the average of recent years.

Several good birds were found including Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher (responding to tape), Tree and Barn Swallows, early Golden-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Bobolink and Baltimore Oriole. A Sora at the UT Plant Science Farm was a particularly good find. Thrashers made a good showing with most parties reporting good numbers of all three common species. An adult Bald Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon were also nice. Brown-headed Nuthatches continue at two known sites in Knox County. Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting numbers were quite high due in large part to excellent habitat at Forks of the River WMA and Seven Islands Park.

The remnants of hurricane "Rita" passed through the day following the count which likely accounts for the Laughing Gull found at Cove Island on Fort Loudon Lake that day for a nice count-week bird.

Only one owl species was found and Common Nighthawk was missed. Vireos made a poor showing with only 2 species found. Nineteen (+1 CW) species of warbler were found which is about average; however, the number of individual warblers counted was quite low.

Weather: partly sunny, no rain. Remnants of hurricane "Rita" passed through the following day likely accounting for one count-week bird (Laughing Gull)

Winds: 0-20 mph, SE, gusty **Temp:** 67-88F

Party hours and miles:

by foot: 53 hrs, 32.25 miles

by car: 16 hrs, 304.5 miles

by boat: 4.5 hrs, 7 miles (1 party)

owling: 0.25 hrs, 0 miles

feeder watching: 7.5 hrs

Total: 81.25 hrs, 343.75 miles **Coverage:** 06:45 - 19:30

Species: 308 Canada Goose, 22 Wood Duck, 84 Mallard, 10 Blue-winged Teal, 2 Wild Turkey, 1 Northern Bobwhite, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 25 Double-crested Cormorant, 26 Great Blue Heron, 12 Green Heron, 3 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 24 Black Vulture, 20 Turkey Vulture, 6 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle (adult), 3 Northern Harrier, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk,

5 Cooper's Hawk, 9 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Broad-winged Hawk, 10 Red-tailed Hawk, 4 American Kestrel, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Sora, 76 Killdeer, 5 Pectoral Sandpiper, CW Laughing Gull, 418 Rock Pigeon, 374 Mourning Dove, 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 Eastern Screech-Owl, 510 Chimney Swift, 27 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 23 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker, 78 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 55 Downy Woodpecker, 10 Hairy Woodpecker, 35 Northern Flicker, 18 Pileated Woodpecker, 1 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 10 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1 Willow Flycatcher, 1 Empidonax sp., 38 Eastern Phoebe, 23 White-eyed Vireo, 6 Red-eyed Vireo, 450 Blue Jay, 292 American Crow, 9 Tree Swallow, 1 Barn Swallow, 186 Carolina Chickadee, 95 Tufted Titmouse, 26 White-breasted Nuthatch, 4 Brown-headed Nuthatch, 204 Carolina Wren, 6 House Wren, 1 Marsh Wren, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 150 Eastern Bluebird, 2 Swainson's Thrush, 10 Wood Thrush, 198 American Robin, 71 Gray Catbird, 147 Northern Mockingbird, 69 Brown Thrasher, 1146 European Starling, 64 Cedar Waxwing, CW Blue-winged Warbler, 2 Tennessee Warbler, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, 1 Nashville Warbler, 1 Yellow Warbler, 7 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 48 Magnolia Warbler, 4 "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler, 2 Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, 5 Pine Warbler, 12 Palm Warbler, 1 Bay-breasted Warbler, 2 Black-and-white Warbler, 13 American Redstart, 1 Ovenbird, 34 Common Yellowthroat, 3 Hooded Warbler, 2 Yellow-breasted Chat, 4 Summer Tanager, 9 Scarlet Tanager, 49 Eastern Towhee, 9 Chipping Sparrow, 71 Field Sparrow, 3 Savannah Sparrow, 77 Song Sparrow, 290 Northern Cardinal, 19 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 22 Blue Grosbeak, 432 Indigo Bunting, 1 Bobolink, 105 Red-winged Blackbird, 34 Eastern Meadowlark, 207 Common Grackle, 166 Brown-headed Cowbird, 1 Baltimore Oriole, 78 House Finch, 137 American Goldfinch, 25 House Sparrow

Observers: 23 observers in 14 parties (1 FW only): Jean Alexander, Lyn Bales, Howard Chitwood, Meredith Clebsch, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, K. Dean Edwards (compiler), Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wes James, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, Charles P. Nicholson, Truett Patterson, Boyd Sharp, David Trently

A Sora can be found in almost any moist habitat, especially during migration. Their small bill prevents them from probing the mud like other rails. Instead, they are often seen walking slowly with their head down looking for seeds, plant life, wild rice, insects and spiders on the ground.

International Crane Foundation visited *By Lyn Bales*

Like most endeavors, it started as a dream. In this case, it was the ambition of a pair of Cornell graduate students: Ron Sauvey and George Archibald. Founded in 1973 on a portion of the Sauvey family horse farm in Baraboo, Wisconsin, the International Crane Foundation (ICF) has built a global reputation. Unlike other nature centers, ICF focuses its collective attention on one group of birds: cranes.

Today, ICF works worldwide to raise awareness of what the Asians call, "Birds of Heaven."

ICF is on the forefront in crane conservation and seeks to protect and restore key crane habitats: wetlands and grasslands. The Baraboo facility houses and raises all 15 species of crane found around the world—from the smallest, the Demoiselle, to the largest, the Sarus.

ICF's educational philosophy focuses on a series of issues involving these and the other cranes: endangered species management, wetland ecology, habitat restoration and the critical need for international cooperation.

In 1983, ICF outgrew its initial facilities on the Sauvey farm and moved a few miles north to its current 225-acre location on Shady Lane Road. That's where

Paul James, Pam Petko-Seus and I visited

Archibald in September. The Ijams' delegation was there to see the state-of-the-art enclosure built by ICF in 1995 to house a pair of display whooping cranes for educational purposes. The facility mimics, as closely as possible, the natural wetland/prairie habitat of the whoopers. The enclosure is regularly visited by school groups and the general public who stop by to see up close and personal America's most endangered crane. Sitting on the front row of the amphitheater you see no fencing—chain-link or otherwise. It's as purely a natural setting as humanly possible to build.



World's Cranes

Range and Status

- **Black Crowned Crane**
Africa (Lower Risk)
- **Black-necked Crane**
Asia (Endangered)
- **Blue Crane**
Africa (Vulnerable)
- **Brolga**, Australia
- **Demoiselle Crane**
Africa/Asia
- **Eurasian Crane**
Europe/Asia/Africa
- **Grey Crowned Crane**
Africa
- **Hooded Crane**
Asia (Endangered)
- **Red-crowned Crane**
Asia (Endangered)
- **Sandhill Crane**
North America
- **Sarus Crane**
Asia/Australia (Vulnerable)
- **Siberian Crane**
Asia (Critically Endangered)
- **Wattled Crane**
Africa (Vulnerable)
- **White-naped Crane**
Asia (Endangered)
- **Whooping Crane**
North America (Endangered)



Ijams wildlife biologist Pam Petko-Seus and director Paul James with ICF cofounder George Archibald.



ICF's whooping crane enclosure mimics their natural habitat.



Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

'Tis the season – for Christmas Bird Counts! The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is probably the oldest and most successful citizen science effort. For over 100 years people of all skill levels, ages and backgrounds have added to our collective knowledge of bird ranges and populations changes. Each count covers all the land and water within a specific circle, which does not change from year to year. While the numbers of birds counted is imprecise, CBC data greatly helps the scientists who “crunch the numbers” to follow the flux of many species.

Despite a rich history of bird monitoring in Tennessee, most of the Volunteer State’s CBCs need more help. I hope YOU will consider assisting in at least one count this year. If you can cover a small territory, or are willing to go afield with an experienced CBCer, or can count the birds at your feeder (if it is within a count circle) please contact a compiler. (For contact information, see page 2.) I have personally assisted with each of the counts in this area at least twice, and had fun each time. Among the many wonderful sightings I’ve been fortunate enough to see are flocks of Wild Turkeys scraping through snow, a Rufous Hummingbird at someone’s feeder, flocks of Red Crossbills picking up grit in a driveway and flocks of tens of thousands of crows.

I hope to see many of you at the winter meeting

January 28-29, 2006 in Manchester. It promises to be a fun time, and we are sure to see birds that are not common in East Tennessee. (For more information, see page 6.) A Tennessee Partners in Flight meeting will be held Friday. Part of the agenda will be a discussion of where the Tennessee Coordinated Bird Monitoring Plan (TN CBM) will take us. TN CBM is intended to help all researchers – professional and citizen scientist alike – coordinate our resources and efforts to track all birds that spend time in Tennessee. It is a cooperative effort currently headed by TWRA. Please contact me if you are interested in more information on Tennessee PIF or TN CBM.

Remember that dues are now due! Help support your club, and make life a bit easier on our hard working treasurer by getting your dues to Marie Oakes as soon as you can. Her address, like always, is on page 6 of this newsletter.

KTOS sales of shade grown coffee are still strong. We have been selling 15 to 20 bags per month. We are supporting a very small local business, as well as helping create more demand for bird-friendly and socially responsible shade-grown, fair-trade coffee. If you’d like to order some, see me at a meeting or contact me via e-mail or phone.

The Executive Committee discussed conducting a poster contest for middle school students, in line with the Cats Indoors! Program. More details to come. We are looking for volunteers to assist.

Congratulations to Mia and David. (See page 2.)
Happy holidays!

Muck-rakers prepare Hiwassee crane pen - By Lyn Bales

If you are a host and you expect overnight guests, there’s a few things you know to do. You fluff the pillows, leave fresh linens in the bathroom and stock the refrigerator.

If your guests are going to be nineteen juvenile whooping cranes on their first flight to Florida, you know it’s important to prepare their lodgings, *i.e.* rake through the mud removing any foreign objects that might harm them. It’s called Southern Hospitality.

Special thanks to the group of volunteers who “fluffed” the mud inside of the pen set up at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge.



Editor’s note: The cranes arrived at the pen on November 25.

Whooping crane pen cleaners extraordinaire: (Left to right) Carol Lammers, Patty Ford, Paul James, Alan Zaslow, Dee Dee Blaine, Charlie Robinson and Carole Gobert.

KTOS Membership

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$13 for a student. Sustaining memberships are \$38 and a Life membership with TOS is \$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

DEADLINE for February issue is January 21. Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your articles to 600 or 700 words.

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" starting at the TOS Home Page:

HTTP://www.tnbirds.org



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

VICE-PRESIDENT.....Tracey Muise
2632 Montvale Road,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
traceson@yahoo.com

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

SECRETARY.....Kathy Bivens
114 Boulder Street
Maryville, TN 37804 (865) 983-7349
volkathy@yahoo.com

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

EDITOR (Distribution)...Patty Ford
5525 Lonas Drive
Knoxville, TN 37909-3248
(865) 584-8473
pattyford@comcast.net

Don't delay! 2006 (Increased) Dues due NOW

Bird Club membership dues for 2006 are due now. The treasurer needs to submit dues to TOS on December 31, 2005. So please don't delay. The TOS portion of the dues has increased. Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$13 for a student. Sustaining memberships are \$38 and a Life membership with TOS is \$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter. Send your dues to Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Members who have paid dues based on the 2005 dues rates:

Please send the make-up amount to the Treasurer as soon as possible. If an individual member has paid \$18, the make-up amount is \$8. If a family has paid \$20, the make-up amount is \$10. If a sustaining member has paid \$28, the make-up amount is \$10.

2006 Winter Meeting - January 27-29

The Highland Rim Chapter extends a cordial invitation to TOS members to attend the 2006 Winter Meeting, to be held in Manchester on January 27-29.

The Ambassador Inn & Luxury Suites at 925 Interstate Drive (I-24, Exit 110) will be the headquarters for the event. The Ambassador Inn is holding a block of rooms for TOS members. For reservations at the TOS rate, call 931-728-2200 or 800-237-9228. TOS rate is \$45.00+ tax for a room and \$59.00+ tax for a suite. TOS rate includes a full breakfast bar. To obtain the special rate, be sure to mention that you are with the TOS group. Reservations may be canceled up to January 27.

In conjunction with the TOS meeting, the Tennessee Partners in Flight Monitoring Committee will meet from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday, January 27 in the conference room at the Ambassador Inn.

For more information, go to: www.tnbirds.org/Winter06-meeting.htm

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