



through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

'A Photographic Journey of the Galapagos Islands' is topic of February 1 program

On Wednesday, February 1, Tiffany Beachy will present "A Photographic Journey of the Galapagos Islands." Beachy, a native of Virginia, is currently working on a Master's degree in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at UT.

Working under the direction of Dr. David Buehler, her thesis research is focused on Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) responses to forest management in the Cumberland Mountains of eastern Tennessee.

At the February meeting, however, Beachy will share an earlier research opportunity she had volunteering on Espanola Island in the Galapagos. The Galapagos, located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, are host to many endemic species. Espanola Island is no exception. While on Espanola, Beachy conducted behavioral observations of Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*) courtship and nesting activity. She also weighed, measured, monitored and banded baby Nazca Boobies and Waved Albatrosses (*Diomedea irrorata*), which are endemic to Espanola.

In addition to explaining the monitoring she did on Espanola Island, Beachy will share pictures from her cruise around the archipelago.

Photographic highlights will focus, of course on birds, but also on scenery and other organisms, like sea lions, found on the islands. Come learn more about this "ecological celebrity" at 7 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Vet Building.

See you on the 1st!

Kid Friendly Rating: ★★★ (Out of four)

- Tracey Muise, VP and program coordinator



📅 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Field trips for February

See page 2 for details.

Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 AM

Seven Islands and Cherokee Dam area

Saturday, February 18, 8 AM

Chota Waterfowl Refuge

Saturday, February 25, 4 PM

Woodcock Count at Forks of the River WMA

"There was an Old Man with a beard, Who said: "It is just as I feared—
Two Owls and a Hen, Four Larks and a Wren, Have all built their nests in my beard."

-Limerick, Edward Lear (1812–1888)

February field trips *(Continued from page 1)*

Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 AM

Seven Islands and Cherokee Dam area

Leader: **Dan Mooney** (789-0806)

We will meet at the Cracker Barrel on Strawberry Plains Pike (I-40 Exit 398) at 7:30 a.m. From there we'll go to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge for a short walk to look for a few sparrows and hopefully find the eagles. Next we'll head to Mossy Creek Wildlife Viewing Area and then to Cherokee Dam. We should finish up by 1:30 p.m., but folks should bring something to eat and drink.

Saturday, February 18, 8 AM

Chota Waterfowl Refuge

Leader: **Chuck Nicholson** (405-7948)

Meet at the large University of Tennessee Agriculture Campus/Vet School parking lot (CFN1) next to Neyland Drive at 8:00 a.m. We'll drive down Highway 411 to Vonore and then work our way up the south side of the lake to Chota Refuge. We should be finished by mid-day. Wintering water birds and sparrows should provide highlights.

Saturday, February 25, 4 PM

Woodcock Count at Forks of the River WMA

Leader: **David Trently** (dtrently@utk.edu; h 531-1473; w 974-8664)

Meet at the University of Tennessee Agriculture Campus/Vet School parking area 66 for 4:00 p.m. departure to the WMA. This is the big lot near where

we have our monthly meetings.

At Forks of the River, we will start as one group birding a leisurely walk along mostly level trails. Before sunset (~6:30) we'll break into groups at various locations where woodcocks are possible, communicating with FRS radios (please bring any if you have them). We'll do our best to get a count of the number of birds calling and try to identify the best place to see their display flights.

I have at least six sites in mind where I'd like to have people, so we need a good turnout for this trip, and a few people to act as site leaders at those spots. You may want to bring a lightweight portable chair, but you would have to carry it while doing the bird walk before we wait for the woodcocks to begin calling, usually soon after sunset.

- David Trently

Birding in PERU - Looking for participants

I have made plans for a birding trip to Peru for September 2-17 of this year and am looking for additional participants to join us. We will be visiting the Peruvian Rainforest and the Andes Mountains, including Machu Picchu, with the potential of 400-500 bird species seen, including lots of colorful parrots. Monkeys and other mammals are also likely.

Contact me for additional information. David Trently - avianpursuits@yahoo.com; h 531-1473; w 974-8664).

BOOK REPORT

Book contains thirty years of birdsong - By Lyn Bales

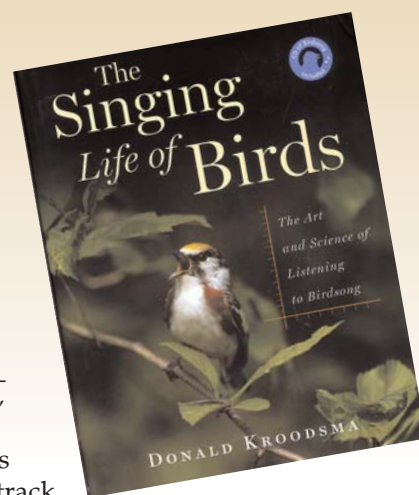
I must have been extra good last year because Saint Nick surprised me with a remarkable present: *The Singing Life of Birds, The Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong*. The book is written by Donald Kroodsma, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and contains some of his insights from his 30 years of studying birdsong. Here's an excerpt,

"Two wood thrushes now singing back and forth, all morning long, all day long, first one, then the other, over and over, each on his own territory and each trying to impress the first female to arrive in the neighborhood. As I listen, I remember what I read about wood thrushes several years ago. They are apparently unlike all other song-birds in their repertoires, they avoid answering each other with those identical songs."

Kroodsma goes on to test the notion to see if it's true and what he learns is fascinating; but that's only one story of many. The book also comes with a 96-track CD filled with birdsong the author has recorded over the years; sheer poetry!

My advice: be good this year and a copy may end up in your stocking next Christmas; or better yet, run out and buy one as soon as you can. It's too good to wait.

-Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005, 482 pages plus audio CD. Suggested retail: \$28.00



Presidential Perch *(Continued from page 4)*

formula decaf.

It is hard to believe I have been president of this fine chapter for 2.5 years. Elections will be held in May. It is time for YOU to volunteer to be on the nominating committee. Committee members will only be active for a couple months. It is their job to determine which officers and executive committee members wish to stay on, and to find nominees for all positions. Current officers and members of the executive committee will help.

I am looking forward to the TOS Winter Meeting. I'll tell you all about it at the next KTOS meeting!



OF NOTE!

Welcome New KTOS Members

Beverly Abele, Robin Barrow, Michael and Sandra Rini

Volunteer field guides needed

Ijams Nature Center needs volunteer field guides to help with spring school field trips. You can volunteer as many hours as you like. Training days are set for March 1 and 2. This is a great way to be outdoors sharing the natural world with children. For more info or to sign up call Misty Gladdish, 577-4717, ext. 12.

KTOS Ending/Annual Financial Reports • Calendar Year 2005 and January 2006

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	December	November	YTD		January	YTD
Income:				Income:		
. Dues	\$1,286.00	\$1,208.00	\$3,844.00	. Dues	\$108.00	\$108.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$337.00	\$111.00	\$1,566.95	. Shade Grown Coffee	\$7.00	\$7.00
. Interest	\$82.37	\$0.00	\$263.20	. Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$613.40	. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$66.60	\$16.00	\$153.60	. Miscellaneous	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$37.40</u>	<u>\$37.40</u>	Total Income	\$215.00	\$215.00
Total Income	\$1,771.97	\$1,372.40	\$6,478.55	Expenses:		
Expenses:				. Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Newsletter	\$163.00	\$93.15	\$739.45	. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Supplies	\$32.67	\$0.00	\$84.63	. Shade Grown Coffee	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$247.08	\$0.00	\$1,121.99	. Member Dues to TOS	\$1,938.00	\$1,938.00
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,346.00	. Miscellaneous		
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$56.60</u>	Total Expenses	\$1,938.00	\$1,938.00
Total Expenses	\$442.75	\$93.15	\$3,348.67	Other:		
Other:				. J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00
J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	Account Balances		
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,980.82	
Account Balances				. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,876.45	
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,703.82	\$4,501.56		Memberships		
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,876.45	\$6,749.49			155	
Memberships	155	152				

Bird flu scare pushes Russian official to even scarier proposal

Dan Mooney brought this to our attention. The following appeared on "MosNews.com," a Russian news website.

A deputy speaker in the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, has proposed halting the migration of birds in order to prevent the spread of bird flu.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who is well known for his eccentric behavior and sudden outbursts, said the Russian government should not allow birds from Turkey to fly over Russian borders.

To prevent epidemics all Russian men should take up arms and fight the birds, Interfax quoted the MP as saying. "No more migrations—let them stay there, in the south, we must shoot all the birds, call over all our men, the troops from Sochi (a Russian resort on the Black Sea) to the Crimea (the Ukrainian peninsula) and any migratory bird must stay at the place where it is now." Zhirinovsky is the leader of nationalist Liberal Democratic Party.

The deputy called bird flu "the most modern form of waging war, when harmless little birds fly over a country...and a part of the people die."

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 March issue is **February 18**. 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](http://www.tnbirds.org)



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Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

Hi folks. The executive committee is trying to have more consistent meetings. Right now we are shooting for the third Thursday of the month. A common location is the Olive Garden on Kingston Pike. If you are interested in attending a meeting, and/or have an issue that you wish the committee to address, please contact me or any other member of the committee (which includes all the officers).

Topics we will address at the next meeting (which will have occurred before you read this) include:

- Encouraging members to use Ebird (<http://www.ebird.org/content/>) to list their sightings. This site is free and so far seems easy to use. It allows us to share information with other birders and with scientists. Please visit the site and see how it is used for research. You can keep your life list there, and ask it to make various kinds of reports for you. Like so many good bird activities, it is found on the website of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

- Cats Indoors! is a cooperative project of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Bird Conservancy. It is NOT anti-cat. It simply attempts to educate current and future cat owners about the importance of keeping cats indoors. Yes, we birders all know how important that is for birds (a cat killed a dove in my yard last week, and I've lost a number of bluebirds) but it is good for the cat as well! We are currently discussing the possibility of hosting a poster contest for middle school students in connection with the Cats Indoors! national program.

We are still offering coffee with the KTOS logo on it. This coffee is imported and roasted by a very small business in Maryville. For more info go to (<http://www.viennacoffeecompany.com/>).

It is shade grown and organically grown, so it has the least negative impact on birds possible. It is also fair trade, so local growers get a higher percentage of the money. In short, it is as responsible a product as you can get. And it's tasty. Now add this surprising bit of good news. In 2005 the club actually profited by \$400 selling it! Some of that money will be put into the JB Owen fund, where it can help research and conservation of Tennessee birds. To order, please contact me. It sells for \$7 for a 12 oz. bag of regular, \$8 for a 12 oz. bag of Swiss Water

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