

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

DECEMBER'S PROGRAM TO BE ON BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF COSTA RICA

Sandwiched between deployments to Russia, Harriet and Harold Howell spent a wonderful 10 days in Costa Rica beginning the last week in January 2006. The trip was not specifically a birding trip, but they did see and photograph a good assortment of birds and mammals. A lot of territory was covered in a short time, from the modern capital city of San Jose to Los Chiles on the Nicaraguan border and from Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific to Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean. Habitat included lowlands rainforest, cloud forest and the top of the mountains, with a couple of volcanoes thrown in for good measure.



Harold and Harriet Howell in Costa Rica

Harold will present the birds and mammals in the order in which they saw them, and discuss a bit of the habitat where they were found. Be sure to join us for a wonderful presentation on Wednesday, December 3 at 7 p.m. In Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

Upcoming field trips and programs

There will be no scheduled field trips in December and January so as not to conflict with Christmas Bird Counts and the winter meeting in Alabama.

Please see page 3 for a schedule of Christmas Bird Counts.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

Due to the current UT policy regarding free parking, we are having to get dated parking permits to put in our cars. I believe these permits are issued on the day of the event and expire on the following day.

Therefore, when you arrive for Wednesday's meeting, drive by the regular entrance to our meeting place before you park. Someone from the club will be standing at these entrance doors and will have a parking pass for you display on the dash of your car.

JANUARY 7 PROGRAM : PHOTO SHARE

Before our January 7 meeting date, all member photographers (and wannabe photographers) will need to pull out some of those "best shots" from this past year and share them at the meeting. Pictures of local birds; photos from interesting trips where you found more "exotic" birds. We like to see them all!

Please contact Mark Armstrong by December 29th if you plan to bring photos to share. Equipment will be available for digital presentations using a CD or memory stick. Contact Mark early to make arrangements @865-577-5398 or woodthrush@bellsouth

WINTER TOS MEETING

Please see page 3 to find updated information on the Winter Meeting at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur AL.

This meeting will be held January 23 - 25, 2009.

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before."

Robert Lynd

ANNUAL DUES

It is time to pay your dues. Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family and \$13 for a student.

Mail your dues to Marie Oakes

18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

When paying your dues this year, please include your address, phone number and e-mail address so Marie can update her files.



Presidential Perch

By Mark Campen

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 2008

	November	Aug-Oct	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 660.00	\$ 180.00	\$2,640.00
Shade Grown Coffee	14.00	206.75	931.75
Interest	65.10	65.10	249.29
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Owen Memorial	0.00	17.00	169.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$ 695.10	\$ 468.85	\$3,990.04
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 50.40	\$ 217.20	\$ 576.66
Supplies	0.00	0.00	27.10
Shade Grown Coffee	124.22	145.00	902.31
Member Dues to TOS	0.00	22.00	2,376.00
Misc.(NSF Fee)	10.00	50.00	90.88
Total Expenses	\$ 184.62	\$ 412.20	\$3,972.95
Other:			
J. B. Owen Award	\$ 418.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 918.00
Total other	\$ 418.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 918.00
Account Balances:			
KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 3,913.50	\$3,841.59	
J. B. Owen Memorial	\$ 7,211.42	\$7,190.85	
Memberships	128	126	
Paid 2009 Memberships	32	7	
New Members			
Cynthia Kendrick			

Inspiration. What does it mean to you? Merriam-Webster defines it as a: divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation b: the action or power of moving the intellect or emotions c: the act of influencing or suggesting opinions.

We are inspired to give of our time and money. It may be selfless acts of kindness or hard work in the face of adversity that inspires us do better or work harder or just not give up. Maybe it's the sheer beauty of our natural resources and the organisms that live there that move us to donate money and time, sometimes an entire career, defending those resources, plants and animals.

I think this organization can inspire, and be further inspired, giving what we can to continue the mission of our society. It may be that we want to be a Mile-Maker for Operation Migration or support a research project through the J. B. Owen Fund. We do these things already and I hope we can do more, collectively and as individuals. In 2009, let us all do at least one of the following:

Participate in a bird count, Christmas, Back Yard or otherwise.

Lead or attend at least one field trip.

Spread the news about the bird club!

Invite at least one guest to attend a monthly meeting or join the club (This is one of the most important things we can do-help grow membership!).

Now the bird ID quiz:

Keep an eye out this winter for this cryptic bird of the woods. It can be spotted amongst the chickadees, kinglets and titmice hopping up a tree searching tree bark for invertebrate food. Nests are made in part with spider egg cases and cocoons and, at least in one state, have been observed with separate entrance (facing down) and exit (facing up) holes.

October's ID quiz answer is the bobolink.



Congratulations Mark and Emily

Parson Campen was born October 28th at 3:30 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. and 10 oz.

Winter Gathering Wheeler NWR Decatur, Alabama January 23 - 25, 2009

Suggested itinerary from Dwight Cooley, who will be the local guide:

Friday, January 23 - Visitor Center and Observation Building will be open until 5:00 pm - should be good viewing of ducks, Sandhill Cranes and geese from about 3:00 pm on.

Saturday, January 24 - Two field trips - one to Limestone Bay/White Springs on the refuge for waterfowl, cranes and whatever else that may show up and one to NW Alabama - TVA dams and Key Cave NWR for gulls, grassland birds, etc. The refuge trip could finish up by mid-afternoon but the trip to TVA dams would be a bit longer because of the distance involved.

Sunday, January 25 - birding on your own or a short refuge trip to look for anything of interest from the Saturday trip.

For those who want a preview of the area and its birds, the North Alabama Birding Trail website is:

<http://www.northalabamabirdingtrail.com/>

Base of operations for the weekend;

Comfort Inn of Priceville. 3239 Mallard Way Decatur/Priceville AL (256) 355-1037 It's close to the Refuge Visitor Center. Ask for group rate (\$69. + taxes).

We will meet at Comfort Inn parking lot at 8 AM CST Sat., and rendezvous there again at 6 PM to go to supper and compilation etc.

109th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Holidays are here again and you know what that means --Christmas Bird Counts! We encourage everyone to participate in one or more of the four local Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) sponsored by the National Audubon Society and KTOS.

GSMNP-Sugarlands, Sunday, December 14, 2008

contact: David Trently 865-531-1473,
naturetours@avianpursuits.com

Norris, Saturday, December 20, 2008

contact: Chuck Nicholson cpnichol@bellsouth.net

GSMNP-Cades Cove, Sunday, December 28, 2008

contact: Susan Hoyle hoyle@cs.utk.edu

Knoxville, Saturday, January 3, 2009

contact: Dean Edwards 865-660-9701, kde@utk.edu

<http://www.chaos.engr.utk.edu/~kde/birds/kcbc/KCBCpage.html>

The organizers of these counts plan to be present at the December KTOS meeting to sign everyone up and provide additional information. In addition, there are several other counts in the area. More information including dates and contact information for the organizers is typically available online at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.

Birders of all skill levels can participate. You can join a group in the field, cover an area on your own, or (if you live in the count area) count in your own backyard. With the large number of winter finches being reported this year, we are particularly interested in having lots of folks watching their feeders.

The National Audubon Society does require a \$5 fee from each participant. This fee goes toward maintaining the public online database from the 100+ years of CBCs (www.audubon.org/bird/cbc). For your \$5, you will receive a book summarizing the results of all of this year's CBCs.

SHADE GROWN COFFEE

Don't forget to order your shade grown coffee to be delivered in January. Remember every purchase you make helps preserve habitat for birds.

See David Johnson to place your order.

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

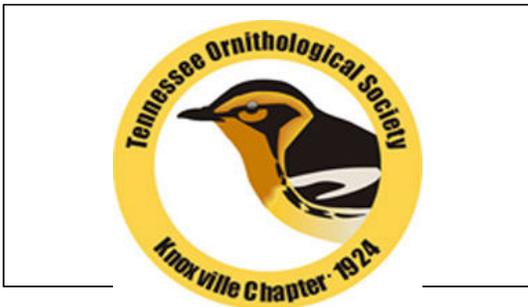
Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$13 for a student. Sustaining memberships are \$38 and Life membership with TOS is \$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local Chapter.

DEADLINE for Feb. issue is Jan. 24.

Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your article to 700 words. For a color version of this newsletter or for past issues, go to the TOS home page, <http://www.tnbirds.org> and click on "local chapters/Knoxville"



The above photo is of a cart that Harold found in Costa Rica



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Can't imagine why Harold thought he needed to go on a tropical vacation between deployments to his temporary work site in Russia!! (Note sign says -32 C.)

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